



Department of Information and Communication Services

April 2005

BITS & BYTES

Issue: 2005-04

Welcome to our newest Staffer – We would like to welcome Tom Miller who will be our new Banch Assistant-Technology Research & Development (BA-IRT). Tom is also DSO-CS of D13. You may recognize his National work as webmaster for the National C-School Portal :

<http://cschool.auxservices.org/> as well as the AUX-04 Technology and AUX-10 AUXDATA/AUXINFO Student Support Sites. Tom also serves as the On Scene Coordinator for the AUX-04 Session at Alameda CA 11-15 AUG 2005!

Also a reminder that anyone interested in the AUX-04 Technology C-School, should file their Short Term Training Request with their DIRAUX-**ASAP!** The first session at the Coast Guard Academy is now filled. Openings are still available for the 11-15 AUG session at ISC Alameda, CA. It's first come first served, so don't delay.

Training is under CG reimburseable orders, and August is a great time of year in the San Francisco Bay area! See the AUX-04 Student Support site at: <http://cschool.auxservices.org/aux04/> for complete details!

Jeff Mahl
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Reminder - Website Seal Contest! -- We are having a contest to design a seal of approval to be used on all authorized Auxiliary websites. The new seal would be displayed on the home page of approved Flotilla, Division and District websites. The CS Guide at: <http://csguide.auxservices.org/> has all the criteria on what an official Auxiliary Website should have.

The Approval Seal should be in jpg or gif format and not larger than 200 x 80 pixels, so that it doesn't dominate the site. The contest is open to all members of the Auxiliary.

The contest winner will be recognized in the May issue of Bits & Bytes.

Send your entries to Jerry Turley at BC-IWA@cgaux.org. Entries will be posted online for the judges to view them all at the same time. Deadline for the contest is May 1, 2005 and judging will be complete by May 15.

Jerry Turley
BC-IWA@cgaux.org

CORRECTION TO: An Alternate Access to AUXDATA -- it requires no JINITIATOR!

An article by John Barrett AOPS/AUXDATA FAM OSC with an alternate method of AUXDATA access appeared in an earlier edition of Bits & Bytes. **That information should be disregarded**, as it was designed primarily for SWSIII applications. Auxiliary users ought to be using Citrix. Java is for CGDN users only!

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• **A Perfect Combination!** -- With the new online access to your Travel Voucher Summary (TVS) described below in "Good News for Travel Reimbursement", there are now *two* important new resources to make CG travel reimbursement easier. Start the process with the "smart DD-1351-2 <http://www.uscgaux.org/~forms/archive/dd1351-2f.pdf> which reviews your submission electronically, looking for common errors before you even send it! That helps to reduce the processing time, which means quicker payments. This great new self checking form was developed by Bud Nusly DVC-IF. Then you can review your payment via the new online TVS, to be sure you were properly reimbursed. It's the easy and accurate way to process your CG Travel (not Patrol Order) claims.

Source: Jeff Mahl, DC-I]

• **Good News for Travel Reimbursement!** -- Joint efforts by OCX, DC-I Jeff Mahl, D7 DIRAUX, PSC, and FINCEN working together for the past year, have resulted in the launch of a new online system. CG Personal Support Command at Topeka can now provide Travel Voucher Summary (TVS) reports directly to Auxiliary members using the Internet.

What is a Travel Voucher Summary? How many times have you seen a deposit in your bank account for CG reimbursed travel and wondered what exactly was covered in this mysterious amount? A TVS is a 3-4 page report, generated when you submit a Travel Claim (note this is for Travel only ... *not* Patrol Orders), that breaks your travel down by line items. The first page of the report shows a summary of your reimbursements and the "Total Amount Payable and Due Member" which is the amount that you are getting reimbursed. Subsequent pages show your reimbursement broken down daily by per diem (hotels and meals), travel (car...mileage, etc.), and other "Approved Reimbursable Expenses" (travel agent fees, rental car, lodging taxes, tolls, etc.).

How do I obtain my reports? Go to: https://www.fincen.uscg.mil/tvs_aux/ and put in your social security number, then press the submit TVS Search button. You will be taken to a listing of your recent travel claims (within the past 90 days). You can then click on any one to obtain the TVS for that travel date. Unfortunately, social security numbers must be used ... but please note that this is a secure website. Like the old commercial said..."Try it...You'll like it"!!!!

Source: CWO4 (BOSN) Bob Flynn, OTO D7 DIRAUX]

For additional CG Travel Reimbursement Information, check out:
http://cschool.auxservices.org/travel_reimbursement.htm

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Factoid

The new pocket "jump drives" or "memory sticks" are the best thing since sliced bread! Now you can easily carry around up to 1GB in something the size of a small lighter. Prices are dropping with 128mb often priced under \$20. It's so much easier than floppies, or even CDs for transporting files. Watch the Sunday paper ads for some great deals.

Cyber Spot of the Month

Microsoft has a new series of excellent videos on home computer security:

<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/videos/terms.mspx> These presentations include a wide range of topics from Phishing, and Worms, to Spam control, and Identity theft. They're very easy to understand, and a fun learning tool especially for family and friends.

Did you know?

You can now register both your home phone *and* cell phone on the National "Do Not Call Registry" at 888-382-1222 or at: <https://www.donotcall.gov/default.aspx> "Do Not Call" will help block unwanted telemarketer incoming phone calls to your phones.

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

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