



Department of Information and Communication Services

February 2004

BITS & BYTES

Issue: BB2004-02

NTRAIN 2004 a Huge Success! DSOs-CS from all over the country gathered in St. Louis for their first ever NTRAIN, and it proved to be a very productive session. Some major announcements were made, all designed to improve CS service levels:

1) All request for free National hosted server space by local units, as well as questions regarding passwords and other administrative matters (like change of webmasters, etc.), will now go through your District DSO-CS.

2) Details of the all new AUX-04 "DISTANCE EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY TRAINING (BASIC)" were announced by Todd Thuma DSO-CS D7 and Bob Fritz DVC-IR. All applications use the **Short Term Training Request** form 7059: <http://216.167.73.185/~forms/archive/a7059.pdf> For the East Coast session held at the Coast Guard Academy, applications *must* be in the hands of your DIRAUX by 30 April 2004. The West Coast session in Alameda CA *must* be received by 30 June 2004! Be sure to review the complete course prerequisites and additional details prior to application at: http://www.cgaux.info/g_ocx/training/c-training-program.html#aux04

3) DSOs got a special preview of the brand new online **National CS Manual**. This is designed to make getting information on CS matters *much* easier. The DSOs together with Hob Bonnett BC-ICT will be working hard, to enable launch of this service for all CS Officers in the coming months.

4) An impressive new communications system "CENTRA" was put through its paces, and made history! Bob Williams DVC-TM and his Team provided support for the 3 day session.

For more information on what was accomplished at NTRAIN, see SITRIP coverage at: <http://teamcoastguard.org/2004/NTrain04/CSworkshop/CS.htm>

Additional good news: Our Department Chief, Marilyn McBain is doing well recovering from a recent surgery!

Jeff Mahl DC-Id
AuxInfo@aol.com

Know your way around FileMaker? We are looking for an additional individual with experience in the use and setup of Filemaker Pro. If necessary, you would be willing to learn Filemaker Pro scripts, and we will provide assistance. You will be making an important contribution to the development and maintenance of the new AUXplus database!

Some programming experience will be helpful, (similar to Basic, mostly plain English coding). Willing to spend computer time to check, fix and alter program functions, as well as write Help text as necessary.

You would work from home on your own equipment, and we will provide the Filemaker Pro software.

This would be for a National Staff Branch Assistant position, with a commitment to actively participate in the development (especially during the initial period over the next year or so).

Please send your resume to Herb Theisz BC-IRP: herb.aux@earthlink.net

Jeff Mahl DC-Id
AuxInfo@aol.com

Online testing is a great capability -- thousands of members have already used. There is some important information on pop-ups, cookies and spam you need to know when using online training services. Check out the following link for additional details:

<http://www.auxetrain.org/information-1.htm>

Also, be sure to read the article **The War on Spam** in What's New. It contains important information regarding the delivery of your Auxiliary email.

<http://www.cgaux.org/cgauxweb/memtable.shtml>

Jeff Mahl DC-Id
AuxInfo@aol.com

Raise your hands! -- Everyone who has activated their account in the National eDirectory www.auxedirectory.org raise your hands! You have done something those with their hands still down need to do right now :-). Don't put it off any longer, sign on today! It uses the same technology used in online credit card transactions, and the activation process has been made easier than ever! It's the easy way to insure that your email address is correct in AUXDATA, and you stay well informed about our fast paced Auxiliary.

Jeff Mahl
AuxInfo@aol.com

Factoid

All broadband connections are not created equal. There are a number of factors that can affect your speed, even the time of day. If you want a good check on your connection speed try: www.bandwidthplace.com/speedtest Print the results for later reference.

Cyber Spot of the Month

Auxie Notebook is a great resource with all sorts of good information in an easy to use format. Check it out at: <http://www.cgauxpresents.info/faq/>

Did you know?

If you still *don't* have a good (up to date) Antivirus installed, and your computer is not yet a quivering mass of wires, your luck will soon run out. Virus infections are becoming more serious than ever, and the small investment in one of the top AV packages (Norton or McAfee) is money well spent. If you still want protection, but can't quite swing it there is an application now available that offers something better than no protection. Check out Avast 4 FREE home edition: <http://find.pcworld.com/38561>

Reminder:

This mail system is for use only for the distribution of Bits & Bytes, and other I-CS Department information. It is not to be used for any other purpose. Thanks for your cooperation.

Viewing problems?

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<http://www.cgaux.org/cgauxweb/infoserv/BandB.htm>

Bits & Bytes

A resource of the Department of Information and Communication Services
Charlotte Kelly, Editor, BC-ISN@cgaux.org