**Raven Rock Mountain Complex**

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The **Raven Rock Mountain Complex** (**RRMC**) is a [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) government facility on Raven Rock, a mountain in the U.S. state of [Pennsylvania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pennsylvania). It is located about 14 km (8.7 miles) east of [Waynesboro, Pennsylvania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waynesboro%2C_Pennsylvania), and 10 km (6.2 miles) north-northeast of [Camp David, Maryland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp_David%2C_Maryland). It is also called the **Raven Rock Military Complex,** or simply **Site R**. Other designations and nicknames include "The Rock", NMCC-R (National Military Command Center Reservation), ANMCC (Alternate National Military Command Center), AJCC (Alternate Joint Communications Center), "Backup Pentagon", or "Site RT"; the latter refers to the vast array of communication towers and equipment atop the mountain. [Colloquially](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colloquially), the facility is known as the Underground Pentagon.

The facility runs more than 38 communications systems for its users. The [Defense Information Systems Agency](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defense_Information_Systems_Agency) computer operations staff provides computer services to the [National Command Authority](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Command_Authority), the [Joint Chiefs of Staff](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joint_Chiefs_of_Staff), the [Office of the Secretary of Defense](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Office_of_the_Secretary_of_Defense) and other [United States Department of Defense](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Defense) agencies.

Its largest tenant is the [Defense Threat Reduction Agency](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defense_Threat_Reduction_Agency). RRMC also houses the [emergency operations centers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emergency_operations_center) for the [Army](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army), [Navy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Navy) and [Air Force](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Air_Force).

**Disclosure of information**

Many of the facility's activities are classified, and distribution of most unclassified information about the facility is discouraged by the government.

On [May 25](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/May_25), [2007](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2007), the [*Federal Register*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Register) published a Defense Department policy declaring that it is unlawful for any person "entering in or on the property ... to make any photograph, sketch, picture, drawing, map or graphical representation of the Raven Rock Mountain Complex without first obtaining the necessary permission."

**History**

Planning for the site began in 1948. After the [Soviet Union](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_Union) detonated its first nuclear weapon in 1949, a high priority was established for the Joint Command Post to be placed in a protected location near [Washington, D.C.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington%2C_D.C.), for swift relocation of the [National Command Authorities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Command_Authority) and the [Joint Communications Service](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Joint_Communications_Service&action=edit&redlink=1). The selected site is near [Camp David](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp_David) (then known as "[Shangri-La](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shangri-La)"). In 1950, President [Harry S Truman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_S_Truman) approved making Raven Rock part of [Camp Albert Ritchie, Maryland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Ritchie%2C_Maryland). This new site was named the Alternate Joint Communications Center (AJCC) Site R. Construction of the facility began in 1951, and in 1953 it became operational.

In 1977, the [Department of Defense](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Defense) created the Special Projects Office (later to become the Protective Design Center) to work on the classified Alternate National Military Command and Control Center Improvement Program, which sought to design a deep-underground, hardened [command and control](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Command_and_Control_%28Military%29) center. The plans envisioned separate structures for command personnel, power, fuel, and water; more than three miles (5 km) of air entrainment tunnels; and access shafts to the surface. The program was canceled in 1979.

The RRMC was one of the "undisclosed locations" frequently used by [Vice President](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vice_President_of_the_United_States) [Dick Cheney](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dick_Cheney) following the [September 11 attacks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/September_11_attacks).

**Army support**

The Army unit that currently runs communications for the RRMC is the 114th Signal Battalion.

The Army support unit for the RRMC has been moved around the Army hierarchy several times. Between 1953 and 1971, it reported directed to the Army's Joint Support Command. In 1971, as part of the [Strategic Communications Command](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Strategic_Communications_Command&action=edit&redlink=1) move to [Fort Ritchie](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Ritchie%2C_Maryland), the communications unit was redesignated as the Directorate of Telecommunications, and placed under the Fort Ritchie garrison commander. In 1976, the unit was redesignated the USACC Site R Telecommunications Center, a direct reporting element to the 7th Signal Command. And in 1978, the unit was moved back under the command of the Fort Ritchie garrison, as the Directorate of Telecommunications.

In October 1981, USACC Site R Telecommunications Center was reorganized and redesignated as USACC Site R under Headquarters, 7th Signal Command. In May 1984, USACC Site R was redesignated as USAISC-Site R, remaining as a direct reporting unit to 7th Signal Command. In October 1988, USAISC-Site R was redesignated as the 1111th U.S. Army Signal Battalion and placed under the 1101st U.S. Army Signal Brigade, [Fort Lesley J. McNair](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_McNair), Washington, D.C., as the Army support battalion responsible for the maintenance, upkeep and communications of the AJCC Site R.

In October 1993, the 1111th U.S. Army Signal Battalion was placed under the 1108th U.S. Army Signal Brigade, Fort Ritchie, Maryland. Most base operations activities were removed from the battalion’s mission, leaving communications as the primary unit mission.

The 1995 [Base Realignment and Closure Commission](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Base_Realignment_and_Closure_Commission) directed the relocation of U.S. Army Signal Command units and some Base Operations support personnel from Fort Ritchie to [Fort Detrick](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Detrick), which will become the home of East Coast long-haul communications. These units included the 21st Signal Brigade (formerly the 1108th U.S. Army Signal Brigade), the 114th Signal Battalion (formerly the 1111th U.S. Army Signal Battalion) and Information Systems Engineering Command-Continental United States. The 1110th U.S. Army Signal Battalion, already at Fort Detrick, is now the 302nd Signal Battalion and is assigned to the 21st Signal Brigade. More than 1,140 military members and civilian employees were transferred under the order. Site R and its personnel came under control of the Fort Detrick commander [October 1](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_1), [1997](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1997). The actual movement of units began [October 1](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_1), [1996](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1996), and Fort Ritchie was closed by [September 30](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/September_30), [1998](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1998), well ahead of schedule.

The site has been declared part of the [Pentagon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Pentagon) Reservation.

**See also**

* [Continuity of government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continuity_of_government)
* [Greenbrier Resort](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greenbrier_Resort)
* [Mount Weather](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Weather)

**External links**

* ["Site-R Raven Rock Alternate Joint Communications Center (AJCC)](http://www.fas.org/nuke/guide/usa/c3i/raven_rock.htm), Federation of American Scientists
* [Raven Rock Underground Command Center (Site R)](http://ludb.clui.org/ex/i/PA3183/)
* [Cryptome's aerial photos of Site R](http://cryptome.sabotage.org/site-r/site-r.htm)