The National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism (NCTV) protects the Netherlands from threats that could disrupt Dutch society.

Together with our partners within the government, the research community and the private sector, we ensure that the Netherlands’ critical infrastructure (e.g. electricity, drinking water and food) is safe and remains that way.
Protecting interests

The NCTV and its partners do their utmost to prevent disruptions to Dutch society. Our top priorities are guarding vital interests and sectors and protecting individuals, sites and civil aviation.
Together, we are stronger. The NCTV unites parties and initiatives and shares the knowledge, expertise and operational resources needed to boost the Netherlands’ resilience to threats.
The NCTV identifies, interprets and shares relevant information. It analyses not only known threats, but also new vulnerabilities and risks that impact on national security.
Since the establishment of the NCTV, central government has had a single organisation that deals with counterterrorism, cyber security, national security and crisis management. Together with our partners in the security sector, we are committed to making the Netherlands a safe and stable place. Our focus is on preventing and minimising social disruption.
What does the NCTV do?

The NCTV's main duties are:

- interpreting and reducing threats;
- boosting the resilience of vital sectors, structures and networks;
- the surveillance and protection of individuals, objects, agencies, events and vital sectors;
- crisis management, coordination and communication;
- ensuring cyber security.

International cooperation

Threats and incidents do not respect national borders. Cross-border cooperation is therefore a necessity. The NCTV is firmly embedded in an international network of security partners. Within the EU, member states work together closely to improve crisis management and protect the Union’s critical infrastructure. Outside the EU, the Netherlands works alongside its partners in the United Nations, NATO and the OECD.
Taking action

The NCTV performs the essential function of maintaining an overview of a complex security landscape. This role comes to the fore in efforts to combat national disasters and crises, such as a major flood or a flu pandemic. On behalf of the Dutch Minister of Security and Justice, the NCTV coordinates the government response to situations like these. The NCTV is also responsible for ensuring clear communication in a crisis. In times of crisis the government has to operate as a single entity, conveying an unambiguous message and taking concerted action.

Anticipating

We do everything we can to be one step ahead of attacks and disasters. Day in, day out, in close collaboration with the criminal justice authorities, police and the Dutch security services. From its central position in the security landscape, the NCTV offers support and advice to all parties involved. That means bringing together parties and initiatives, sharing knowledge and devising joint solutions to new threats. We collect information from around the world on digital vulnerability and publish our views in advisory reports and instructions. We organise training sessions and exercises to raise awareness of security within organisations, for example by means of ‘red teaming’, in which groups of experts rigorously test out an organisation’s security measures. Reflection and action – these are the two sides of the NCTV.
In the event of a supraregional or national crisis the National Crisis Centre (NCC) acts as the nerve centre for all crisis management operations. It coordinates the authorities’ efforts and the decision-making process at central government level and ensures both the public and the authorities concerned are kept properly informed. The National Operational Coordination Centre (LOCC) coordinates operations that are necessary to bring the crisis under control. A local or regional crisis is generally handled by public authorities like municipalities or ‘safety regions’ (veiligheidsregios). The NCC supports these partners by providing them with reliable information and advice and making resources available that will keep the channels of communication open and active in a crisis.
Strength through teamwork

The NCTV relies on the power of teamwork to protect the Netherlands’ vital interests. Government authorities, businesses, research institutions and civil society organisations possess a wealth of know-how and experience. Only by mobilising these parties is it possible to take decisive action and deal with threats. The NCTV aims to be the hub of the security community: a reliable, knowledgeable partner that delivers workable solutions and helps its partners where needed. This is why we are continuing to invest in public-private partnership and a joint security agenda.

Cyber security

One of the biggest challenges over the next few years is monitoring digital security. Our increasing dependence on IT makes our society and economy vulnerable. Cyber crime and digital espionage are major threats to both the public and private sectors. This threat is posed not only by criminal networks, but increasingly by other countries. With its many internet connections and high broadband density, the Netherlands is an attractive target: there are few places in the world where online banking is as popular. The Netherlands is a digital gateway and, as such, requires a high level of cyber security. The NCTV has the knowledge and operational resources to combat the threat as effectively as possible, together with our partners.
The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) functions as the nexus in the digital security network. The NCSC brings together know-how and expertise, provides assistance in the event of threats and incidents, and acts as the operational linchpin during a major crisis. In this regard the NCSC works closely with many other national and international parties from the cyber security community. We need an agency like this, because cyber crime does not respect national borders, and the knowledge needed to fight this type of crime is highly fragmented. The NCSC gives the knowledge and intelligence back to the community in the form of insights and contingency plans. In this way we work together to ensure a safe, open and stable information society.
You cannot act effectively on your own

‘Professionalism and an eye for political and administrative processes are crucial. In this way we can achieve our objective, making the NCTV a professional organisation with a cooperative outlook. For this reason we forge networks, and we set up structures with our partners to protect the Netherlands’ vital interests.’

Dick Schoof

National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism