



Department of Information and Communication Services

January 2005

BITS & BYTES

Issue: 2005-01

Welcome to our new Officers! -- I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome back our returning CS & IS Officers for 2005, and especially offer congratulations to our newly appointed Officers! We're looking forward to a great year, with a number of improvements in store that should help to make things easier for all of us :-)

If you are a former officer who has passed your office on to someone else, would you please also pass this copy of Bits & Bytes on to your new person? You may be getting Bits & Bytes because your unit's 2005 officer list has not yet been updated in AUXDATA? If that's the case, please contact your IS Officer to get the Officer updates posted to AUXDATA - ASAP!

Jeff Mahl
DC-I@cgaux.org

ALL ABOARD for AUX-04 and AUX-10! -- The 2005 AUX-04 DISTANCE EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY TRAINING (BASIC) and AUX-10 INFO SYSTEMS (AUXDATA/AUXINFO) TRAINING FOR DISTRICT AND DIVISION STAFF (DSO-IS, ADSO-IS, SO-IS, FSO-IS) are now open for enrollment!

For complete details on these two exceptional training opportunities, AUX-04 Students please see your Student Support Website at: <http://uscgaux.org/~aux04/> and AUX-10 Students please carefully review: <http://www.uscgaux.org/~aux10/> for all the important details.

Application forms (Short Term Training Requests - STTRs) used for any "C" School are available at: <http://www.uscgaux.org/~forms/archive/a7059f.pdf> and should be in the hands of your DIRAUX *90* days prior to class. These classes are "first come, first served" and enrollments for the FEB AUX-10 class are already full, so don't delay!

Remember, the Student Support websites listed above are the best source of current "official" information about these two exciting "C" schools, so check back often as they are updated on a regular basis.

Jeff Mahl
DC-I@cgaux.org

Spring Cleaning

A number of past B&B items have mentioned user cautions for the many viruses and worms roaming the internet. Often overlooked are the many 'spyware' nasties that can compromise you and your computer security. Most firewalls and anti-virus programs do not identify or stop these. You may have many of these installed and running in your machine depending on the web sites

you have visited. A good (and free) piece of anti-spyware is 'SpyBot S&D' available for download at <http://www.tucows.com/preview/310138.html> in versions for most PC operating systems (Win98 & newer). This will locate and remove over 22,000 types of common spyware including those planted in Windows Registry or 'cookies'. This is a 'must have' piece of software for users who frequently surf or shop the web.

Harry Schoepe BC-ISL
BC-ISL@cgaux.org

Where Do I Find What I Need? -- In AUXINFO, in the AUXDATA Cubes, you will find most of the data that is input into AUXDATA. It is updated every Sunday. The AWARDS Cube contains the number and type awards issued to members. All of your awards may not show up if you earned those years ago. So check yours out and if you are missing any, work with your DSO-IS to get them in the system.

The DEMOGRAPHICS Cube contains profile information for all regions and units showing age groups, genders, and ethnicity.

The MEMBER ACTIVITIES Cube will be the most used to find out if all of your hours are showing up. Reports may be run by Area, District, Division, Flotilla, Member, or by Resource, showing the total hours or total missions, the number of VSCs performed, or the number of RBSVs performed. This data is available by calendar year, fiscal year, quarter, month, week, or day. Just remember that the system takes your date and time of mission and converts it to Zulu or Greenwich Mean Time so the dates may be different by one day. Helpful Hints: You must remember when first opened, the data displayed is for the number of hours spent in the missions. To see the number of VSCs performed, you must click on the "Measures" button and select a "measure" from the pop up menu, "Vessel Safety Checks Count." Other "measures" such as "Marine Dealer Visits Count", "ATON Aids Verified", "SAR - Persons Assisted", "Commercial Fishing Vessel Exams", etc., may also be selected.

From the UNIT ACTIVITIES Cube you may obtain the same information as the Member Activities Cube with the exception that it only goes down to Unit level and not by member. The major difference here is that only the lead hours from each mission are included in the totals where in the Member Activity Cube ALL hours are included in the totals. Again, remember to select the proper "measure" so as to present the data you desire (Hours or Count.)

There is an UPDATE NOTIFICATIONS Cube; however, this is not as current as the one at the bottom of the AUXDATA Sign-on page.

The COMPETENCIES Cube contains information by Resource (Air, Boat, General, or Unit.) Under Air, you will find all who have air certifications. Under Boat, you will find ATON Technicians, Aid Verifiers, Coxswain, Crew, and PWC Operators. Under General, there are items listed that are all found in other areas. Under Unit you will find APC, (to verify eligibility to hold elected office.)

You can find those who are AUXOP, some workshops are appearing here but they are not complete. Workshops are found under Tasks.

The FACILITIES Cube - has Units, Radios, Boats, and Aircraft. Under the Units, it will tell you how many Districts, Divisions, and Flotillas there are. The other Resources (Radios, Boats, and Aircraft) are listed by type down to flotilla level.

The TASKS Cube includes Currency Maintenance which shows the required annual air and boat

tasks including the Operations Workshop. General Training is not valid at this time. The Initial Qualification has all the qualifications obtained from the open book tests. Pilot Tasks/Competencies has all of the pilot information. Professional Development has the APC course, all of the Specialty courses, Leadership courses, Good Mate Course, and ICS 100, 200, and 300. "Workshops" has all of the workshops taken.

The UNIT LOCATION Cube gives the addresses or cities of all units in the Auxiliary. May be interesting if you plan to visit new areas.

Marilyn McBain, DVC-IS
DVC-IS@cgaux.org

Updated Numbers -- With the recent year-end numbers updated in AUXDATA, we need to revise the total number of members we have in the Auxiliary, which is often referenced on our unit websites.

Please use the following when referring to Auxiliary Membership levels:

The Auxiliary includes more than 30,000 members....

If you make reference to Auxiliary activity levels regarding lives saved, a fair statement would be:

Each year the Auxiliary typically saves more than 300 lives....

That will give more realistic, yet flexible points of reference, that should serve us for at least the near future.

Jeff Mahl
DC-I@cgaux.org

Attention All New Information Services Staff Officers! -- There are three now firm AUX-10, AUXDATA/AUXINFO Training "C" Schools scheduled for 2005.

They are 19-21 February 2005 in Alameda, CA.; 16-18 March 2005 in Miami, FL., and 28-30 May 2005 at the Coast Guard Academy. The class formerly scheduled for January in St. Louis has been postponed until April. The new date will be posted as soon as it is firmed up.

If you have not completed a Short Term Training Request, ANSC Form 7059, and sent it to your DIRAUX office, do it NOW! The Alameda class is almost to capacity. If you do not receive orders for Alameda, then put in for the Miami class. We would like to see all classes filled and not have any vacant seats. The prerequisite for AUX-10 attendance requires -IS level staff office and authorized to enter data into AUXDATA. See the AUX-10 Student Support Website for additional details: <http://www.uscgaux.org/~aux10/>

Those accepted for attendance will receive Coast Guard orders for travel and per diem.

Marilyn McBain, DVC-IS
DVC-IS@cgaux.org

Factoid

Myth: Product "Activation" spies on you reporting back to the software vendor. Truth: An application from major well known vendors, contacts the vendor only during the activation process. Once activated, a product stores the codes, and does not contact the vendor again unless you do something to invalidate the codes.

Cyber Spot of the Month - A Must See Site!

It's "Official" the new CS Officers Guide <http://www.auxservices.org/csguide/> has just been released! This comprehensive resource is what our CS Officers have long needed, and it's now ready for you to use. The Guide contains all of the **static** information (checklists, policies, descriptions, references, etc.)

AIRS (the Auxiliary Internet Resource Site) <http://216.167.73.185/~airs/> will continue as a major resource, but in the future will contain only the **dynamic** services already there (site review status, unit listing link, etc.). The CS Guide is truly a "living" document that will change and grow as technology advances in the Auxiliary. Hob Bonnett BC-ICT hob@wavetop.com has done a superb job with this new resource we think you will enjoy!

Did you know?

January marks the start of a new term for our local elected and appointed officers. Some of our officers are still **not** updated in AUXDATA? Check your unit today to see that your old officers are properly removed and your new officers are correctly listed according to your Annual Unit Officer Report form 7007: <http://www.uscgaux.org/~forms/archive/a7007f.pdf>

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?

Check the Bits & Bytes Archive for a complete list of *all* issues at:
<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