



COMDTINST 5230.80A  
15 NOV 2021

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 5230.80A

Subj: POLICY FOR THE SHARING OF AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AIS)  
INFORMATION COLLECTED BY THE COAST GUARD NATIONWIDE  
AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (NAIS)

- Ref: (a) DHS Management Directive No. 11042.1, Safeguarding Sensitive but Unclassified Information (FOUO)  
 (b) The Coast Guard Freedom of Information (FOIA) and Privacy Acts Manual, COMDTINST M5260.3 (series)  
 (c) Coast Guard Information Sharing, COMDTINST 5401.7 (series)

- PURPOSE. The purpose of this Instruction is to provide guidance to United States Coast Guard (USCG) program managers and field units on sharing information collected by USCG's NAIS with foreign governments, Federal, State, local, and tribal government agencies, and non-governmental entities. NAIS is a USCG-managed network of terrestrial AIS receivers, buoys, platforms, aircrafts and vessels.
- ACTION. All USCG unit commanders, commanding officers, officers-in-charge, deputy/assistant commandants, and chief of headquarters staff elements shall comply with the provisions of this Instruction. Internet release is not authorized
- DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. Policy for the Sharing of Automatic Identification System (AIS) Information Collected by the Coast Guard Nationwide Automatic Identification System (NAIS), COMDTINST 5230.80 is hereby cancelled.

DISTRIBUTION - SDL No. 170

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NON-STANDARD DISTRIBUTION:

4. BACKGROUND. AIS was developed to enhance navigation safety through collision avoidance, waterways management, and surveillance. It is a maritime digital broadcast technology that continually transmits and receives a non-auditory exchange of vessel data. The AIS technology and communication protocol have been adopted by the International Maritime Organization as a global standard for ship-to-ship, ship-to-shore, and shore-to-ship communication of navigation information. In accordance with 47 C.F.R. §80.393, “Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) are a maritime broadcast service.” As a broadcast system (where communications are intended to be received by the public), there is no expectation of privacy with regard to any information transmitted on AIS. In accordance with the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002, the USCG developed a two-way maritime data communication system based on AIS technology, which is referred to as NAIS.

Sharing information collected by NAIS with both governmental and non-governmental entities will result in (1) improved navigation safety and mariners’ situational awareness; (2) enhanced ability to identify and track vessels; and (3) heightened overall awareness of global maritime transactions to address threats to maritime transportation safety and security. Enhanced safety and security facilitates economic development, the free-flow of international commerce, and targeted environmental protection and conservation efforts.

5. DISCLAIMER. This guidance is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a rule. It is intended to provide operational guidance for Coast Guard personnel and is not intended to nor does it impose legally-binding requirements on any party outside the Coast Guard.
6. MAJOR CHANGES. The changes do not modify the intent of the original policy, but seek to simplify and clarify the content. Major changes are: (1) the consolidation of guidance on reviewing and approving requests into an easy-to-reference format (i.e. Table 1). The original policy provided a text section outlining various messages and filtration requirements for sharing; and (2) additional guidance on eligibility and public release and responses to FOIA Requests (i.e. Paragraph 5).
7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS.
  - a. Commandant (CG-47) reviewed the development of this Commandant Instruction, and the general policies contained within it, and determined that this policy falls under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) categorical exclusion A3. No further environmental analysis is necessary in accordance with the U.S. Coast Guard Environmental Planning Policy, COMDTINST 5090.1 (series).
  - b. This Commandant Instruction will not result in any substantial change to existing environmental conditions or violation of any applicable federal, state, or local laws relating to the protection of the environment. It is the responsibility of the action proponent to evaluate all future specific actions resulting from this policy for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), other applicable environmental mandates, and the U.S. Coast Guard Environmental Planning Policy, COMDTINST 5090.1 (series).

8. DISTRIBUTION. No paper distribution will be made of this Instruction. An electronic version will be located on the following Commandant (CG-612) web site. Internet: CGPortal: <https://cgportal.uscg.mil/library/directives/SitePages/Home.aspx>.
9. RECORDS MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS. Records created as a result of this Instruction, regardless of format or media, must be managed in accordance with the records retention schedules located on the Records Resource Center CGPortal site: [cg.portal.uscg.mil/units/cg61/CG611/SitePages/Home.aspx](http://cg.portal.uscg.mil/units/cg61/CG611/SitePages/Home.aspx).
10. POLICY/PROCEDURE. The USCG Navigation Center (NAVCEN) facilitates the distribution of NAIS data through Live Data Feeds, Historical Data Requests (HDRs), MarineCadastre.gov, and the FOIA process, depending upon the entity requesting the data and the level of data requested. Certain data collected via third party providers (i.e. contracts) may not be shared with all entities, and the C5I Service Center will provide guidance to NAVCEN and Coast Guard Headquarters stating any limitations on data sharing. NAVCEN's Maritime Traffic & Tracking Analysis (MTTA) Division maintains a local instruction for detailed NAIS data handling procedures.
  - a. NAIS Live Data Feed. This entails a direct connection between the NAIS server and the client. It provides the client a real-time or near real-time feed of AIS messages.
    - (1) Eligibility: NAIS Live Data Feeds are available to government and government-sponsored entities (clients). Content may consist of nationwide coverage, may be limited to specified NAIS site(s), and may or may not include binary messages. Binary messages include encrypted AIS messages along with many other informational messages. The criteria in Table 1 will be used to determine eligibility.
    - (2) Request Validation: NAVCEN Commanding Officer is the Validating Authority for Live Data Feed requests, and will use Table 1 as the basis for determinations. Request validation will specify which NAIS site(s) will be shared with the client, and whether binary messages will be included. If eligibility is unclear, NAVCEN will consult the NAIS Program Sponsor Representative Commandant (CG-7611) and/or the NAIS System Owner, Commandant (CG-761) to adjudicate.
    - (3) Required Documentation: Once validated, requests will be forwarded to the NAIS Information Systems Security Officer (ISSO) at the C5I Service Center, for establishment of the Interconnection Security Agreement (ISA) and/or Rules of Behavior (ROB) for clients. One or both documents will be required for all live connections to the Coast Guard data network, as determined by the C5I Service Center. The ISA shall be signed by the client, The System Owner (or delegated authority), and USCG Cyber Command (CG-CYBER). The ROB shall be signed by the client and all users, if so specified by the C5I Service Center. Additional documentation may be required from the client depending on the request.
    - (4) Connection: Once all documentation is finalized, the C5I Service Center will establish a connection from the NAIS server to the client.

- b. Historical Data Request. This is a one-time request for AIS data that can be filtered by many different parameters.
  - (1) Eligibility: HDRs are available for government and government-sponsored clients. Using Table 1, NAVCEN will conduct an initial review of requests to determine if the requestor is eligible to receive historical NAIS data. If the eligibility for access is unclear, NAVCEN will consult with the NAIS Program Sponsor Representative Commandant (CG-7611) and/or the NAIS System Owner Commandant (CG-761) to adjudicate.
  - (2) Approving Authority: The NAVCEN Commanding Officer is the Approving Authority for HDRs. Requests are satisfied when NAVCEN delivers data and/or graphical products to the client. Coast Guard clients will have access to NAVCEN's full complement of AIS information products and services. Other government agencies (OGAs) will normally receive only raw or spreadsheet (.csv) formatted information; however, more developed products may be made available to them as time and resources permit.
  
- c. Public Release and Responses to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests
  - (1) Public Release: Marinecadastre.gov is a NOAA public-facing website developed to meet the needs of the offshore energy and marine planning communities. NAVCEN delivers raw historical NAIS data to MarineCadastre.gov for public distribution via its website. MarineCadastre.gov will filter and post historical NAIS data per the terms and conditions identified in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the USCG (NAVCEN and Commandant (CG-761)) and MarineCadastre.gov. In instances where MarineCadastre.gov has possession of a historical NAIS dataset desired by a client who requests that data from NAVCEN, NAVCEN will direct that client to the marinecadastre.gov. Table 1 provides sharing guidelines.
  - (2) FOIA Approval/Disapproval: The public may use the FOIA process to request historical NAIS data that is not available at marinecadastre.gov. If the request is approved, NAVCEN will gather and deliver the historical NAIS data to the FOIA requester. If the request is either partially or fully denied, NAVCEN will follow the denial process set forth in The Coast Guard Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts Manual, COMDINST M5260.3 (series), including using FOIA templates to draft the Justification Memo (JM) and Response Letter (RL) that describe the legal justification for the denial.


HDR Level A Information	HDR Level B Information	HDR Level C Information	Live Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unfiltered</li> <li>Decrypted AIS information, upon request from authorized government agency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HDR Filtered to remove:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Voyage related info (destination &amp; ETA)</li> <li>Blue Forces Information</li> <li>Addressed messages</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Filtered to remove:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Voyage related info (destination &amp; ETA)</li> <li>Blue Forces Information</li> <li>Addressed messages</li> </ul> </li> <li>Limited to the specific data fields described by MOA with MarineCadastre.gov</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data filtering determined by request and authorization as defined in the ISA.</li> </ul>
<b>USCG May Share Data with:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>US Government agencies for official use only (ex. Investigations, Law Enforcement, etc.)</li> <li>USCG Port Partners with Blue Force Tracking capability</li> <li>Foreign government, as determined by Commandant (CG-761)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal, state &amp; local agencies for approved purposes</li> <li>Non-government entities supporting the federal government</li> <li>USCG Port Partners</li> <li>Foreign government, as determined by Commandant (CG-761)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This information will be made available to the public via MarineCadastre.gov or through the FOIA request process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detailed sharing requirements established per Interconnection Security Agreement (ISA) or Rules of Behavior (ROB)</li> </ul>
<b>Handling:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For Official Use Only (FOUO) at all times</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This information is FOUO if less than 96 hours from transmission; otherwise it is publically releasable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publicly available. Only the following may be publically releasable: Maritime Mobile Service Identity; Date &amp; Time; Latitude; Longitude; Speed over Ground; Course over Ground; Heading; Vessel Name; International Maritime Organization; Call Sign; Vessel Type; Status; Length; Width; Draft; and Cargo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detailed handling requirements established per Interconnection Security Agreement (ISA) or Rules of Behavior (ROB)</li> </ul>

Table 1: NAIS Data Sharing Guidelines

11. FORMS/REPORTS. None.

12. SECTION 508. This Instruction was created to adhere to Accessibility guidelines and standards as promulgated by the U.S. Access Board. If changes are needed, please communicate with the Coast Guard Section 508 Program Management Office at [Section.508@uscg.mil](mailto:Section.508@uscg.mil).

13. REQUEST FOR CHANGES. This Instruction reflects the current state of the sharing of NAIS information. CG-22 is the sponsor for this Instruction. Units and individuals may email recommended changes via the chain of command to: HQS-DG-1st-CG-222.

  
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