**Site-R Raven Rock**

**Alternate Joint Communications Center (AJCC)**

**Alternate National Military Command Center**

**Raven Rock, PA**

Site R is the Alternate Joint Communications Center (AJCC) located in Raven Rock mountain [hence the name Site R] just over the Pennsylvania State Line near Waynesboro, Pa. The DISA Site-R Computer Operations staff provides computer services to the NCA, the Joint Staff, the OSD and other DoD agencies through Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs). The facility functions as the disaster recovery site for the JSSC's GMC and DISA GCC. The various service [Army, Navy and Air Force] Emergency Operations Centers (AFEOC) are also located at Site R. Support is provided 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The facility's Operations Center, DCS Technical Control Facility, the Northeast Dial Service Assistance Center and Information Center provide planning, installation, operation, and maintenance of over 38 communications systems (switching, transmission, data distribution, visual information, and power generation) that support the various customers of the Alternate Joint Communications Center Site R.

The initial concept for the Alternate Joint Communications Center was conceived in 1948. After 1949, the 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 with close proximity to Washington, D.C. for swift relocation of the National Command Authorities and the Joint Communications Service. In 1950, President Truman approved Raven Rock Mountain, Pennsylvania, as part of Camp Albert Ritchie, Maryland. This new site was named the Alternate Joint Communications Center (AJCC) Site R (R for Raven Rock). In 1951, construction of the facility began, and in 1953, the AJCC Site R became operational.

Between 1953 and 1971, the Army communications element at Site R provided communications support to Site R tenants as a direct reporting unit of the U.S. Army Joint Support Command. In 1971, as part of the Strategic Communications Command (STRATCOM) move to Fort Ritchie, the communications unit was redesignated as the Directorate of Telecommunications, under the Fort Ritchie Garrison Commander.

In 1976, the unit was redesignated as 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.

The Special Projects Office (later to become the Protective Design Center) was created in 1977 to work on a classified Department of Defense program. The Alternate National Military Command and Control Center Improvement Program involved criteria development, studies, and preliminary design of a deep underground highly hardened and survivable command and control center. The center included separate structures for command personnel, power, fuel, and water. Over 3 miles of air entrainment tunnels were required as well as access shafts to the surface. Although canceled in 1979, the experience, expertise, and leadership in protective design and classified programs that Special Projects gained from this work brought other unique projects and major programs to the District.

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 Leslie J. 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, MD. 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 directed the relocation of U.S. Army Signal Command units and some Base Operations support personnel from Fort Ritchie to Fort Detrick, which will become the home of East Coast long-haul communications. These units include the 1108th U.S. Army Signal Brigade, the 1111th U.S. Army Signal Battalion and Information Systems Engineering Command-Continental United States (ISEC-CONUS). The 1110th U.S. Army Signal Battalion, already at Fort Detrick, is assigned to the 1108th. More than 1,140 military members and civilian employees will be transferred under the order. Site R and its personnel came under control of the Fort Detrick commander 01 October 1997. The actual movement of units began 01 October 1996, and Fort Ritchie was scheduled to be closed by Sept. 30, 1998, well ahead of schedule.

**Sources and Resources**

* [AR 190-15 Physical Security of the Alternate Joint Communication Center (AJCC)](http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/policy/army/ar/r190_15.pdf)
* [Radio Relay System Justification memo, 1951](http://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/report/other/ajcc-doc5a.jpg)
* [AJCC - Commercial v. Military Microwave system memo, 1951](http://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/report/other/ajcc-doc3.jpg)
* [AJCC Floor Space Analysis, 1951](http://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/report/other/ajcc-doc2a.jpg)
* [The Cold War Infrastructure of the Nation's Capital Region](http://coldwardc.homestead.com/files/index.html)
* [The Rock](http://www.mich.com/~ttyler/C3I/Bunkers/SITE-R/Site-R.html) by Tim D. Tyler [JUST ABSOLUTELY OUTSTANDING!!!]
* [1111th Signal Battalion](http://www.asc.army.mil/1111th/main1111.htm)
* [DISA Global Management Center (WEY3)](http://www.westhem.disa.mil/~WEY/WEY3.html)
* [Launching the Future - Fort Detrick](http://140.139.13.36/detrick/history/prolog1.htm)
* [Site R transferred to Detrick](http://www.dcmilitary.com/army/standard/oct16/fd_a101697.html) Standard O
* [Fort Ritchie prepares to close](http://www.globalseurity.org/wmd/library/a19980728ritchie.html) (Army News Service, July 28, 1998)--A ceremony July 17 at Fort Ritchie, Md., marked the end of an era and the closure of the post that has served the country more than 70 years.