AUXDATA Hotword Update-27 July 2006

AUXDATA Workgroup Meeting

On 27 July the AUXDATA Workgroup met for the third time this year. It discussed work list items and relevant concerns about the management and capabilities of AUXDATA.

Passwords are Changing

In an effort to comply Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Coast Guard Information Security requirements, AUXDATA will change to a new form of initial password in the near future. AUXDATA will prompt users to change their initial passwords to a personal one following required standards: Passwords shall be at least eight characters in length, contain a combination of alphabetic, numeric, and special characters, and not be the same as the previous 10 passwords as it has in the past. Users will also be required to change their passwords at least every 90 days. We expect to implement this requirement in the next three to four weeks.

System overload

At the end of 2005, an excessive amount of national level reports overwhelmed the AUXDATA servers. The Workgroup proposed two solutions: the first involved upgrading the Citrix servers and searching for new potential servers for web-based access. The second solution was to screen who had national level access. The Citrix Servers rolled out on 11 July and have received excellent reviews so far. OSC located another Java server and may bring it online in the coming months. Running the national member roster report caused a significant amount of last year's problems. OSC now emails this report to desiring parties.

POMS/AUXDATA Interface

We are pursuing greater AUXDATA-POMS interface capabilities. However, we must ensure that POMS is FISMA compliant as any other Coast Guard Information System must be. Agency policy forbids combining an accredited and non-accredited system. G-PCX, G-PRI, and G-RCC will work with FINCEN to ensure that we properly addressed and fully resolve this concern.

Disaster Site Planning

The Workgroup discussed OSC's effort to provide AUXDATA service in the event of a disaster at OSC in Martinsburg, WV. In the event of a disaster, TISCOM will place AUXDATA behind the Coast Guard Data Network (CGDN). This means that it will only be accessible from a Coast Guard Standard Work Station. This contingency set-up is largely constrained by current resource availabilities. AUXINFO would still be available.

AUXDATA Help Desks

Over the past few months, the volume of help desk concerns directly to OSC has dropped substantially. This allows OSC to focus its resources and staff on system maintenance and development. This load has shifted mainly to the broad shoulders of CAPT Bob Platt and Marilyn McBain. Users need to send more of those AUXDATA Help Desk concerns need to the Area Points of Contact: Ed Duda, LANTAREA-E, Carl Bengston, LANTAREA-W, and Marilyn McBain, PACAREA, to best distribute the workload. Please steer AUXDATA users to their regional chain and are help desk POC for routine Assistance. More contact information and help procedures are available at:
http://auxdata.uscg.gov/html/email-links/email-page.html.

LTJG Michael O'Brien, one of the program managers for AUXDATA, prepared this letter.