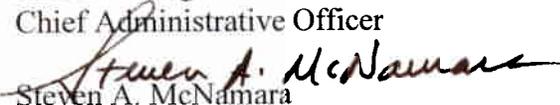


Office of Inspector General
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-9990

MEMORANDUM

TO: James M. Eagen III
Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: 
Steven A. McNamara
Inspector General

DATE: November 27, 2000

SUBJECT: Audit Report – Backbone Ubiquitous Data Network (BUDnet) Controls Were Generally Effective (Report No. 00-CAO-06)

This is our final report on the evaluation of the U.S. House of Representatives Backbone Ubiquitous Data Network (BUDnet). The objectives of this audit were to: (1) conduct a high-level risk assessment of the BUDnet installation, operation and oversight to identify significant inherent vulnerabilities; (2) conduct an internal control review of the BUDnet's logical controls, to include security testing for known vulnerabilities; and (3) conduct a review of current administrative, operational and security policies, to include a comparison against industry best practices and development of recommendations for improvements. In this report, we focused on the ATM switches, Ethernet switches, and routers within the House Information Resources (HIR) BUDnet infrastructure. An assessment of the standard security configuration of network management server (NMS) systems capable of accessing management connections to the backbone components was also performed to augment security testing of NMS systems performed in recent prior reviews. Security checklists supporting the HISPOLs for the proper configuration of NMS hosts were reviewed. We then made specific recommendations for corrective actions. **This report is confidential and should not be released to anyone other than auditee management except by approval of the Office of Inspector General.**

In response to our September 18, 2000, draft report, your office concurred with our findings and recommendations. The October 23, 2000, management response is incorporated in this final report and included in its entirety as an appendix. The corrective actions taken and planned by your office are appropriate and, when fully implemented, should adequately respond to the recommendations. Further, the milestone dates provided for implementing corrective actions appear reasonable.

We appreciate the courtesy and cooperation extended to us by your staff. If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this report, please call Christian Hendricks or me at (202) 226-1250.

cc: Speaker of the House
Majority Leader of the House
Minority Leader of the House
Chairman, Committee on House Administration
Ranking Minority Member, Committee on House Administration
Members, Committee on House Administration