

NATIONWIDE AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM



Acquisition
Directorate



FEATURES

- Utilizes land-, sea- and space-based AIS radio frequency infrastructure capable of receiving and transmitting information to and from AIS-equipped vessels in U.S. coastal zones, waterways and ports
- Uses electronic aids to navigation to organize traffic patterns and warn vessels of potential hazards
- Capable of broadcasting emergency safety messages to vessels
- Monitors vessel traffic up to 2,000 nautical miles offshore

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Coast Guard's Nationwide Automatic Identification System is a communications system that transmits navigational information to ships and monitors the movement of maritime traffic to promote safety in U.S. waterways.

NAIS is based on the Automatic Identification System, a technology sanctioned by the International Maritime Organization as a global standard for ship-to-ship, ship-to-shore and shore-to-ship communications. Under U.S. law, most ships greater than 65 feet in length and operating in U.S. waters are required to have AIS transponders installed. The transponder regularly transmits a voiceless radio signal providing the vessel's name, position, course and other vital information. NAIS is designed to give the Coast Guard a comprehensive view of AIS-carrying maritime traffic in U.S. waterways.

monitor traffic in ports and U.S. waters and can be used to manage emergency responses and organize port activities like inspections. The system also increases mariners' awareness by broadcasting electronic aids to navigation and environmental data that are displayed on shipboard navigation systems. The Coast Guard can broadcast various types of virtual markers to vessels, warning them of potential hazards or advising them of traffic patterns in port areas. Virtual buoys can reduce Coast Guard spending by supplementing or replacing physical buoys.

Permanent NAIS systems have been installed in 49 ports and seven coastal areas. Nine other ports and four coastal areas are operating with an interim capability and will have permanent systems by the end of 2015. The system currently receives 92 million AIS messages per day from approximately 12,700 vessels.

NAIS data helps the Coast Guard

Mission execution begins *here*.

For updates on NAIS,
visit the program's website at
<http://www.uscg.mil/acquisition/nais/>

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