Los Angeles County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

Los Angeles, California

Project Description:

The County of Los Angeles, with a population of 8 to 9 million people, required an adequate Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to meet the public's needs during an emergency. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved an expenditure of $22 million for the construction of this new facility. The communications and security budgets alone totaled over $8 million, more than one-third of the construction budget. The adjacent illustrations show actual photos of the facility, which is currently in operation on a site in East Los Angeles.

ACSI's Responsibilities:

ACSI was initially engaged by the County to provide electronics, security and communications management information systems, planning and design management services for the EOC. ACSI assisted the County in recommending and reviewing proposed planners and/or architectural firms for the planning phase of the project. ACSI prepared written recommendations based on FEMA requirements and the County's Emergency Preparedness Plan to augment the program, and prepared communications and security criteria and system estimates for the project.

ACSI was subsequently engaged to provide systems analysis and Design Intent Documents (DIDs) for the EOC's computerized communications and graphic mapping systems, the backbone of the new emergency operations system. The analysis was performed using Yourdon's "Structured Analysis" technique.

Using the information gained through its Yourdon analysis, ACSI prepared specifications for the Center's computerized emergency management and communication system. Using ACSI's design, the County engaged a systems integrator and the Emergency Management Information System (EMIS) is now fully operational. This Center is acknowledged by most authorities to be the most advanced system of its type; many believe it is the new trendsetter for county governments throughout the United States. It integrates database management, messaging, geographical information systems and other functions throughout the facility. This system will cover the entire County through a wide area network (WAN), and links the Sheriff's current computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system.