



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

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Tech Watch

Division 8, 5NR

February, 2010

A. Introduction

This document is intended to provide a view of computer technology issues being discussed within the Coast Guard. Most of the content will be for informational use only by members of the Auxiliary. However, several discussions will have relevance to the Auxiliary as the Auxiliary becomes more technology orientated. It will be published when pertinent material is released by the Coast Guard as being authorized for Internet release.

B. Social media - Use of Commercial Blog Technology for Official Duties

Capt Karl L Schultz, Acting Director of Governmental and Public Affairs, and Capt Marshall B. Lytle, Acting Assistant Commandant for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Information Technology

Public Affairs Manual, COMDTINST m5728.2 (series)

1. Per Ref A, this ALCOAST provides interim direction for the official Coast Guard use of commercial blog sites as an external communications tool. This ALCOAST pertains to Unit/Office managed blogs hosted on the worldwide web (www) that are maintained by on-duty Coast Guard personnel to include Active Duty, Reserve, Civilian, and Auxiliary Personnel, and primarily includes Coast Guard content that has been officially approved for release. This ALCOAST does not apply to blogs hosted on CG Portal or Intellipedia for Internal Information and Collaboration.
2. A blog is an excellent communications tool and is superior to many current methods of collaboration on specific subjects. A well maintained blog can enable outreach with a wide audience, and through the power of networking, the audience can be expanded exponentially. Blogs are also a key component of the administrations focus on transparency.
3. For the past several months, the official service blog, the Coast Guard Compass, has been online and is generating a significant public following. This blog, and similar Unit/Office blogs, provide an excellent means of reporting on the Coast Guard, its people and its missions and engaging the public in dialogue. To follow the compass, go to <http://coastguard.dodlive.mil>.



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4. In deciding whether to start a blog, consider:
 - a. Blogs are resource intensive and no new FTE have been centrally identified at this time.
 - b. Blogs are great collaboration tools and can be designed around a specific unit, topic, geographic region, and so on. Units should consider collaborating with their chain of command and other units to populate content to a blog. Many different authors can contribute to ease the burden on any one unit or person. Units are also encouraged to submit post ideas and content to the Coast Guard Compass blog.
 - c. Content on blogs should be updated regularly to be relevant and useful. Units that desire to set up a blog are encouraged to evaluate their goals and objectives for the blog, their content management plan and their audience. The blog communications plan for the Coast Guard Compass may serve as an example and is located in the social media folder in the library of the Public Affairs public place in the CG Portal.
 - d. Establishment of social media sites requires DHS Office of Public Affairs (OPA) concurrence. Before establishing any new site on the Internet, Units must first provide the POC in Para 8 the following in a brief email: Purpose and description of the site, intended scope and audience, content/comment management plan, and if any collaboration potential exists. COMDT (CG-0922) staff will consult with the requesting unit to determine if the site meets requirements and is the best tool to support communications objectives. COMDT (CG-0922) will inform the unit if any other documentation is required.
 - e. All official blogs and social networking sites shall comply with the social media checklist provided in the social media folder in the library on the public affairs public place in the cg portal. Included in this checklist is the mandatory use of blogger.com, a standard Coast Guard blogger template, an authorship policy, legal considerations, and an official comment policy that has been recently updated.
5. All web links to blogs or other social media sites must be sent to the COMDT (CG-0922) POC IN Para 8 in order to populate and distribute the sites on various other official sites as well as on www.dhs.gov/socialmedia.
6. This authorization should not be interpreted as a requirement. The goal is to provide another piece of the larger social media framework that the Coast Guard

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will move into over the next few years, some now and others later as requirements, resources and expertise allow.

7. Guidance contained in this ALCOAST and on the portal shall be incorporated into the next change of Ref A.
8. COMDT (CG-0922) POC is Lt Connie Braesch at 202.372.4645 or connie.l.braesch@uscg.mil.

C. NEXT GENERATION COAST GUARD ENTERPRISE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (EGIS)

Capt M. B. Lytle, Acting Assistant Commandant for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, And Information Technology (C4IT)

1. I am excited to announce the development of the next generation Coast Guard Enterprise Geographic Information System (EGIS). The purpose of this ALCOAST is to increase awareness of the tremendous benefits you will receive from this technology if you manage or use information that has geographic data (address, latitude/longitude, etc). Based on ARCGIS Explorer (AGX) software from Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), the GIS industry leader, you will be able to easily access internal and external geographic data that complies with industry standards, perform mission specific tasks on that data, and seamlessly merge the results in a 2-dimensional (flat map) or 3-dimensional (globe) display. AGX will leverage the large volume of geospatial data stored in the E-GIS data repository, including the following:
 - a. All United States Coast Guard (USCG) jurisdictional and Area Of Responsibility (AOR) Boundaries.
 - b. The Homeland Security Infrastructure Program (HSIP) data set which includes items such as locations of local police, fire, and emergency medical assets, hospital locations, and energy and communications infrastructure.
 - c. Nautical charts from National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers (USACE), National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), and the Caribbean Yachting Chart Book 2. The following USCG specific examples highlight some of the EGIS AGX capabilities that are available:

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- 1) Hurricane - connect to current storm forecast from the National Hurricane Center, display all vessel traffic (track data) from the unclassified common operating picture, query Marine Information For Safety and Law Enforcement (MISLE) data and display all the facilities in the storms path, display the HSIP Energy Sector Critical Infrastructure, and connect to the event in the Marine Transportation System Recovery Common Assessment and Reporting Tool (CART) database and display all the related essential elements of information.
 - 2) Pollution Incident - plot the incident management activity from MISLE, query all historical data from the Nationwide Automatic Identification System (NAIS) on vessel tracks in the vicinity, import the plume models from the Computer-Aided Management Of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) software, display the local oil spill response organizations and their inventories from the Response Resource Inventory (RRI) database, and easily link to and then display your local contingency plans.
 - 3) Fisheries law enforcement planning – display fisheries closed areas, display existing or create local op areas, query MISLE and plot historical boarding activity, and display current fishing vessel positions from the NOAA Vessel Monitoring System (VMS).
 - 4) Logistics and engineering - display location of all existing Coast Guard assets, determine which assets will be impacted by overlaying projected course of hurricane.
2. The AGX software is currently available on the Deployable Enterprise Applications List (DEAL) and can be installed by your local it support entity after you submit a CG-Help ticket requesting "ARCGIS Explorer". This new application will only be available on the Image 6.0/agx 900 framework. The legacy GIS web client will remain available for Image 5.2 users.
 3. The Coast Guard has established a Geospatial Management Office (GMO) to establish standard processes for identifying, developing, and utilizing geospatial technologies and to ensure we are aligned with both DHS and DOD efforts. The functions of the GMO include:
 - a. GIS consolidation - developing a common architecture and as much as practicable, a GIS viewer that will reduce our information technology support and training costs. The overall goal of the GMO is to identify programs that utilize alternate GIS applications and begin the work to collect requirements to

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achieve an enterprise solution based on AGX. This will result in the disposal of those disparate GIS front-end applications. Requirements for GIS data, functionality, and training to support missions shall be directed to COMDT (CG-761).

- b. Geospatial data sharing - external release of USCG geospatial information will be approved by the GMO. The general approach to sharing USCG data will be through the geospatial one-stop portal (<http://gos2.geodata.gov/>). However, dedicated geospatial data feeds (KML, GEORSS, etc) can be created as necessary to meet specific requirements through coordination with COMDT (CG-635) and COMDT (CG-761).
4. Questions may be directed to the following points of contact:
- a. GMO, COMDT (CG-66), Cdr Joe Sunderland (202)475-3451
 - b. EGIS Project Office, COMDT (CG-635), Mr. Pete Noy (202)372-1299
 - c. EGIS Sponsors Representative, COMDT (CG-761), LCDS Rusty Dash (202)372-2495
 - d. Additional information is available at: <http://gisnet.osc.uscg.mil>.

D. CG Portal Phase II Deployment

Capt M.B. Lytle, Acting Assistant Commandant For Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Information Technology

1. Cg portal phase ii will be deployed on January 18, 2010. Phase II will introduce a Content Management System (CMS) to the portal that will allow for the remainder of CG Central to be shutdown. Phase II will provide the primary platform for Command and Unit Intranet websites and the publishing of internal content. Phase II will also provide access from the Internet using a Common Access Card (CAC) for those individuals with an account in the CG Active Directory, as well as integration with the Coast Guard Business Intelligence (CGBI) system.
2. Once Phase II is released, CG Central will remain on-line for a period of three weeks before being terminated on February 8, 2010. Commands have until January 25, 2010 to request migration of Unit content from CG Central to CG Portal. Guidance on Phase II content migration is available in the Phase II section of the



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- library in the CG Portal Knowledge Base, at <http://tinyurl.com/yj6fb8s>. It includes details on how to obtain operations systems center assistance, the need for commands to assign approvers and editors now, and when content migration can begin.
3. During the three week transition period ending on February 8, 2010, CG Central will remain the authoritative source for Intranet content. If a unit has information that must be posted to the Intranet during this time they should continue posting to CG Central. While the CMS will be available for viewing during this time, the collaboration area will be the only area available for publishing new content. The CG Portal team will be the only ones working in the CMS publishing tool during the transition period. The CMS publishing tool will be available for all web content publishers after the transition period.
 4. There will be no changes to the CG Portal collaboration area as it currently exists. The main difference is that you will no longer see this area as the CG Portal homepage. Phase II will provide a new homepage with a set of navigational tabs. One of the tabs will be labeled collaboration and selecting this tab will take you to the collaboration area currently in use.
 5. The CG Portal team will continue to release updated information in the current CG Portal knowledge base collaboration area as we move closer to Phase II. I encourage you to continue using the knowledge base to stay informed on CG Portal progress and to ask questions. Changes will be made to the knowledge base in the coming weeks to better tailor information for the introduction of phase II.
 6. COMDT (CG-6) POC for this project is: Lt Kerry Feltner at 202-372-1285 or by email at kerry.a.feltner2@uscg.mil.

E. C4IT Support Modernization

Capt M. B. Lytle, Acting Assistant Commandant for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Information Technology

1. This ALCOAST provides guidance and contact information to enhance support for Coast Guard Enterprise Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Information Technology (C4IT).
2. Modernization aligns Coast Guard C4IT support functions under one organization, the C4IT Service Center (C4ITSC). Within the C4ITSC, the Centers of Excellence (C2CEN, LSU, OSC, and TISCOM) provide depot-level support, while the Electronic Systems Support Units (ESUS) provide organizational-level support.

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3. Guidance for Support of Existing C4IT Capability:

- a. For major platforms (e.g., cutters, aircraft) with organic C4IT personnel: the platform Product Line Manager (PLM) is the preferred point of contact for all platform support. Product-line contact info for platforms is sent by PLM to supported units SEPCOR.
 - b. Other units: the servicing ESU is the preferred point of contact for all C4IT support.
 - c. Exceptions: until modernization is complete, some shore units still retain organic IT support and do not yet fall under the C4ITSC authority. They provide their own organizational level support. These include Academy, R & D Center, NPFC Ballston, PSC, FINCEN, SECCEN, Recruiting Command, RTC Yorktown, Institute, PPC, ATC Mobile, and Intel units.
4. Guidance for new, enhanced, or modified capability: requests to create a new system or to significantly expand the capability or capacity of an existing system should be sent thru the chain of command (to include District and Area/OPCOM/FORCECOM) to the responsible headquarters program manager for validation of requirements, identification of resources, consideration by the Configuration Control Board (CCB), and initiation of the System Development Life Cycle (SDLC) process. E.g., for C4, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) Systems, CG-761 and CG-25 co-chair the C4ISR CCB with representation from stakeholders. Requests approved by the C4ISR CCB will be subsequently processed via the SDLC or acquisition process.

5. Contact Information for Existing C4ITSC Support:

- a. CASREPS: the casualty reporting system remains unchanged. However, Record Message Plain Language Addresses (PLADS) have changed. As before, address CASREPS to the servicing ESU and appropriate C4IT Centers of Excellence. LL ESU, C2CEN, TISCOM, OSC, and LSU PLADS REMAIN ACTIVE. C4IT CASREPS should now info the C4ITSC PLAD: COGARD C4ITSC Alexandria VA. Note MLC-T PLADS have been deactivated.
- b. CGHELP: the CGHELP application on the standard workstation remains the preferred method to request support for USCG standard workstations, laptops, messaging (CGMS), networks (CGDN-PLUS), and telephones as well as requests for creating, transferring, or modifying user accounts.



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- c. ESU: when in doubt, the servicing ESU can be consulted on all C4IT issues. ESU phone numbers follow (District 5 Only).

ESU PORTSMOUTH VA

CO CDR DARDIS (757)638-2777
CDO 24/7 (757)646-4437

HEADQUARTERS

CDR LIU (202)372-4007
HELP DESK (202)372-4357 Day
(202)372-4360 Night - Voice Mail

MSG is routed to duty analyst for review and response.

- d. Service Desks: The Following Enterprise Service Desks Augment ESU Capabilities.

Enterprise Info Systems	(877)872-4797
(MISLE, PORTAL, FLS, AOPS, SANS, E-GIS, ETC.)	
Sensor/C2/NAV Systems	(757)686-2156
(RADAR, AIS, ECPINS, COMDAC, GCCS, VTS, ETC.)	
Remote Access (TOKEN/CAC-RAS)	(800)821-7081 24/7
SIPRNET	(800)847-2479 OPT 4
Cutter Connectivity	(800)847-2479 OPT 9
RESCUE 21	(877)449-0600
HOMEPORT	(877)872-4999
Electronics Repair Lab	(410)762-6686