The NDCAC

- A national center established under the Department of Justice to leverage and share the collective technical knowledge and resources of the law enforcement community on issues involving real-time and stored communications and to strengthen law enforcement’s relationship with industry

- Opened in March 2013

- One-of-a-kind assistance center designed to focus on law enforcement’s challenges with communication services, training, and coordination needs

- Staffed by a diverse group of technical experts
The Focus of the NDCAC

- Technical challenges faced by law enforcement
  - Lawfully-authorized electronic surveillance capabilities
  - Evidence collection on communications devices
  - Technical location capabilities
Why the NDCAC is Necessary

- Provide a centralized point of coordinated technical assistance throughout the law enforcement community
- Leverage existing research and development efforts of the law enforcement community
- Provide a seamless mechanism to make solutions available across the law enforcement community
- Address the impacts of a communications industry that is more diverse and complex than ever before
NDCAC Programs

- Technical Resource Group
- Industry Relations
- Technology Analysis
- Technical Research
- Solution Verification
- Partnership on CALEA
- Technology Sharing
- Training
- Advanced Communications

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Technical Resource Group

- Provide assistance and technical referrals to law enforcement clients

- Make information more easily available
  - Products and services
  - Lawful intercept contacts and solutions

- Assist clients with technical and procedural questions regarding communication services
  - Assist clients with interpreting communication detail records (CDRs)
  - Provide information about technical solutions/best practices available to the law enforcement community
Technology Sharing

• Share tools and technical solutions with the law enforcement community

• Work with members of law enforcement to identify, leverage, and develop innovative and effective technical solutions

• Develop requirements that identify and clarify the technical capabilities and features that law enforcement views as important to accomplishing its mission
Training

• Provide a comprehensive curriculum to educate law enforcement on new and emerging services and technologies:
  – Leverage existing training opportunities and making them available to State and Local Law Enforcement
  – Develop in-house training curriculum to fill gaps that exist in existing communication training programs
  – Conduct regional outreach to familiarize the law enforcement community with the assistance available through the NDCAC
Industry Relations

• Cultivate and leverage relationships with various segments of the communications industry
  – Facilitate law enforcement’s understanding of industry processes and available capabilities
  – Serve as focal point for law enforcement, provide guidance to common questions and concerns and training as needed
  – Develop tools that aid law enforcement interpretation and analysis of collected returns

• Identify and understand new service capabilities and emerging technologies
  – Gain insight into provider plans to assist law enforcement
  – Help provider understand law enforcement needs
Partnering on CALEA Implementation

- CALEA requires telecommunications carriers and manufacturers of equipment to modify and design their equipment, facilities, and services to ensure certain electronic surveillance capabilities exist.

- The FBI’s CALEA implementation staff is co-located with the NDCAC.

- Embedding CALEA implementation staff enables tangible, real-time benefits to NDCAC including subject matter expertise and the ability to leverage established industry relationships.
Solution Verification

• Collaborate with industry partners to exercise their intercept systems within a test environment
  – Communication Service Providers and Law Enforcement Agencies

• Service Provider Intercept Solution Verification
  – Execute scenarios to validate carrier’s intercept solutions:
    ▪ Capabilities
    ▪ Anomalies
    ▪ Nuances
    ▪ Issues / findings are identified for service provider before realized with a “live” court order
Knowledge Base

• NDCAC’s ability to serve as an assistance center is based on collaboration among internal and external resources
  – NDCAC and Law Enforcement Subject Matter Experts
  – Relationships with Industry
  – Law enforcement requests
  – Internal research and analysis into emerging technologies and mobile communications services
  – Open source information

• For example, the NDCAC delves into major communications applications to learn how they function and assess the information law enforcement may receive from a provider
  – What information can be provided to law enforcement
  – How subjects of an investigation can evade law enforcement
NDCAC – What it does not do

• The NDCAC is not responsible for the actual execution of any court orders

• The NDCAC does not have any direct investigative role, but provides technical knowledge and referrals in response to assistance requests

• The NDCAC does not conduct robust Research and Development, but is able to modify existing solutions to meet the unique needs of participating agencies

• The NDCAC does not sponsor or provide direct funding or grants to law enforcement agencies (except for the reimbursement of NDCAC-sponsored training)