

NAIS Project Update

The National Automatic Identification System (NAIS) project was initiated as a component of implementing the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002. NAIS is a broad expansion of the Automatic Identification System (AIS) that the U.S. Coast Guard already has in place in major U.S. ports through installation of additional AIS receivers along 95,000 miles of coastline and inland rivers. The NAIS program provides vessel identification, tracking and information exchange capabilities to support National Maritime Interests including waterways and coastal security, port security, Search and Rescue, collision avoidance, and Aids to Navigation. Increment 1 of the NAIS project will provide near-term capability to receive and track vessel identity, location, heading, and speed signals from AIS-equipped vessels. The project is being deployed in partnership with the Naval Sea Logistics Center (NAVSEALOGCEN) in Mechanicsburg, PA.

NAIS Increment 1 Initial Operational Capability (IOC) is established in Chesapeake Bay by three receiver sites that were installed in November and December 2006 in North East, Annapolis, and Crisfield, MD.

**NDS
North East**

**USCG
Sta.
Annapolis**

**USCG
Sta.
Crisfield**

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On December 18, 2006, the GUARDIAN, a U.S. Navy vessel equipped with two AIS transponders and operated by Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Detachment Norfolk got underway from Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek VA for IOC testing. Testing was completed successfully on December 20, 2006. While underway, the GUARDIAN and its crew were accompanied by USCG sponsor representative LT Jamie Rickerson and MCPO Phillip Wright from the G-AIS Project Office. During the test, the Coast Guard was able to continuously and accurately track the GUARDIAN from test monitoring stations at Coast Guard Research and Development Command in Groton, CT and the G-AIS Project Office in Washington D.C. Permanent monitoring facilities will be located at the Coast Guard System Operations Center in Alexandria, VA. Following integration of various legacy receiver sites and the installation of over 90 additional new receiver sites, Full Operational Capability for Increment 1 is planned for September 2007.



The NAIS project office, Naval Sea Logistics Center (NAVSEALOGCEN) along with a number of USCG Centers of Excellence have deployed five government/contractor survey teams to survey sites for AIS technology installation. The survey teams are in phase two of the site surveys with phase one already complete. The surveys are scheduled to be complete in May 2007, and phase one installations will begin in March 2007.

The USCG plans on two follow on increments for NAIS which will sequentially improve coverage, detection and classification of AIS equipped vessels. As increments are completed, NAIS will enhance all maritime security aspects, including enforcement and monitoring of security zones, protection of critical assets and infrastructure, and other risk reduction measures. NAIS will be used to monitor normal movement of AIS-equipped vessels in order to better track movement of vessels of particular interest, including those which may present a threat as well as high-value vessels that may be threatened. NAIS will also provide added Search and Rescue (SAR) capabilities. SAR efforts will be easier to coordinate, and will allow for quicker response times as vessels in distress equipped with AIS technology will be easier to locate and identify. NAIS will also assist in the investigation of maritime incidents such as collisions, groundings, criminal acts, and environmental accidents, by providing a detailed record of vessel positions and movement leading up to and during the accidents.

