



Homeland Security

IT Program Assessment

USCG – Nationwide Automatic Identification System (NAIS) (2010)

Review

The DHS CIO conducted a comprehensive program review of the USCG Nationwide Automatic Identification System (NAIS) program on March 11, 2010. NAIS provides the US Coast Guard with the ability to identify, track and exchange information with vessels operating in or near US coastal waters, providing capabilities which support national security and safety interests.

Major findings include the following:

- NAIS currently extends 'receive' only capability to 58 ports/locations. A transmit capability was part of the original program plan.
- Current funding level will enable USCG to upgrade network security, implement a web-based environment and maintain the existing system in the ports which are currently covered.
- No funding is available for new development or enhancements for FY2010 or FY2011, limiting USCG's ability to extend NAIS capabilities to additional ports and locations, provide a transmit capability or develop other upgrades to the system.

Assessment

DHS CIO found no significant programmatic issues with the NAIS program. The NAIS program is currently sustaining Operations and Maintenance in the 58 ports where it exists. This program will continuously need to perform routine hardware and software maintenance and upgrades to ensure effective system operations.

Score: 4