

History of the White House Communications Agency

The White House Communications Agency (WHCA), originally known as the White House Signal Detachment, was formed on March 25, 1943. The Detachment's mission was to assist the Secret Service in providing communications and protection for the President. It provided mobile radio, teletype, telephone and cryptographic aids in the White House and at Camp David. The Detachment was manned by two Officers and thirty enlisted personnel. In 1954, the designation was changed to the White House Army Signal Agency (WHASA) and providing support for photo, recording, TV and travel support was added. In 1962, WHASA was transferred to the Defense Communications Agency under the operational control of the White House Military Office.

The WHCA as it is known today is staffed by personnel from all branches of the military as well as civilian and contract employees. WHCA's basic mission remains the same: to provide telecommunications support for the President and his staff, the Vice President, the First Lady and the Secret Service, and now includes audio-visual, and data processing support. And while the mission remains virtually unchanged, there have been dramatic changes in technology and WHCA uses state-of-the-art systems to support all facets of their telecommunication requirements to provide the President and others with reliable telecommunications worldwide.



1600 Communications Association

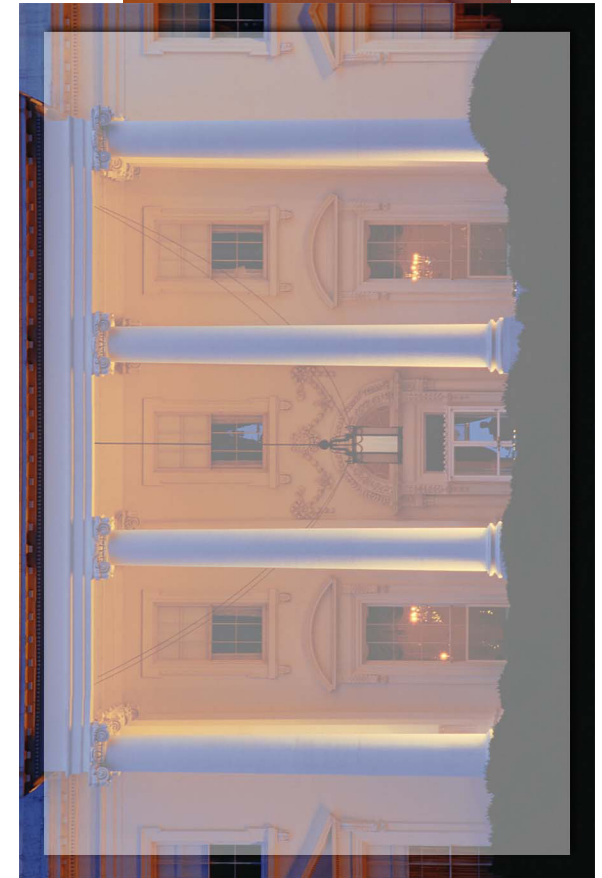
Contact Us

PO Box 160
Washington DC 20044

www.1600commassoc.org



***Providing support to members who
share a strong and proud history
of service to current and former
United States Presidents.***



1600 Communications Association

Background

The 1600 Communications Association was established by COL George McNally (the first Agency Commander) in 1969 to provide a fraternal and social organization for members of the White House Army Signal Agency (WHASA). Over the years the Association has expanded to include both current and former members of WHCA. The Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the continued interest and professional development of its members.

The Association provides a means for renewing and maintaining relationships developed through years of service to the current and former Presidents of the United States.

In addition to its social and fraternal significance, the Association provides a scholarship program for members and their families, and fosters relations among the Association, government and industry. Funds raised during our annual events and activities, or those donated by members, are contributed to support organizations such as The Fisher House and other activities that provide support and assistance to service members and their families.

Our ongoing success is the product of a dedicated membership and its continued efforts to support and further our goals and objectives.

Activities

The Association sponsors a number of annual events including a golf outing, shrimp feast and barbecue, Camp David Chapter Picnic and a holiday dinner dance.

There are other monthly and quarterly opportunities for socializing among the membership throughout the year.

Benefits

- Prestigious professional affiliation
- Invitations to membership-exclusive events
- Professional networking opportunities available to members only
- Scholarship program
- Quarterly newsletter
- Membership roster

...and more!

Eligibility

Active Member: Current or former member of the WHCA or one of its predecessors.

Associate Member: Anyone who has provided direct support to the WHCA and meets other specified requirements (see application form).

How to Join

Membership Application can be found online at www.1600commassoc.org / click on Members / click on Membership Requirements. Complete the application and mail it to: 1600 Communications Association, P.O. Box 160, Washington, D.C. 20044.

Applicants without internet access may send their written request to the Association at P.O. Box 160, Washington DC 20044.

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