



Department of Information & Communications Services

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BITS & BYTES

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Bits & Bytes is distributed electronically on a monthly basis to all DSO, ADSO, SO, and FSO-IS and CS Officers.

New National Web Site (NWS) formally Launched!

We would like to Welcome you Aboard the all new www.cgaux.org ! We think you will find its clean, fresh appearance and simplified navigation helps to make your visits efficient and more rewarding. You will find that NWS (National Web Site) now serves as a portal to vast and ever growing online resources at all levels of the Coast Guard Auxiliary organization. You'll want to explore our many new National Department websites, each finely tuned to the needs of their particular programs. Be sure to visit the all new I-CS Department website designed by Daren Lewis BC-ICP at:

<http://home.auxidept.org/>

We also invite you to try out our new and far more powerful search capability, which thoroughly searches not only NWS, but all of our Auxiliary National level online resources. Note the progressive "bread crumbs" just below the top banner of each page which allows you to easily jump back or forward one or several pages, as you move throughout the site. You will notice a common "look and feel" throughout the site making it more intuitive and ergonomic as you travel page to page.

You will find some of your old familiar features like What's New, and you will discover others combined or replaced with new ones to better meet the growing needs for our millions of visitors. We also paid special attention to our first time visitors (wether members of the Public or brand new Auxiliary Members), by better explaining what many of us now take for granted.

This has been a collective effort by a dedicated Team within the Department of Information & Communications Services. Our Division of Web Services Chief Randy Bogdan DVC-IW, National Webmaster Don Daniels BC-IW, Assistant National Webmaster Mary Gibbons BA-IWW, and our very talented Lead Designer Tony Gadomski BA-IWD worked hard to make this a reality.

The new NWS will continue to evolve and improve well into the future. This was a massive effort, and we fully expect that even with extensive testing and tweaking there may still be a few bugs to work out. You may discover a broken link or some other National Web Site related issue. If you do, we encourage to use the form at: <http://nws.cgaux.org/contact/index.html>. Select "Website Issue" and carefully detail the problem for our attention. Please remember that for problems on other sites we may link to, you will need to report those issues to the appropriate linked site webmaster.

If you have any bookmarks to the old site, you will need to reestablish those due to the all new layout. We expect that NWS will continue to evolve with new features and refinements for many years to come. We hope you enjoy your surfing while at www.cgaux.org !

Jeff Mahl, [DC-I](#)

The Great Migration has begun!

Webmasters in District 13 and District 8W were the first to migrate their local unit AIRS websites from the old RaQ server to the new larger and faster LINUX National AIRS server. Other Districts will follow in the coming weeks, with the migration targeted to be completed by 10 DEC 2005. All DSO-CS officers have been briefed on the move which is a relatively simple process of re-publishing existing approved AIRS websites to a new URL by the unit webmaster.

Webmasters will be provided with the following information by your DSO-CS. Since we are phasing in District by District, please standby for the following specific information (#1-4) in the near future:

- 1) Specific dates to begin your District's migration
- 2) A new URL for your website. To comply with ICANN standards the following format would be typical examples:

Flotilla <http://a0701209.uscgaux.info/>

Division <http://a07012.uscagux.info/>

District <http://a070.uscgaux.info/>

You will note that "a" (for Auxiliary) has replaced "~" as discussed earlier, and .info will replace .org

- 3) A new user name and password for your unit's site access by the webmaster
- 4) General webmaster instructions for making the migration

Notes:

- a) Republishing can be by either FTP or MS Front Page
- b) Webmasters are cautioned to be **sure** to have their existing websites backed up on their computer, and we would recommend an additional copy on a CD.
- c) Of special note, in addition to increased speed, units will have increased space allowance.

Flotilla: 15mb

Division: 20mb

District: 25mb

Unlike our old server, these allocations are for usable space. For example, the old Flotilla allocation of 10mb on the RaQ had only about 3.5 - 3.8mb of usable space.

You can start using your new site as soon as you republish it. On or about 10 DEC 2005, the old websites will be terminated. At that time, we will be working on a means to facilitate getting visitors who may have your old website address bookmarked notified that the URL addresses have been changed to the new format.

And yes, these sites are still hosted for **free** to our Auxiliary units. After existing websites have been migrated (by 10 DEC 2005) we will be able to then work on accommodating new unit websites which have been fully approved, but were waiting for available server space.

For all future updates on the Migration stay tuned to CS News:

<http://csguide.auxservices.org/news.php> One final note: With over 700 websites to migrate in the coming weeks your patience, cooperation and continued support is *greatly* appreciated!

If you have further questions, please contact your DSO-CS

Jeff Mahl, [DC-I](#)

ATTENTION ALL WHO ARE IN THE AIR PROGRAM:

IS Officers can now input currency maintenance requirements for you as an Instructor Pilot/Flight Instructor. Pilots should annotate their 7030 for the flight showing themselves as pilot and annotate in the REMARKS area the name and unit of the qualified Instructor Pilot/Flight Instructor who was the IP/FE for the training mission, 22A, or check flight. The IS Officer when entering the mission through the Activity Log Screen should proceed on to Task Capture and select the Instructor Pilot/Flight Instructor Task, and then show only the qualified IP/FE as completing the task. There is an annual currency maintenance requirement that every IP/FE has three instructional or flight checks each year to maintain certification.

If for any reason, the mission has not been recorded on a 7030, the Task cannot be entered by the IS Officer, but the information must be relayed to the DIRAUX office and entered through the TMT Module.

Marilyn McBain, [DVC-IS](#)

Ask Mr. Techie Branch Chief

What's a Database For?

A lot of folks might answer that question by saying, "It's a place where you store data." The more astute might say, "It's a computer thing from which you get information." Both are correct...almost. Actually what they've said is more about what a database *does* than what it's *for*. The definitive answer — and you knew this was coming, didn't you? — is that a database is a computer tool you use to get the information you need to make a decision.

To understand the nuance here, let's take a quick look at the difference between data and information. I define "data" as "A collection of individual numerical or other facts represented in a form suitable for processing by computer." On the other hand, I define "information" as being "processed, stored, or transmitted data; a synthesized communication of knowledge." Do you see what I'm getting at here? Information is what you get when you intelligently combine and process data as you take it out of the database. And you do that by querying the database (about which, more in a later article).

Data in an USCG AUX database might include such things as the name, type, and powerplants of boats. Along with the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and AUX qualifications of their owners. That data could be turned into information in the form of a list of all COXSWAIN qualified boat

owners, who own vessels that are 21' long and longer in your District's most northern Division. From that list you can know the individuals and their equipment that can be assigned to a particular set of missions.

Our bottom line then? The one and only thing a database is for, is to provide human beings with the precise information they need to make a decision.

In future articles, I'll deal with other practical technical questions. If you've got one for me, please send it along. I'd love to have the chance to answer it.

Ricardo Birmele, [BC-ISN](#)

Odd's 'n Ends

The Spellchecker Song

Omri Weisman

I have a spelling checker.
It came with my PC.
It plane lee marks four my revue
Miss steaks aye can knot see.

Eye ran this poem threw it.
Your sure real glad two no.
Its very polished in its weigh,
My checker tolled me sew.

A checker is a blessing.
It freeze yew lodes of thyme.
It helps me right awl stiles two reed,
And aides me when aye rime.

Each frays comes posed up on my screen
Eye trussed too bee a joule.
The checker pours o'er every word
To cheque sum spelling rule.

Bee fore a veiling checkers
Hour spelling mite decline,

And if we're laks oar have a laps,
We wood bee maid too wine.

Butt now bee cause my spelling
Is checked with such grate flare,
There are know faults with in my cite,
Of nun eye am a wear.

Now spelling does not phase me,
It does knot bring a tier.
My pay purrs awl due glad den
With wrapped words fare as hear.

To rite with care is quite a feet
Of witch won should be proud,
And wee mussed dew the best wee can,
Sew flaws are knot aloud.

Sow ewe can sea why aye dew prays
Such soft wear four pea seas,
And why eye brake in two averse
Buy righting want too please.

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A resource of the Department of Information and Communication Services Ricardo Birmele, Editor, bc-isn@cgaux.org. If you have any complaints about the contents of this newsletter, please write them clearly in the box provided below.