

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Office of Inspector General

**National Emergency Management
Information System (NEMIS) Access
Control System**

Public Summary



Office of Audits

OIG-04-02

December 2003



**Homeland
Security**

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The NEMIS is the system the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and now Emergency Preparedness and Response (EP&R), uses to manage its disaster response and recovery programs and to authorize millions of dollars in payments related to disaster response and recovery activities. The NEMIS Access Control System (NACS) facilitates the management of NEMIS user access rights and is the primary security control for NEMIS data and functions. FEMA's Information Technology Service Directorate (ITSD) manages NEMIS and NACS.

The purpose of this audit, performed under contract by KPMG LLP, was to determine whether FEMA had developed and maintained NACS in a controlled manner and in accordance with relevant federal guidance. To accomplish this, the audit included reviews of certain NEMIS controls that directly affected NACS. Although NACS provides a reasonable mechanism for controlling access to NEMIS, both NACS and NEMIS controls could be improved. Specifically, NACS control weaknesses existed in the areas of separation of duties, access controls, audit trails, and training. NEMIS control weaknesses that directly affected NACS related to the need for a designated and accountable system owner, security planning, system certification and accreditation, contingency planning, and change management controls. Collectively, these weaknesses reduced FEMA's ability to ensure the confidentiality, availability, and integrity of NEMIS data.

The OIG made 16 recommendations regarding NACS-specific control issues and NEMIS control issues that directly affect NACS. ITSD agreed with the report findings and recommendations, and agreed to prepare, coordinate, and implement a corrective action plan.

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