

# Automatic Identification System AIS 101

- What it is
- What it can and can't do
- How do I get it?  
(or, how does it get to me)?

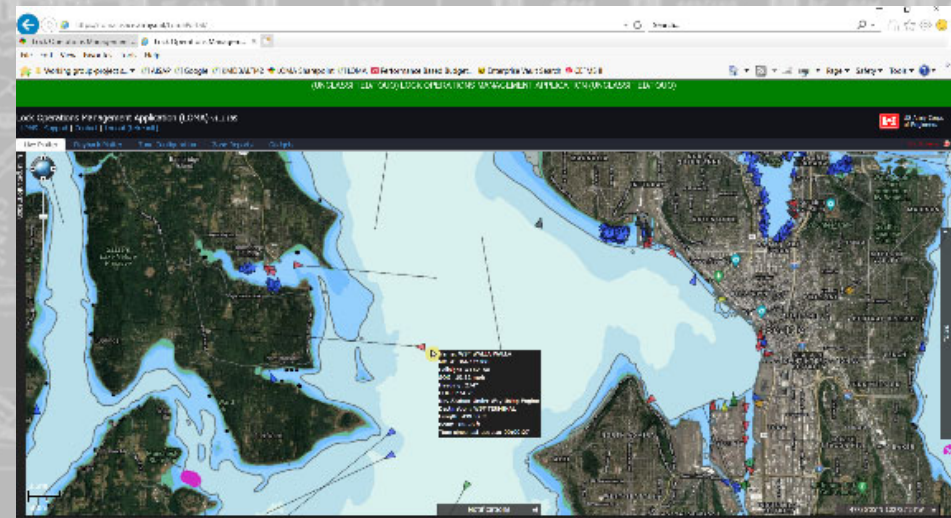
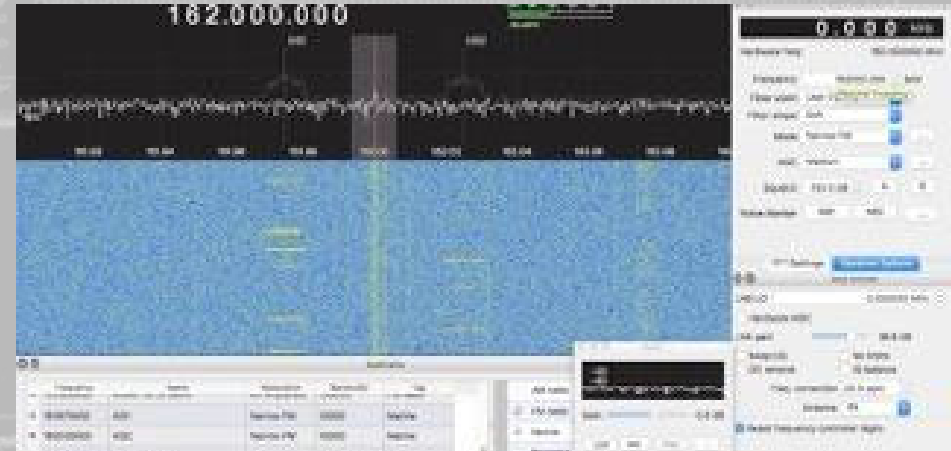
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Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory

Engineer Research and Development Center

10 May 2021



US Army Corps  
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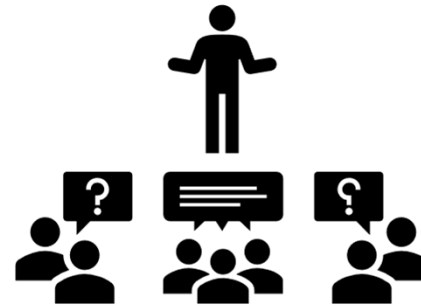




# AIS 101 – So many questions!

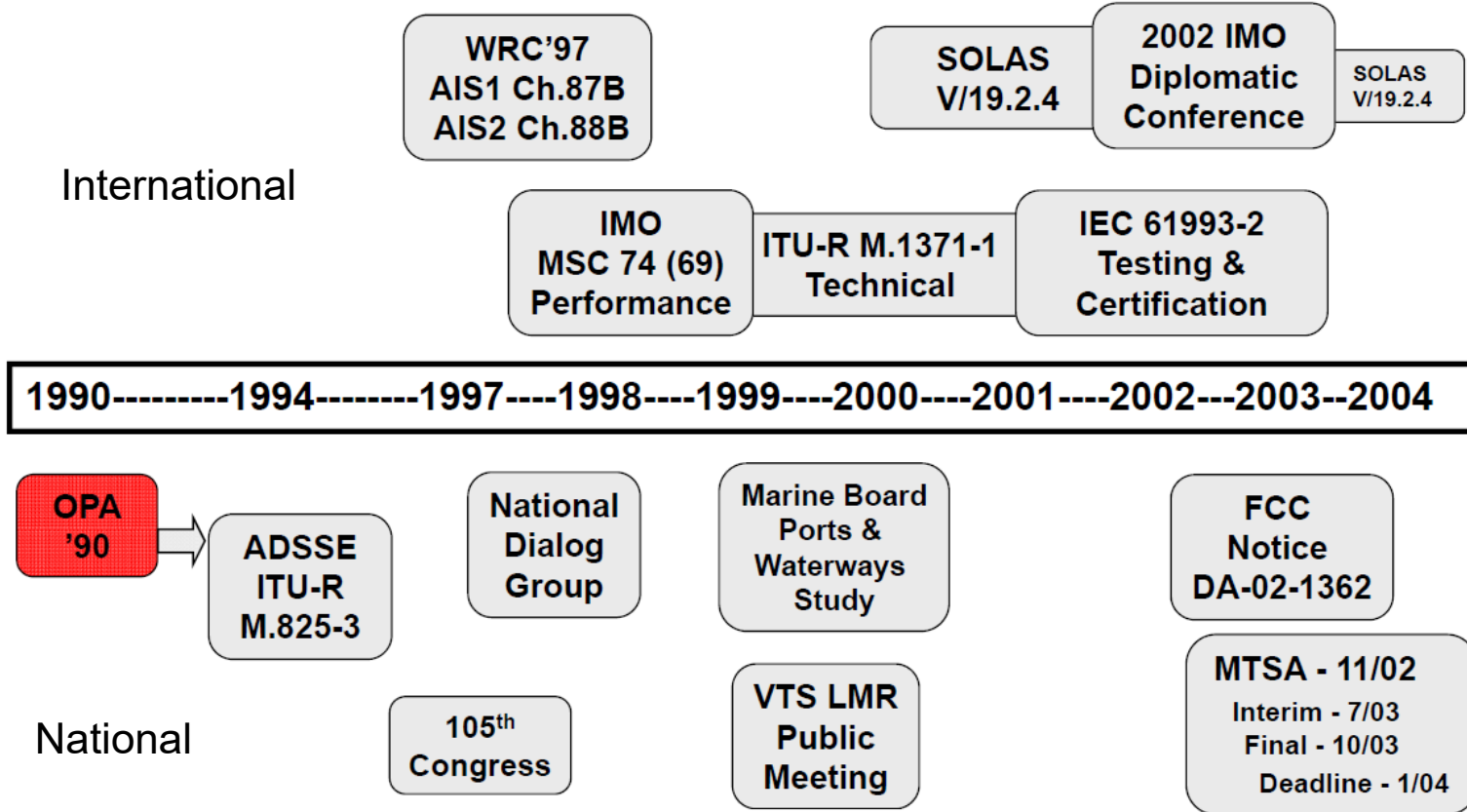


- What is AIS?
  - Data?
  - Tracking system?
  - Transponder?
  - Communications system?
- Where did it come from?
- Who is involved in it?
- What does it look like?
- How does it work?
- Where is it?
- How can I get it or how does it get to me?
- What other cool things can AIS do?
  - (if we have time)





# AIS Timeline



Stolen from Jorge Arroyo, USCG



# The players – success has a million parents...

## International Maritime Organization

- Sets overall requirements – performance standards
- Mandates carriage (through competent authorities)



## International Telecommunications Union

- Radio frequency management
- Defines technical characteristics



## International Electrotechnical Commission

- Sets standards for “the box(es)”



## International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities

- Shoreside component, operational guidance



## US Coast Guard

- US AIS competent authority
- US carriage requirements
- Operates Nationwide AIS infrastructure





# What AIS is supposed to do



MSC 69/22/Add.1  
ANNEX 12  
Page 13

## ANNEX 3

### RECOMMENDATION ON PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR AN UNIVERSAL SHIPBORNE AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM(AIS)

#### 1 Scope

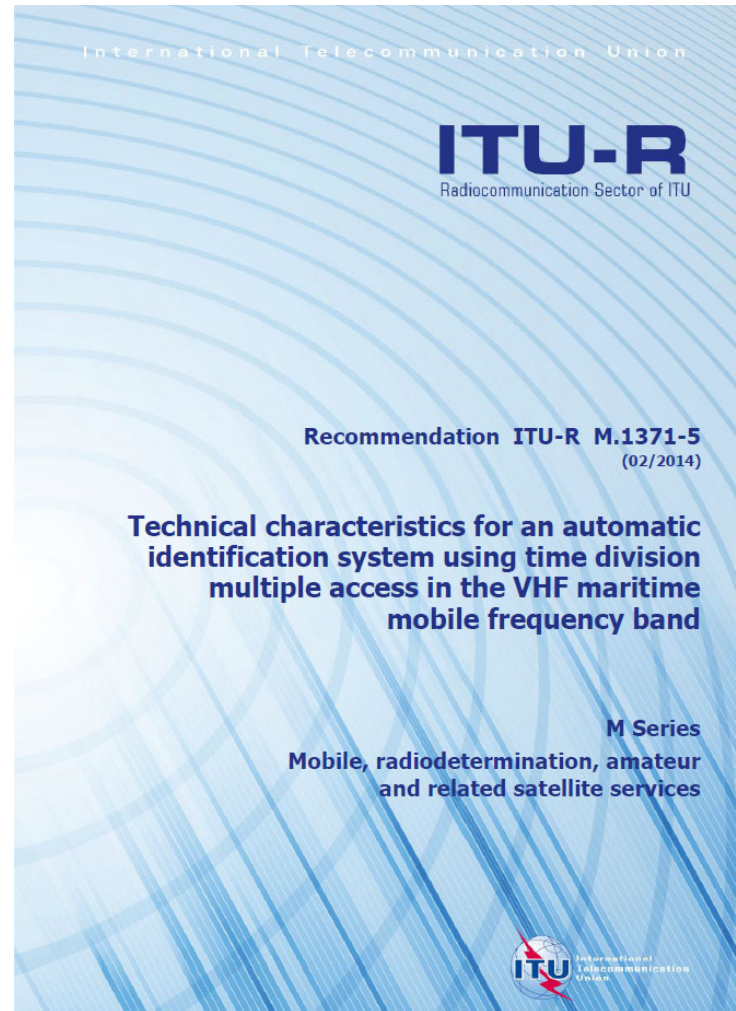
1.1 These performance standards specify the requirements for the universal AIS.

- .1 in a ship-to-ship mode for collision avoidance;
- .2 as a means for littoral States to obtain information about a ship and its cargo; and
- .3 as a VTS tool, i.e. ship-to-shore (traffic management).

1.3 The AIS should be capable of providing to ships and to competent authorities, information from the ship, automatically and with the required accuracy and frequency, to facilitate accurate tracking. Transmission of the data should be with the minimum involvement of ship's personnel and with a high level of availability.



# How will AIS do what IMO says?



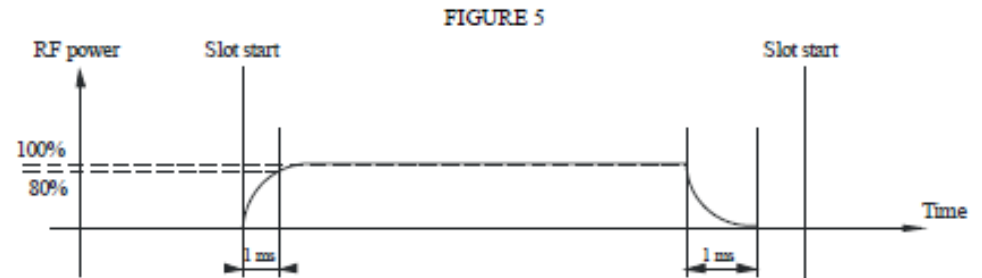


# ITU-R.M1371-5 (or just “1371”)



## Specifications:

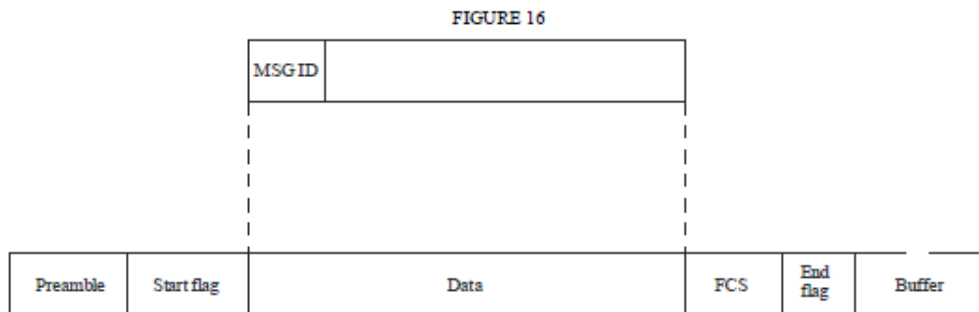
- Types of AIS equipment
- Reporting rate
- Radio characteristics
- Data encoding and transmission
- Message structure, types and descriptions



M.1371-05

### 3.3.7 Message structure

Messages, which are part of the access schemes, should have the following structure shown in Fig. 16 inside the data portion of a data packet:



M.1371-16

TABLE 1

Class A shipborne mobile equipment reporting intervals<sup>2</sup>

Ship's dynamic conditions	Nominal reporting interval
Ship at anchor or moored and not moving faster than 3 knots	3 min <sup>(1)</sup>
Ship at anchor or moored and moving faster than 3 knots	10 s <sup>(1)</sup>
Ship 0-14 knots	10 s <sup>(1)</sup>
Ship 0-14 knots and changing course	3 1/3 s <sup>(1)</sup>
Ship 14-23 knots	6 s <sup>(1)</sup>
Ship 14-23 knots and changing course	2 s
Ship >23 knots	2 s
Ship >23 knots and changing course	2 s

<sup>(1)</sup> When a mobile station determines that it is the semaphore (see § 3.1.1.4, Annex 2), the reporting interval should decrease to 2 s (see § 3.1.3.3.2, Annex 2).



TABLE 46

Message ID	Name	Description	Priority	Access scheme	Communication state	M/B
1	Position report	Scheduled position report; (Class A shipborne mobile equipment)	1	SOTDMA, RATDMA, ITDMA <sup>(1)</sup>	SOTDMA	M
2	Position report	Assigned scheduled position report; (Class A shipborne mobile equipment)	1	SOTDMA <sup>(9)</sup>	SOTDMA	M
3	Position report	Special position report, response to interrogation; (Class A shipborne mobile equipment)	1	RATDMA <sup>(1)</sup>	ITDMA	M
4	Base station report	Position, UTC, date and current slot number of base station	1	FATDMA <sup>(3), (7)</sup> , RATDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	SOTDMA	B
5	Static and voyage related data	Scheduled static and voyage related vessel data report; (Class A shipborne mobile equipment)	4 <sup>(5)</sup>	RATDMA, ITDMA <sup>(11)</sup>	N/A	M
6	Binary addressed message	Binary data for addressed communication	4	RATDMA <sup>(10)</sup> , FATDMA, ITDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	N/A	M/B
7	Binary acknowledgement	Acknowledgement of received addressed binary data	1	RATDMA, FATDMA, ITDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	N/A	M/B
8	Binary broadcast message	Binary data for broadcast communication	4	RATDMA <sup>(10)</sup> , FATDMA, ITDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	N/A	M/B
9	Standard SAR aircraft position report	Position report for airborne stations involved in SAR operations, only	1	SOTDMA, RATDMA, ITDMA <sup>(1)</sup>	SOTDMA ITDMA	M
10	UTC/date inquiry	Request UTC and date	3	RATDMA, FATDMA, ITDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	N/A	M/B
11	UTC/date response	Current UTC and date if available	3	RATDMA, ITDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	SOTDMA	M
12	Addressed safety related message	Safety related data for addressed communication	2	RATDMA <sup>(10)</sup> , FATDMA, ITDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	N/A	M/B
13	Safety related acknowledgement	Acknowledgement of received addressed safety related message	1	RATDMA, FATDMA, ITDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	N/A	M/B
14	Safety related broadcast message	Safety related data for broadcast communication	2	RATDMA <sup>(10)</sup> , FATDMA, ITDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	N/A	M/B
15	Interrogation	Request for a specific message type (can result in multiple responses from one or several stations) <sup>(4)</sup>	3	RATDMA, FATDMA, ITDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	N/A	M/B
16	Assignment mode command	Assignment of a specific report behaviour by competent authority using a Base station	1	RATDMA, FATDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	N/A	B



TABLE 46 (end)

Message ID	Name	Description	Priority	Access scheme	Communication state	M/B
17	DGNSS broadcast binary message	DGNSS corrections provided by a base station	2	FATDMA <sup>(3)</sup> , RATDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	N/A	B
18	Standard Class B equipment position report	Standard position report for Class B shipborne mobile equipment to be used instead of Messages 1, 2, 3 <sup>(8)</sup>	1	SOTDMA, ITDMA <sup>(1)</sup> , CSTDMA	SOTDMA, ITDMA	M
19	Extended Class B equipment position report	No longer required; Extended position report for Class B shipborne mobile equipment; contains additional static information <sup>(6)</sup>	1	ITDMA	N/A	M
20	Data link management message	Reserve slots for Base station(s)	1	FATDMA <sup>(3)</sup> , RATDMA	N/A	B
21	Aids-to-navigation report	Position and status report for aids-to-navigation	1	FATDMA <sup>(3)</sup> , RATDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	N/A	M/B
22	Channel management <sup>(6)</sup>	Management of channels and transceiver modes by a Base station	1	FATDMA <sup>(3)</sup> , RATDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	N/A	B
23	Group assignment command	Assignment of a specific report behaviour by competent authority using a Base station to a specific group of mobiles	1	FATDMA, RATDMA	N/A	B
24	Static data report	Additional data assigned to an MMSI Part A: Name Part B: Static Data	4	RATDMA, ITDMA, CSTDMA, FATDMA	N/A	M/B
25	Single slot binary message	Short unscheduled binary data transmission (Broadcast or addressed)	4	RATDMA, ITDMA, CSTDMA, FATDMA	N/A	M/B
26	Multiple slot binary message with Communications State	Scheduled binary data transmission (Broadcast or addressed)	4	SOTDMA, RATDMA, ITDMA, FATDMA	SOTDMA, ITDMA	M/B
27	Position report for long-range applications	Class A and Class B "SO" shipborne mobile equipment outside base station coverage	1	MSSA	N/A	M





TABLE 48<sup>23</sup>

Parameter	Number of bits	Description
Message ID	6	Identifier for this Message 1, 2 or 3
Repeat indicator	2	Used by the repeater to indicate how many times a message has been repeated. See § 4.6.1, Annex 2; 0-3; 0 = default; 3 = do not repeat any more
User ID	30	Unique identifier such as MMSI number
Navigational status	4	0 = under way using engine, 1 = at anchor, 2 = not under command, 3 = restricted maneuverability, 4 = constrained by her draught, 5 = moored, 6 = aground, 7 = engaged in fishing, 8 = under way sailing, 9 = reserved for future amendment of navigational status for ships carrying DG, HS, or MP, or IMO hazard or pollutant category C, high speed craft (HSC), 10 = reserved for future amendment of navigational status for ships carrying dangerous goods (DG), harmful substance or IMO hazard or pollutant category A, wind driven vessel towing astern (regional use), 12 = power-driven vessel pushing ahead or to starboard, 13 = reserved for future use, 14 = AIS-SART (active), MOB-AIS, EPIRB, 15 = undefined = default (also used by AIS under test)
Rate of turn ROTAIS	8	0 to +126 = turning right at up to 708° per min 0 to -126 = turning left at up to 708° per min Values between 0 and 708° per min coded $ROT_{AIS} = 4.733 \sqrt{ROT_{sensor}}$ where $ROT_{sensor}$ is the Rate of Turn as Input Indicator (TI). $ROT_{AIS}$ is rounded to the nearest integer +127 = turning right at more than 5° per 30 s -127 = turning left at more than 5° per 30 s -128 (80 hex) indicates no turn information ROT data should not be derived from COG
SOG	10	Speed over ground in 1/10 knot steps (0-1023) 1 023 = not available, 1 022 = 102.2 knots
Position accuracy	1	The position accuracy (PA) flag should be Table 50 1 = high ( $\leq 10$ m) 0 = low ( $> 10$ m) 0 = default
Longitude	28	Longitude in 1/10 000 min ( $\pm 180^\circ$ , East = positive (as per 2's complement), West = negative (as per 2's complement). 181 = (6791AC <sub>0h</sub> ) = not available = default)
Latitude	27	Latitude in 1/10 000 min ( $\pm 90^\circ$ , North = positive (as per 2's complement), South = negative (as per 2's complement). 91 = (3412140 <sub>h</sub> ) = not available = default)
COG	12	Course over ground in 1/10 = (0-3 599). 3 600 (E10 <sub>h</sub> ) = not available = default. 3 601-4 095 should not be used
True heading	9	Degrees (0-359) (511 indicates not available = default)

TABLE 48 (end)

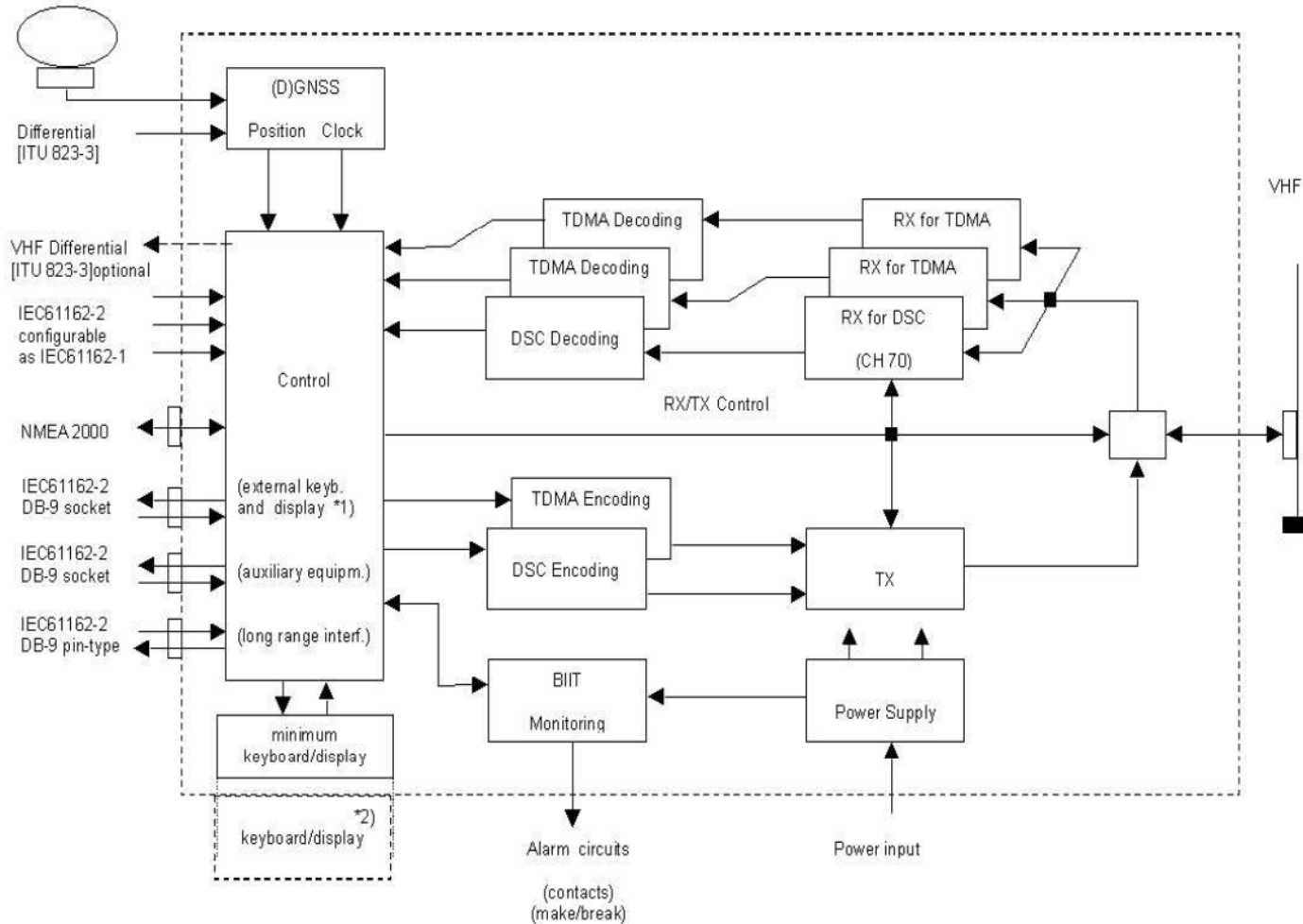
Parameter	Number of bits	Description
Time stamp	6	UTC second when the report was generated by the electronic position system (EPFS) (0-59, or 60 if time stamp is not available, which should also be the default value, or 61 if positioning system is in manual input mode, or 62 if electronic position fixing system operates in estimated (dead reckoning) mode, or 63 if the positioning system is inoperative)
Special manoeuvre indicator	2	0 = not available = default 1 = not engaged in special manoeuvre 2 = engaged in special manoeuvre (i.e. regional passing arrangement on Inland Waterway)
Spare	3	Not used. Should be set to zero. Reserved for future use.
RAIM-flag	1	Receiver autonomous integrity monitoring (RAIM) flag of electronic position fixing device; 0 = RAIM not in use = default; 1 = RAIM in use. See Table 50
Communication state	19	See Table 49
Number of bits	168	







# What does AIS look like... to an engineer:



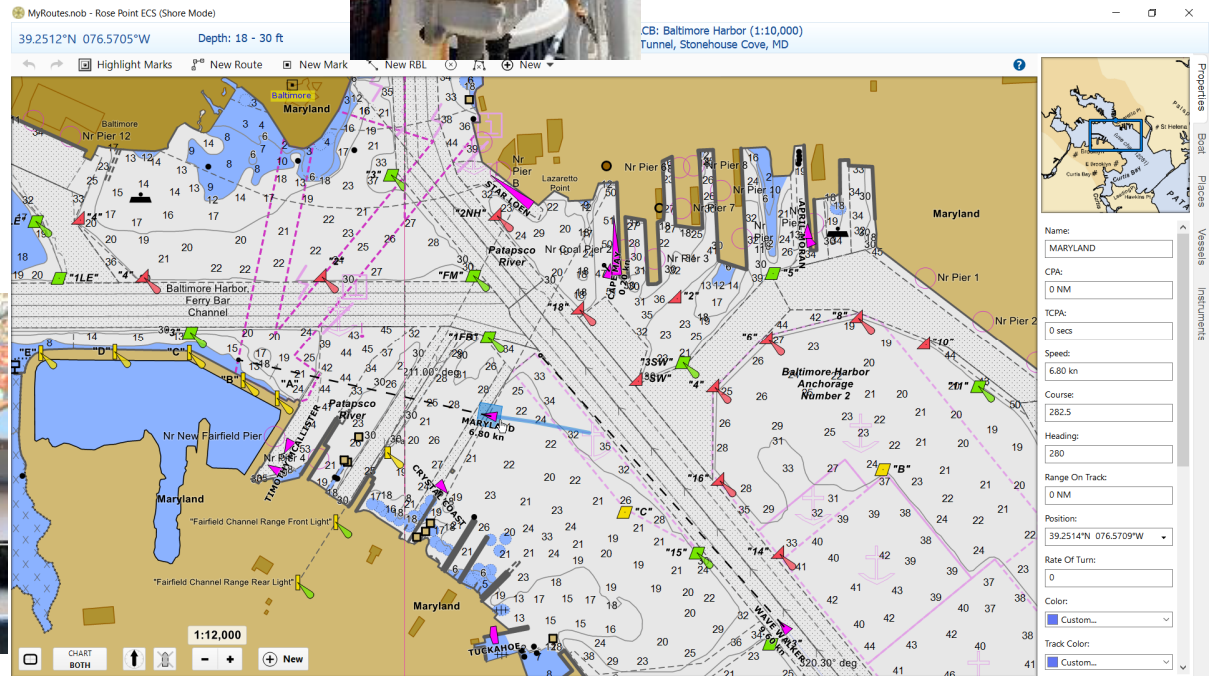
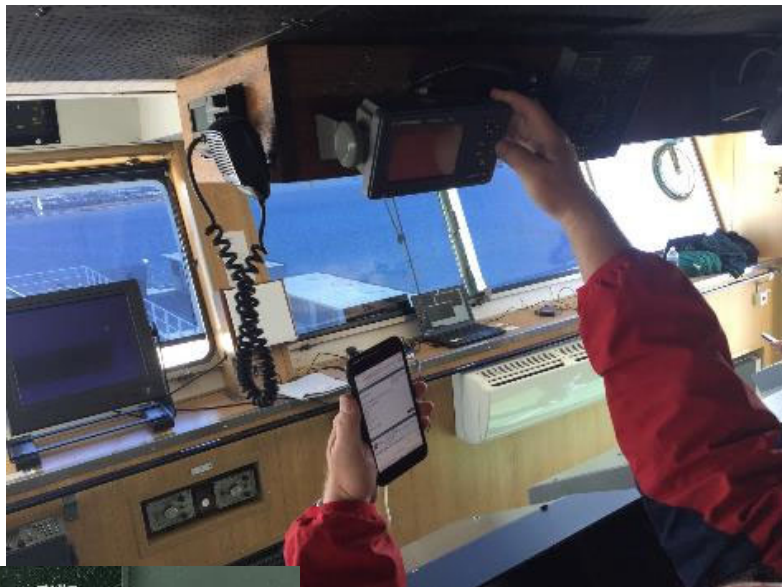


# What does AIS equipment look like?



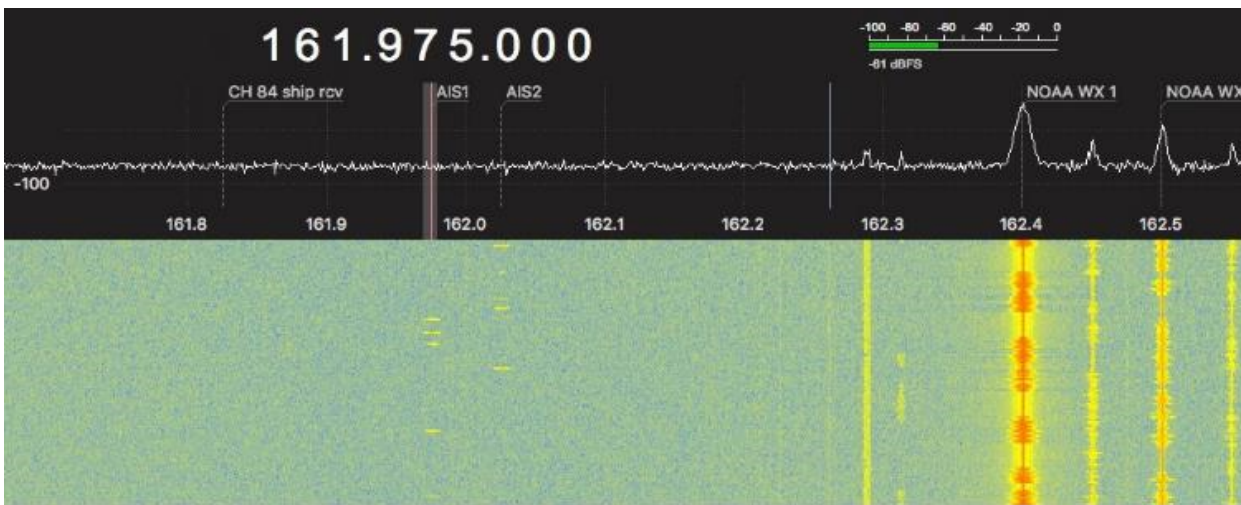
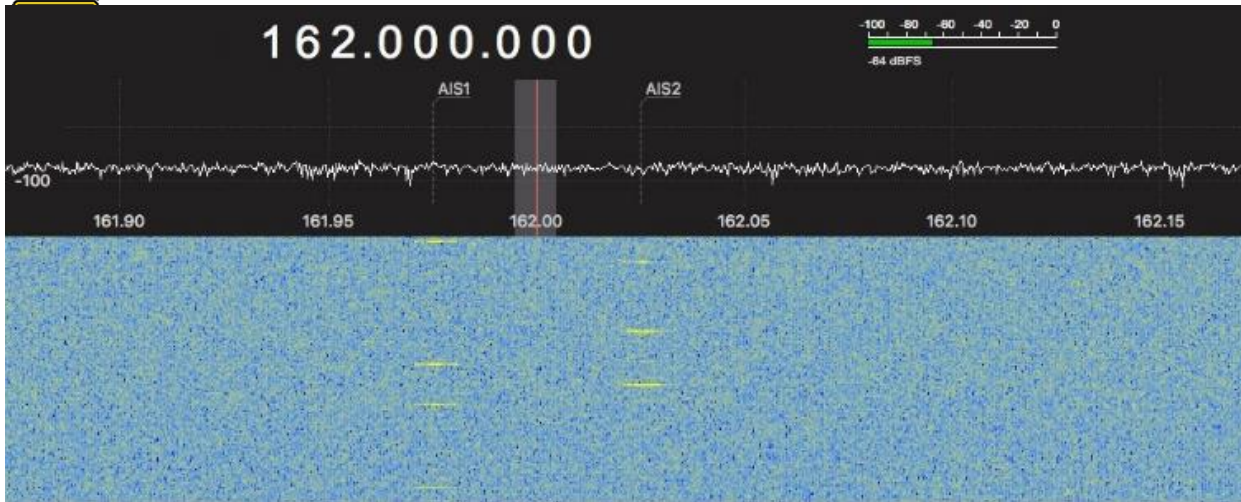


# What does AIS look like... on a ship?





# What does AIS look (and sound) like on the radio?





# What does AIS data look like?



```

\n:342288,s:b003669978,c:1471371635*1B\!SAVDM,1,1,,B,15NN;mPP00q;jhbA1IvJ>Ow426A@,0*75
\n:622509,s:b003669954,c:1471371636*1B\!SAVDM,1,1,,A,15NIe<PP00IRN@vA8Cj8L?w208C`,0*70
\n:793047,s:b003669953,c:1471371636*18\!SAVDM,1,1,,A,15NTfUPP01IS5hv@bED:fOw400Rv,0*76
\n:793050,s:b003669953,c:1471371636*1E\!SAVDM,1,1,,B,35NSdC1P00qRwd`@cO9s<?w42DNJ,0*26
\n:61912,s:b003669955,c:1471371636*2D\!SAVDM,1,1,,A,15NW@d`P00IPgFN@l9t1Igw22@CU,0*1C
\g:1-2-34138,n:520371,s:b003669956,c:1471371636*5E\!SAVDM,2,1,8,A,55Mwe=P00001L@?;0;50D@E8p4hE>222222220q3hc@<29j700Q@ECCKU7d,0*0B
\g:2-2-34138,n:520372*19\!SAVDM,2,2,8,A,Pp568888880,2*15
\n:537862,s:b003669710,c:1471371634*10\!SAVDM,1,1,,B,13TtQf0000o?s88EVFUafb8v0<1h,0*77
\n:237301,s:b003669987,c:1471371637*1A\!SAVDM,1,1,,A,14Q;928000G@1WrK@LpoI4740<1N,0*16
\n:237302,s:b003669987,c:1471371637*19\!SAVDM,1,1,,B,15NoD`?P00o?vR6K>l=;r?w20@Cb,0*55
\n:735341,s:b003669704,c:1471371637*1C\!SAVDM,1,1,,B,14eGDVh000G<jc6L7eiHjS120D3j,0*3E
\g:1-2-7583,n:2401,s:D05MN-DB-TUCBS1,c:1471371633*1E\!SAVDM,1,1,5,A,13Q;7SP01hrLavNFEit<vbdv0@Ca,0*2D
\g:1-2-5086,n:6367,s:D01MN-NE-WESBS1,c:1471371633*15\!SAVDM,1,1,5,B,15NFJM000JvKRfHvkIBRqk406A@,0*67
\g:1-2-5981,n:11780,s:D05MN-DB-CPMBS1,c:1471371633*36\!SAVDM,1,1,0,A,35PH6`@OhcraV2pFC>iQciJv0Q2@,0*61
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\g:1-2-0974,n:12178,s:D01MN-NE-BRIBS1,c:1471371633*35\!SAVDM,1,1,7,B,B5`v8d@00>g3qr6:<atagwhUoP06,0*6C
\g:1-2-8491,n:10338,s:D01MN-SE-WARBS1,c:1471371633*3F\!SAVDM,1,1,9,B,15NW3M0P01rsF?tGluUrGgw420R@,0*02
\g:1-2-9913,n:15034,s:D05MN-HR-NNWBS1,c:1471371633*28\!SAVDM,1,1,9,A,15N0Q?PP00JR`p`E5j1K8gw428Ca,0*2D
\g:1-2-9915,n:15038,s:D05MN-HR-NNWBS1,c:1471371633*22\!SAVDM,1,1,1,A,H5N4rJPJuJ1@tqV1ALt00000000,2*7F
\g:1-2-4059,n:5145,s:D05MN-HR-MERBS1,c:1471371633*19\!SAVDM,1,1,0,B,B5NR?;00Bf`n2H5Hs0;OwwhUoP06,0*01
\g:1-2-1769,n:16199,s:D13MN-PS-BAHBS1,c:1471371633*24\!SAVDM,1,1,6,A,35MOK`000go45IHK9sb=0bQ401;1,0*7F
\g:1-2-6383,n:15829,s:D13MN-CR-ELKBS1,c:1471371633*39\!SAVDM,1,1,1,A,15Mwq80002o8>rtJNPV6@mK22<22,0*79
\g:1-2-9298,n:13981,s:D08MN-MO-PSJBS1,c:1471371633*2A\!SAVDM,1,1,1,B,15MpUN0P0KIOrifAA>g4Rgw42<0I,0*20
\g:1-2-9490,n:13396,s:D08MN-MO-VCLBS1,c:1471371633*38\!SAVDM,1,1,2,A,15NNmV0P00Ibn9BAG?@8E?w20@CU,0*77
\g:1-2-2491,n:10412,s:D08MN-HG-CANBS1,c:1471371633*22\!SAVDM,1,1,7,B,15Msuo?P14I<;op@a88@Vgw400Sg,0*14
\g:1-3-2321,n:3738,s:D07MN-JA-JACBS1,c:1471371633*19\!SAVDM,2,1,4,A,553BKp01mkMtp@HR2220P599V0j0l59@Tr22220SEPv<D5q70EDI@H888888,0*53
\g:2-3-2321,n:3739*28\!SAVDM,2,2,4,A,888888888888,2*32
\g:1-2-4382,n:12414,s:D08MN-MO-SROBS1,c:1471371633*2A\!SAVDM,1,1,4,B,B5NUnHP00>LwoNTF@PP;3whUoP06,0*1C
\g:1-2-8145,n:5874,s:D07MN-CH-MCCBS1,c:1471371633*16\!SAVDM,1,1,7,B,18K4CR002MrCc6DBI1uja2;208C9,0*3D

```



# What does "AIS data" look like?



71065\_reports.csv - Excel

Tetreault, Brian J CIV USARMY CEERD-CHL (US)

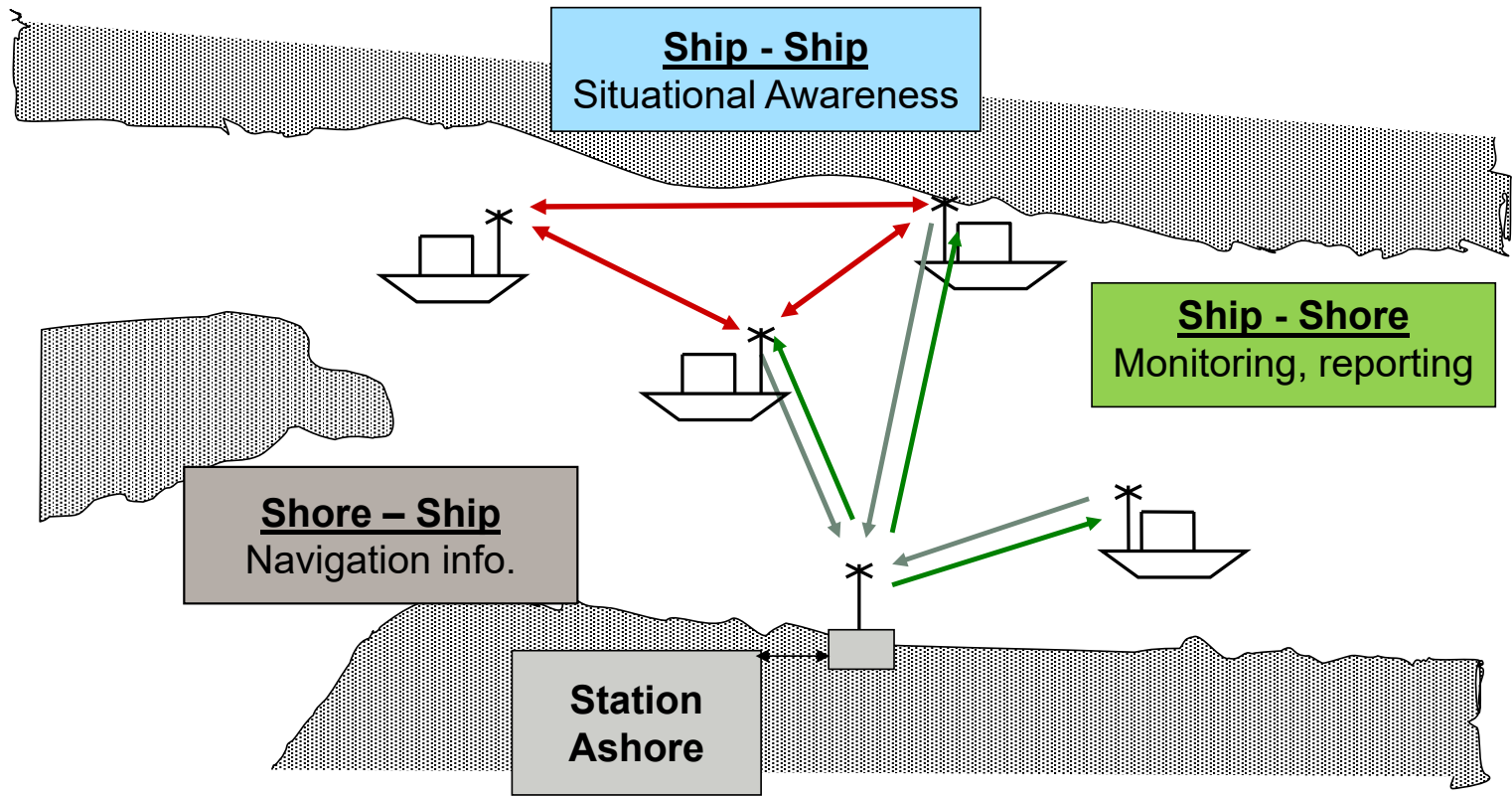
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	MMSI	NAME	RECEIVER	TX_DTTM	LAT	LONG	COURSE_OVER_GROUND	NAV_STATUS	POS_ACCURACY	RATE_OF_TURN	SPEED_OVER_GROUND	HEADING
2	366999645	CG-CHEYENNE-----		6/5/2017 0:00	38.587088	-90.209098	287	Moored	FALSE	0	0	48
3	367533180	TAURUS		6/5/2017 0:00	37.070665	-89.308686	171	Under way using engine	FALSE	0	2	200
4	367051930	DANNY BRADFORD		6/5/2017 0:00	38.18708	-90.33315	276	Not defined (default) or	FALSE		0	
5	366956790	CO-OP ENTERPRISE		6/5/2017 0:00	38.583492	-90.213212	180	Not defined (default) or	FALSE	0	0	47
6	367599790	STONE STRAIT		6/5/2017 0:00	38.874806	-90.160008	134	Reserved for DG/HS/MP	FALSE	0	1	129
7	367057590	CARL CANNON		6/5/2017 0:00	38.966334	-90.492664	66	Not defined (default) or	FALSE		5	
8	367687950	DAKOTA		6/5/2017 0:00	38.378258	-90.349346	202	Under way using engine	FALSE		8	
9	366984940	MARY EVELYN		6/5/2017 0:00	39.38738	-90.933955	187	Not defined (default) or	FALSE	0	0	124
10	367451290	LOREE ECKSTEIN		6/5/2017 0:00	38.387088	-90.343583	209	Under way using engine	FALSE	0	9	199
11	366955330	CHARLOTTE		6/5/2017 0:00	38.865387	-90.14536	122	Reserved for future use	FALSE	-13	4	120
12	367496750	LEXINGTON		6/5/2017 0:00	38.572156	-90.225022	230	Under way using engine	FALSE		0	
13	366999645	CG-CHEYENNE-----		6/5/2017 0:05	38.587087	-90.209099	224	Moored	FALSE	0	0	48
14	367533180	TAURUS		6/5/2017 0:05	37.064081	-89.310251	180	Under way using engine	FALSE	0	6	180
15	367051930	DANNY BRADFORD		6/5/2017 0:05	38.187083	-90.333146	272	Not defined (default) or	FALSE		0	
16	367599790	STONE STRAIT		6/5/2017 0:05	38.873157	-90.158388	151	Reserved for DG/HS/MP	FALSE	0	1	130
17	366956790	CO-OP ENTERPRISE		6/5/2017 0:05	38.583491	-90.213212	255	Not defined (default) or	FALSE	0	0	47
18	367057590	CARL CANNON		6/5/2017 0:05	38.967826	-90.485831	80	Not defined (default) or	FALSE		5	
19	367687950	DAKOTA		6/5/2017 0:05	38.368536	-90.354232	200	Under way using engine	FALSE		6	
20	366984940	MARY EVELYN		6/5/2017 0:05	39.387375	-90.933953	187	Not defined (default) or	FALSE	0	0	124
21	367451290	LOREE ECKSTEIN		6/5/2017 0:05	38.374758	-90.350376	199	Under way using engine	FALSE	0	11	197
22	366955330	CHARLOTTE		6/5/2017 0:05	38.861148	-90.135536	118	Reserved for future use	FALSE	-9	7	120
23	367496750	LEXINGTON		6/5/2017 0:05	38.572148	-90.225024	232	Under way using engine	FALSE		0	
24	366999645	CG-CHEYENNE-----		6/5/2017 0:10	38.587083	-90.209097	305	Moored	FALSE	0	0	48
25	367533180	TAURUS		6/5/2017 0:10	37.053911	-89.308706	195	Under way using engine	FALSE	0	3	160
26	367051930	DANNY BRADFORD		6/5/2017 0:10	38.187105	-90.333148	268	Not defined (default) or	FALSE		0	
27	367544950	DALE ARTIGUE		6/5/2017 0:10	38.177162	-90.306671	280	Under way using engine	FALSE	0	4	280
28	367599790	STONE STRAIT		6/5/2017 0:10	38.871328	-90.156401	129	Reserved for DG/HS/MP	FALSE	0	2	122

71065 reports





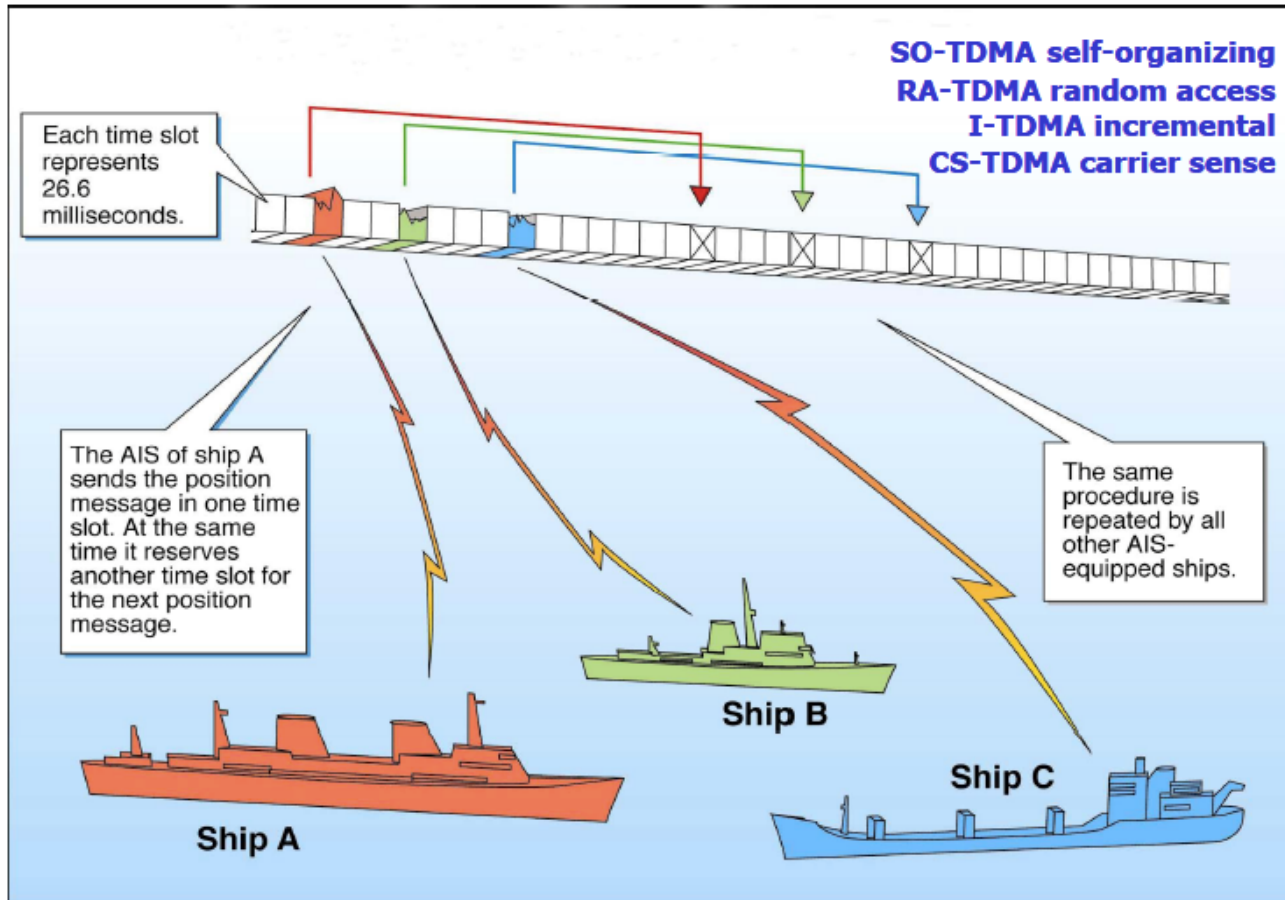
# How does AIS work?





# How does AIS work? The magic of TDMA...

## time-division multiple access protocol (TDMA)





# What vessels have AIS?



## New AIS Carriage Requirements...

Effective March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015, these commercially self-propelled vessels, operating on U.S. navigable waters, must have a properly installed, operational Automatic Identification System (AIS) no later than March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

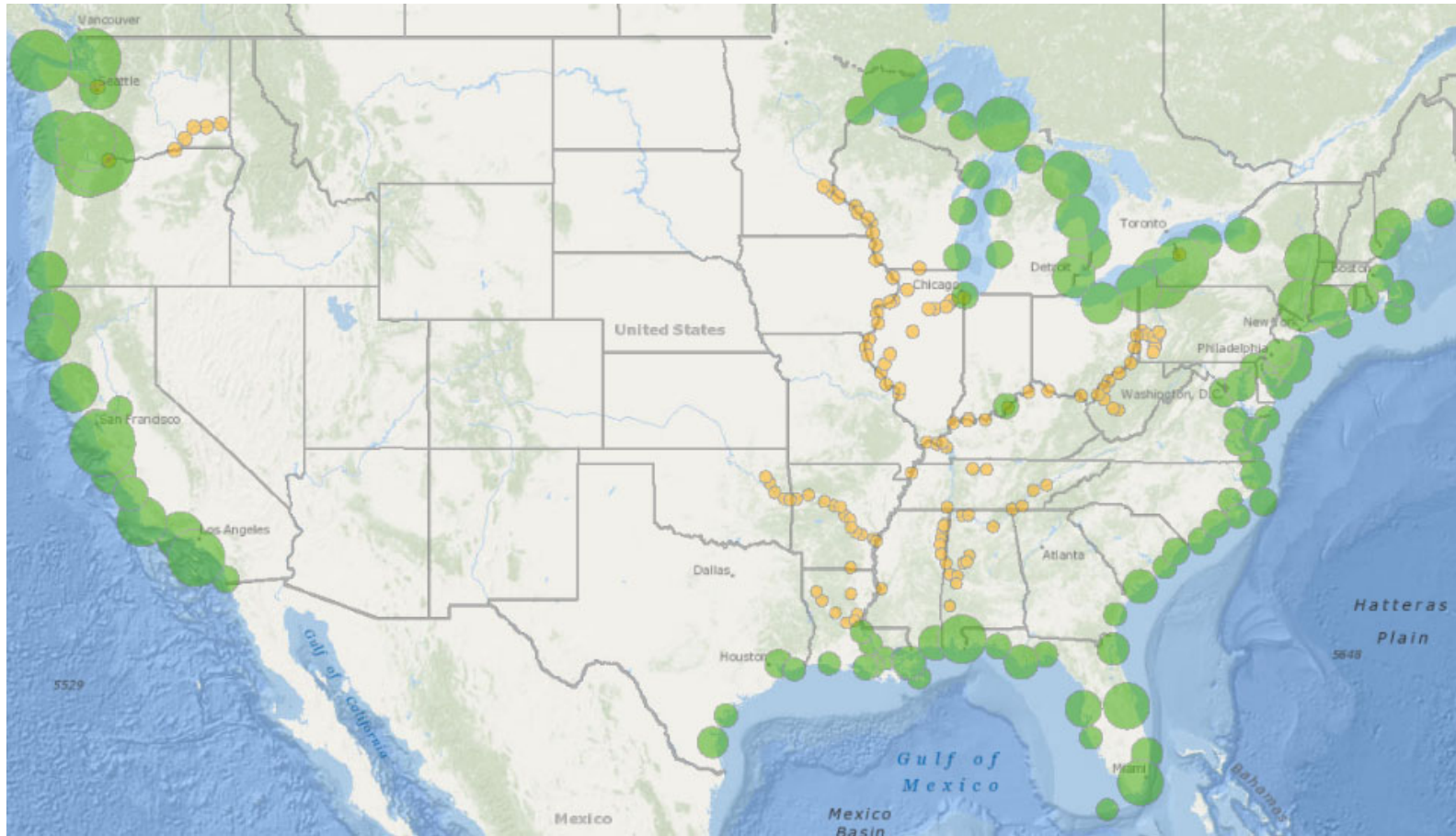
- vessels of  $\geq 65$  feet in length
- towing vessels of  $\geq 26$  feet in length &  $>600$  hp
- vessels certificated to carry  $\geq 150$  passengers
- dredges and ~~floating plants~~ that operate in/near a commercial channel
- vessels engaged in the movement of certain dangerous cargo, **flammable or combustible liquid cargo in bulk**

Effected Vessels by Type	2003		2015	Total Vessels
	SOLAS	Domestic		
Foreign ship >65' <300GT		1,119		1119
Fishing	1	-	2,906	2907
Towing	13	2,212	1,429	3654
Passenger	81	171	288	540
Cargo	154	77	247	478
OSV	55	432	151	638
MODU	1	-	31	32
Industrial	21	11	220	252
Research	10	11	54	75
School		5	10	15
Tank Ships	102	15	35	152
Unknown		16	134	150
Unclassified		13	326	339
Dredges		-	17	17
<b>U.S. Total</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>2,963</b>	<b>5,848</b>	<b>9,249</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,520</b>		<b>5,848</b>	<b>10,368</b>





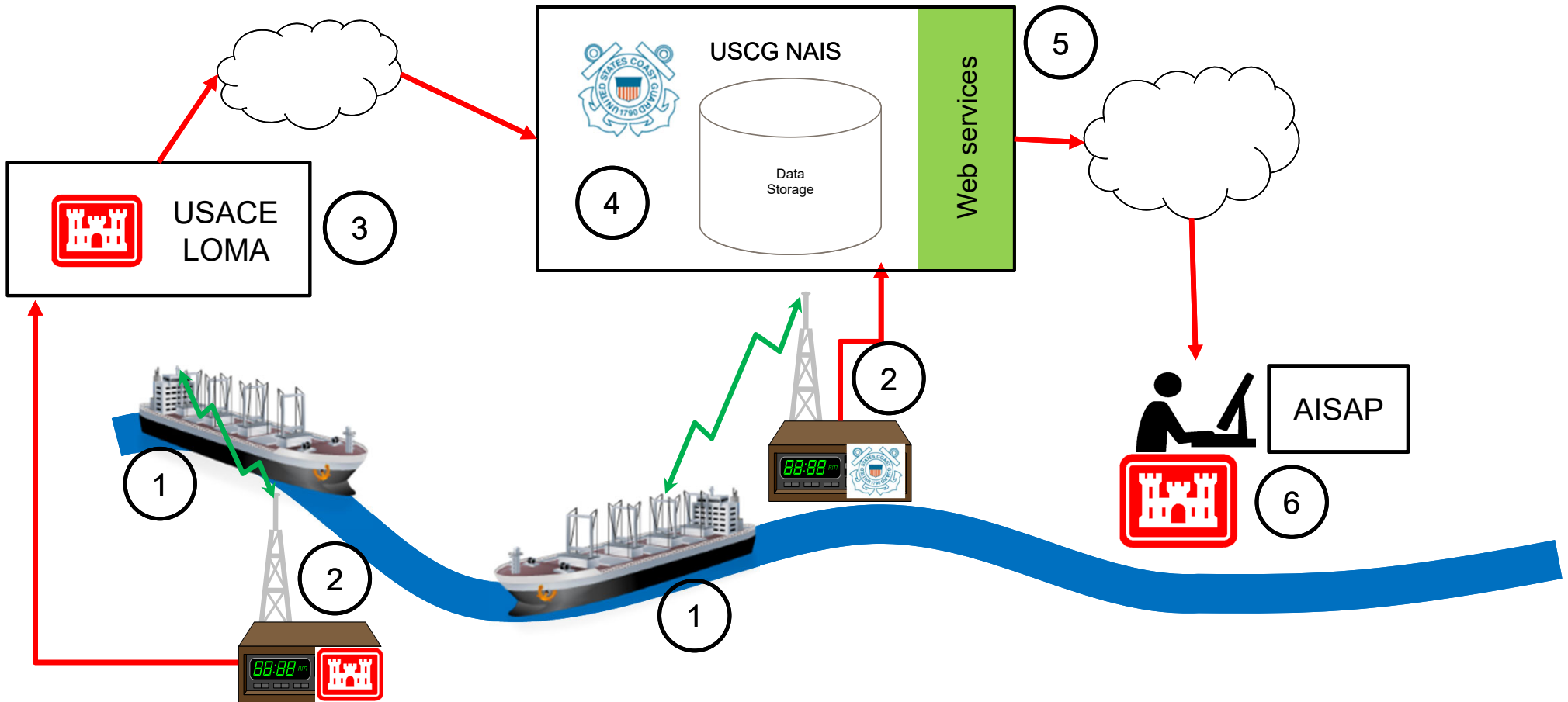
# Where does AIS come from?



**USACE** and **USCG** AIS site locations



# How does AIS data get to me?





# Do we now have answers? Or just more questions...



- AIS is a digital communications system designed for navigation safety and ship monitoring.
- AIS was developed over many years by many players in the international community.
- What AIS looks like depends on who you are and what you want to do with it...
- AIS works through a sophisticated radio protocol that autonomously allows many AIS stations to transmit information in coordination
- Certain vessels are required to carry AIS but not all; some voluntarily carry AIS.
- USACE and USCG operate AIS networks to receive and transmit AIS data. USCG is the national AIS data clearing house.
- “Live” AIS data is available within USACE via the LOMA system. Historical AIS data is available via web services and historic data request from the USCG.
- Is there time to see what other cool things AIS can do?



# Thank you



Brian Tetreault ERDC-CHL  
brian.j.tetreault@usace.army.mil



**NAVIGATION CENTER** U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
The Navigation Center of Excellence UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Home | DGPS Advisories | GPS Constellation Status | MSI Data Downloads | GPS Testing Notices | LMs | Almanacs | Nav Rules | AIS | USCG IP | Contact Us | Search

**Automatic Identification System**

- What is AIS?
- How AIS Works
- Types of AIS
- AIS Messages
  - Class A Position Report
  - Class A Static & Voyage Data
  - Class B Reports
  - Long Range AIS Report
  - AIS ATON Report
  - AIS Base Station Report
  - Nationwide AIS (NAIS)
  - NAIS Data Request
  - NAIS Search Tool (VIVS)
  - AIS Requirements
  - AIS Reference Information
    - AIS Encoding Guide & LOCODES
    - AIS Frequently Asked Questions

**Mission Areas**

- Global Positioning System
- Nationwide DGPS
- Nationwide AIS (NAIS)
- AIS (Overview, Messages, etc.)
- Long Range Identification and Tracking
- Local Notice to Mariners
- Light Lists Publications (2017)
- Light Lists (Weekly Updates)
- COSSC General Information
- LORAN C (archive)

**Subscribe / Report (free)**

- Email Message Subscriptions (Free)
- Report an ATON Discrepancy
- Report a GPS Problem
- Report an NDGPS Problem
- Report an LRFIT Problem
- Report an AIS / NAIS Problem
- Contact Us

**Maritime Information**

- Electronic Charts Approval
- Maritime Safety Information Downloads
- Maritime Telecommunications

**AIS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

1. What is AIS?
2. How do I register (obtain a MMSI's), install, encode, and verify my AIS?
3. What is the AIS rule and are there alternatives to the rule for small businesses?
4. Do AIS Class B devices meet current USCG AIS carriage requirements? What are the differences between AIS Class A and Class B devices?
5. How does AIS help to increase security (and what is NAIS)?
6. When must AIS be in operation?
7. Does the installation of the AIS require additional equipment in order for the AIS to operate properly?
8. Will it be necessary to have electronic navigational charts for use with the AIS?
9. Are fishing vessels subject to AIS carriage, and, are onboard Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) an acceptable substitute for AIS?
10. Why have some AIS units stopped broadcasting valid position reports?
11. Why am I unable to see an AIS vessel's name or other static information (dimensions, call sign, etc.)?
12. Why do I sometimes see more than one vessel with the same MMSI or vessel name (i.e. NAUT)?
13. I just purchased and installed an AIS Class B, will AIS Class A user see me?
14. What are the differences between AIS Class A and B devices?
15. Is the USCG considering expanding AIS carriage to other vessels or outside of VTS areas?
16. How can I get a copy of an AIS presentation I saw or heard about? You can download recent presentations given by the Coast Guard Office of Navigation Systems.
17. Where can I get AIS data?
18. Can I use AIS to locate my nets, pots, traps, moorings, etc.?
19. What is AIS Channel Management?
20. Can I use my AIS in an emergency or for distress messaging?
21. Is the Coast Guard broadcasting AIS Aids to Navigation Reports?
22. Have an AIS question not answered here?

**1. What is AIS?** Per 33 CFR §164.46(a), AIS is a maritime navigation safety, communications system standardized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) that provides vessel information, including the vessel's identity, type, position, course, speed, navigational status and other safety-related information automatically to appropriately equipped shore stations, other ships, and aircraft, receives automatically such information from similarly fitted ships, monitors and tracks ships, and exchanges data with shore-based facilities. Note, many devices are marketed as AIS, but only those (see Types of AIS) that are certified to meet stringent standards are. Read more on what it is, how it works, what it broadcasts, and, the messages it uses, etc.

**2. How do I register (obtain a MMSI's), install, encode, and verify my AIS?** AIS devices are not registered, however, each requires a unique and official 9-digit Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) number. To obtain one see our MMSI page. AIS devices should be installed taking into consideration the guidelines developed by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Safety of Navigation Circular 227, Guidelines For The Installation Of A Shipborne Automatic Identification System or the National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA) 0400-4.00, Installation Guide). Encoding an AIS varies by class. AIS Class B are not user configurable. AIS Class A are, but, their static data (i.e. MMSI, name, call-sign, type, dimension, etc.) is password protected. Therefore, Class B owners, and Class A owners whom have lost/forgetten their password, should contact your AIS installer, manufacturer, or retailer for instructions on how to encode/recode it. Note, each USCG type-approved AIS has an internal built-in integrity tester that mitigates the need to send TEST text messages to verify its operations. That said, the U.S. Coast Guard operates a Vessel Information Verification Service which can be used to not only verify that your AIS has broadcasted, but, will also highlight any potential data or encoding discrepancies (contrary to our USCG AIS Encoding Guidelines). Per 33 CFR §164.46(b) vessels equipped with AIS must maintain it always in effective operating condition and broadcasting accurately, failure to do so could subject owner/operator to civil penalties not to exceed \$25,000 (46 U.S.C. 70119).

<https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=AISFAQ>



## OTHER COOL AIS STUFF



- Reception of AIS via Satellite
- Transmission of navigation safety information via AIS
- AIS AToNs
- Geographic Notices
- Other information
- Use of AIS to collect information from ships

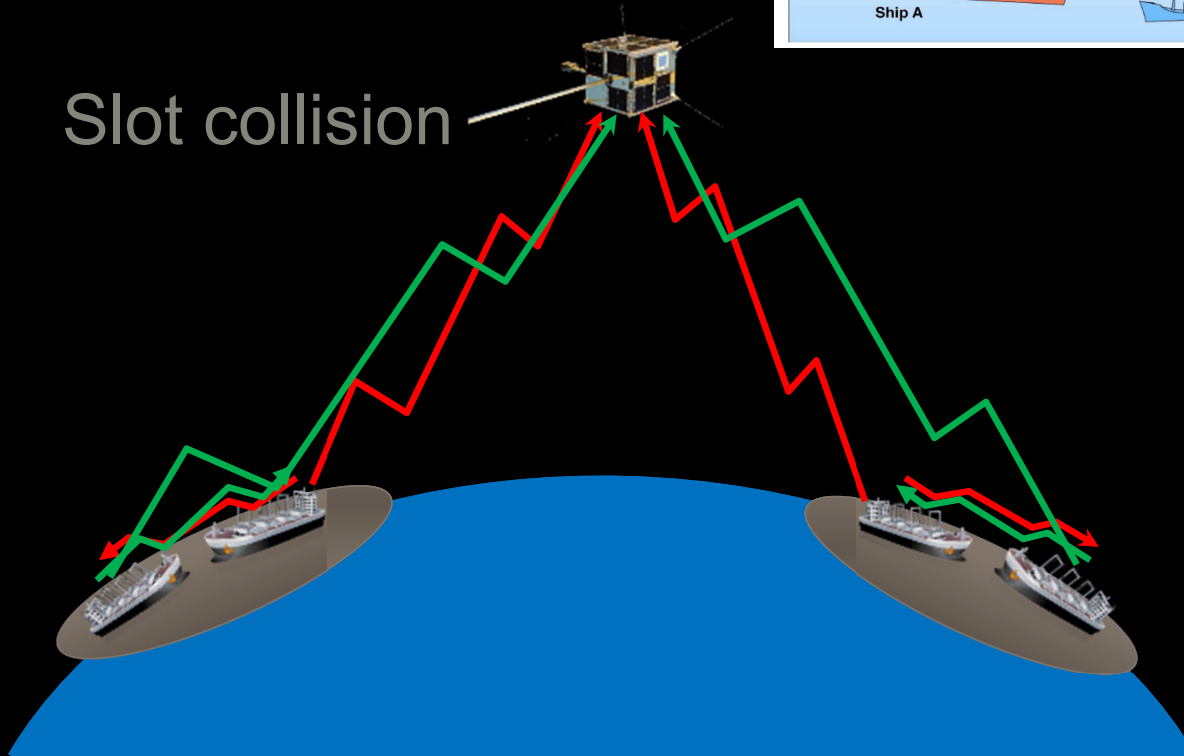




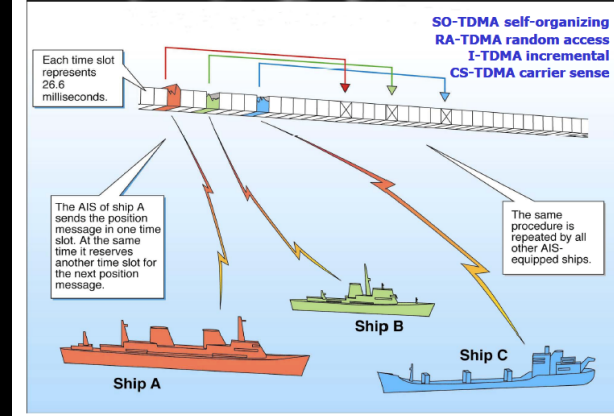
# AIS via Satellite



Slot collision



## time-division multiple access protocol (TDMA)





# AIS TRANSMIT CAPABILITY



AIS well known as a “tracking” system

- Receive information from vessels

AIS is also a two-way communications system

- Send information to vessels
- Receive additional information from vessels
- Standard messages and new messages to address specific needs

Cooperative work with US Coast Guard

- Technology development
- Test beds

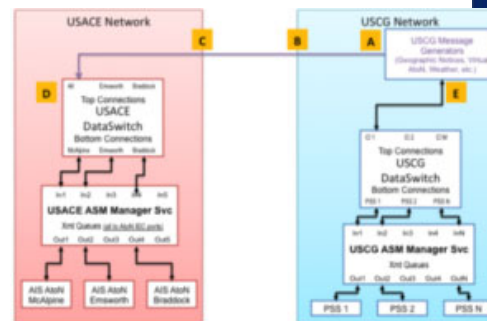
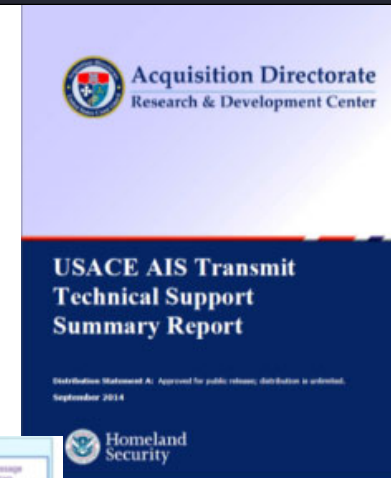
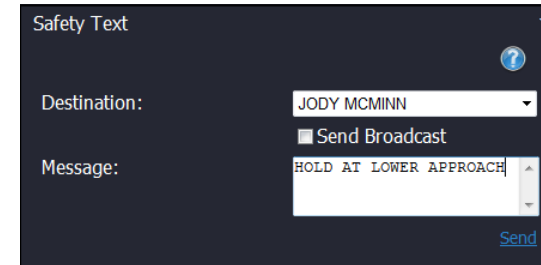
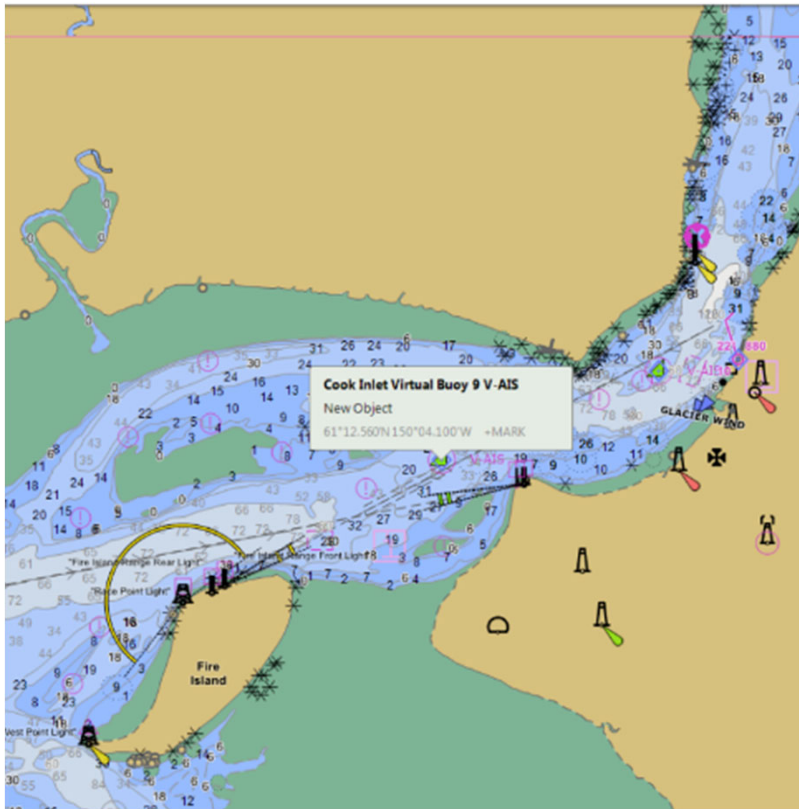


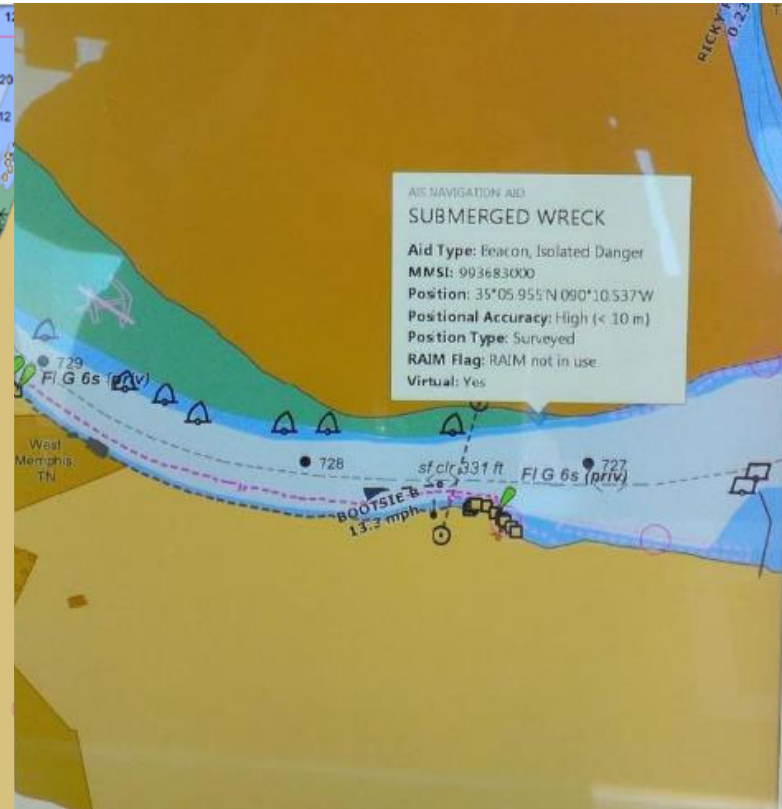
Figure 9. Initial USCG - USACE integration architecture.



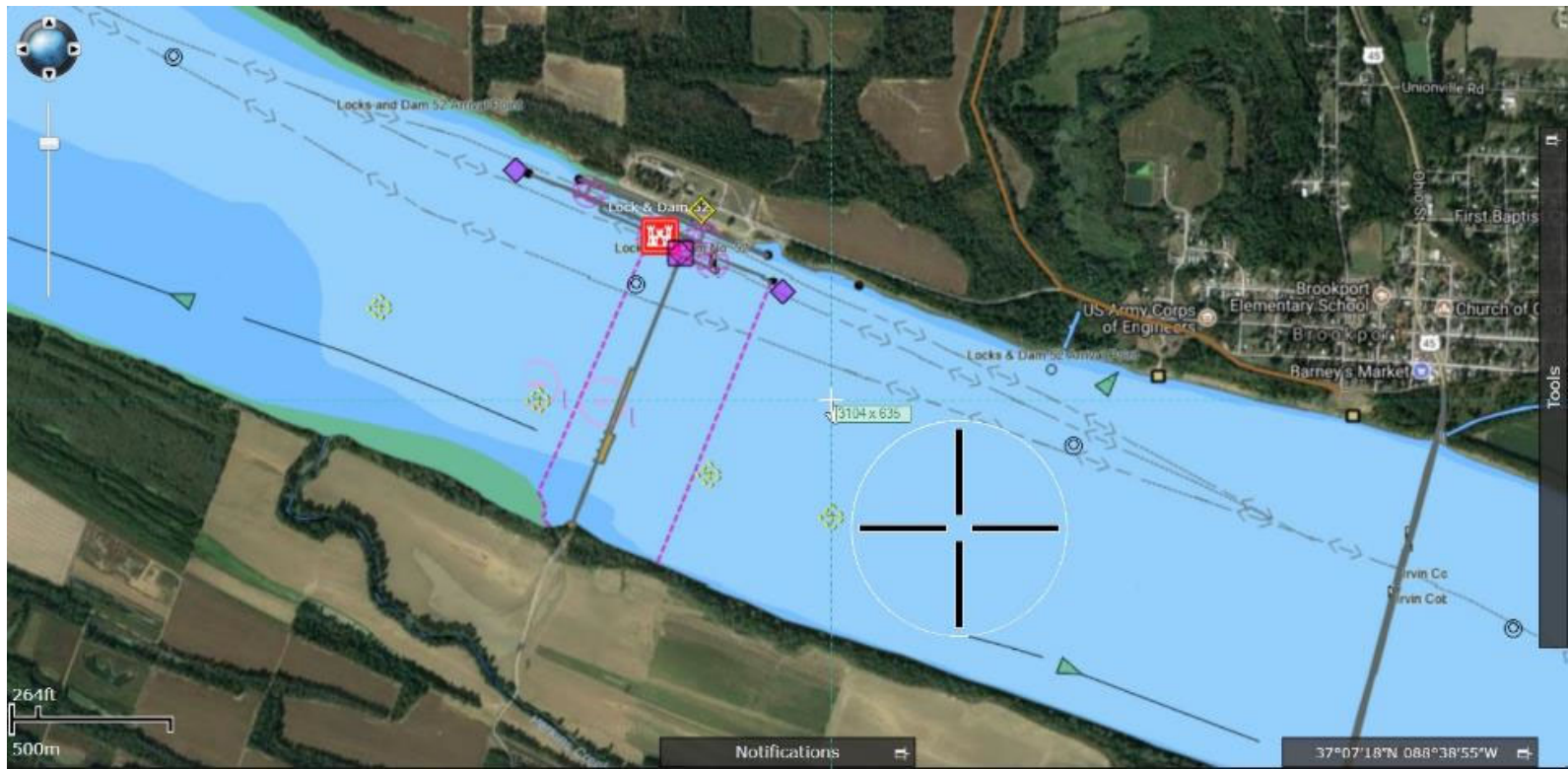
# VIRTUAL ATON



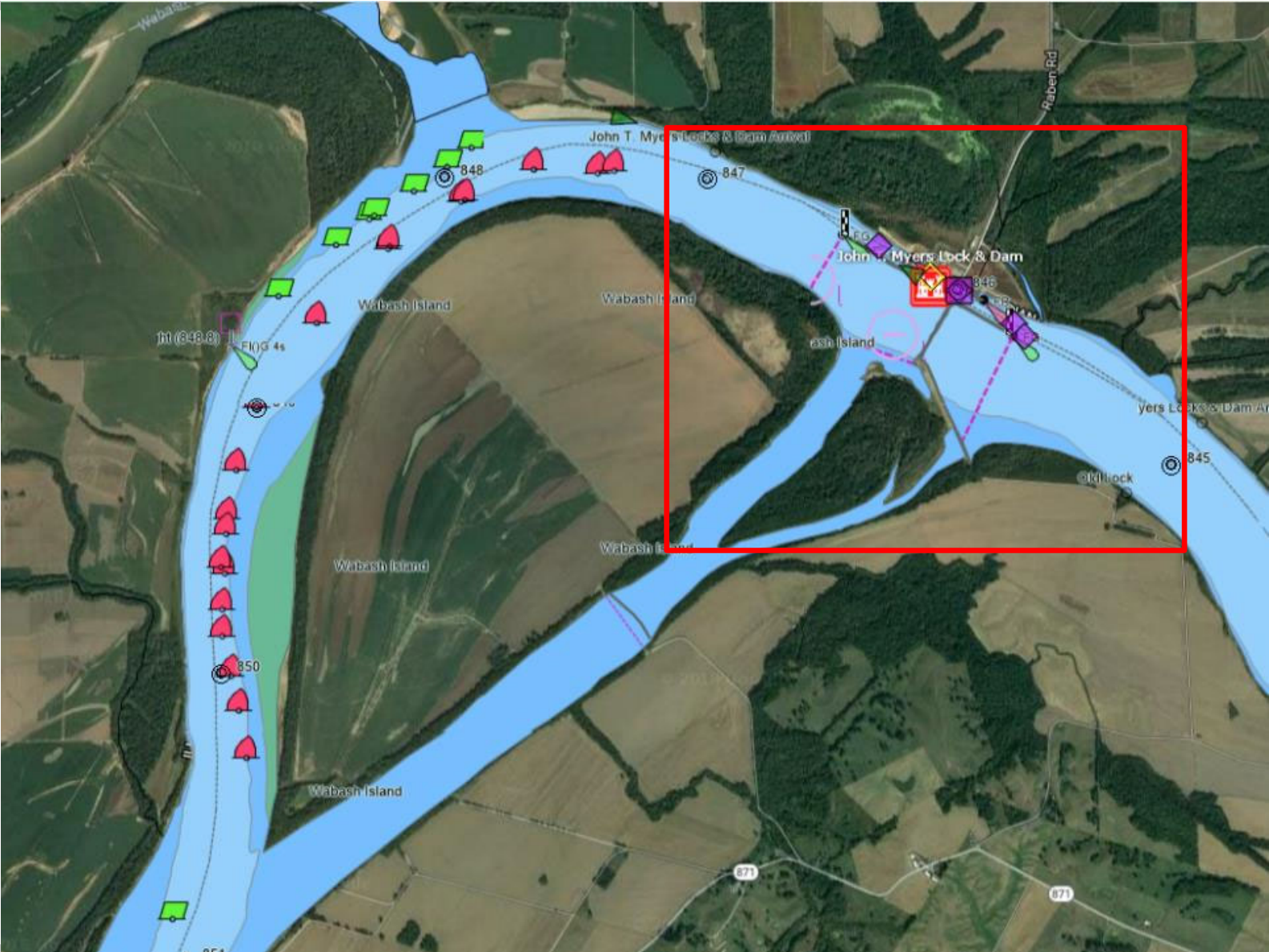
AIS V-AtON in area where ice and tidal range prohibit physical Aton

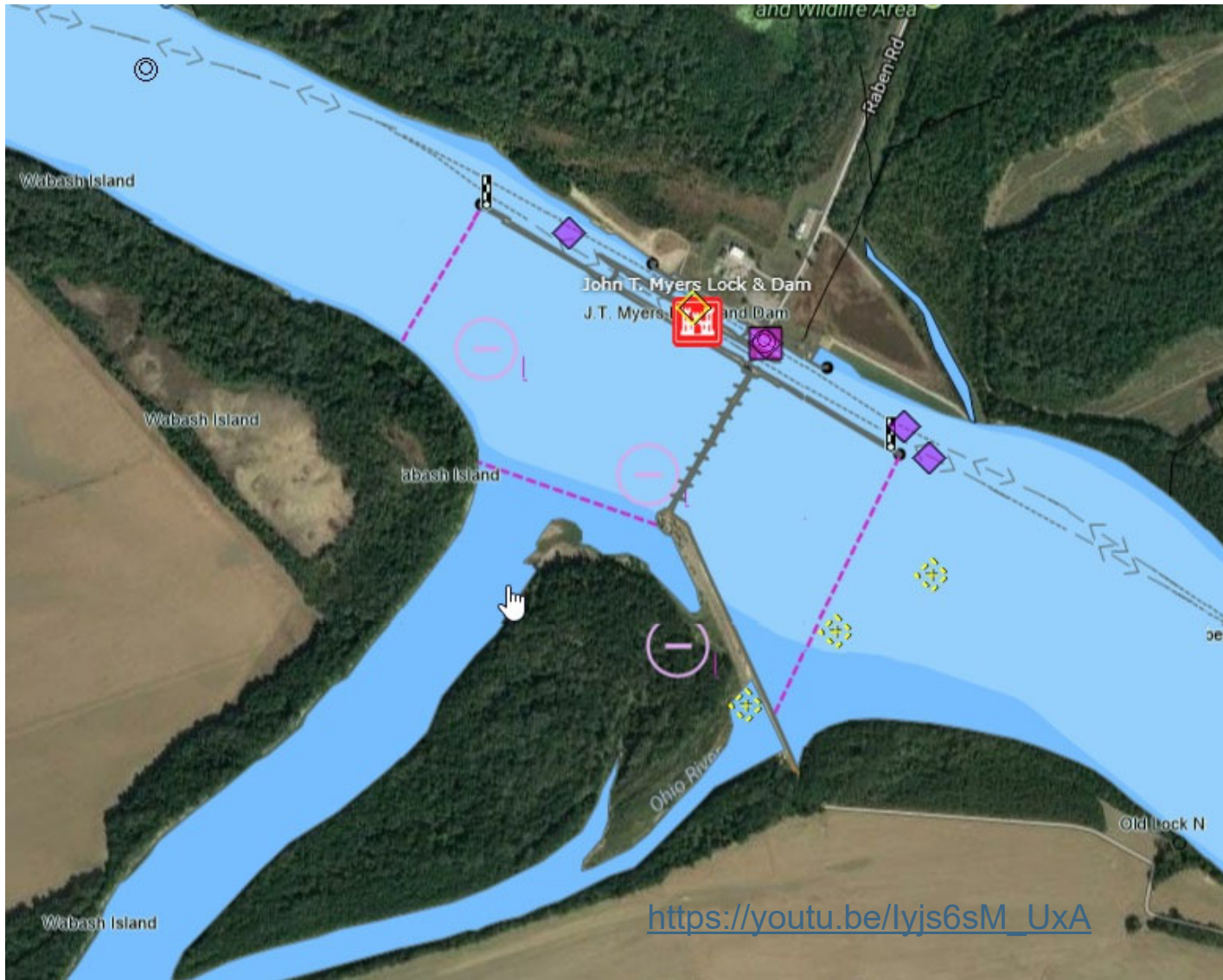


AIS V-AtON marking submerged wreck in swift river waters









[https://youtu.be/lyjs6sM\\_UxA](https://youtu.be/lyjs6sM_UxA)



# VIRTUAL/SYNTHETIC ATON ISSUES



## Process

- Who decides when and where to establish?
- Who creates?
- Monitoring to ensure transmission/receipt?

## Technical

- USCG-USACE connectivity
- USAIMS integration

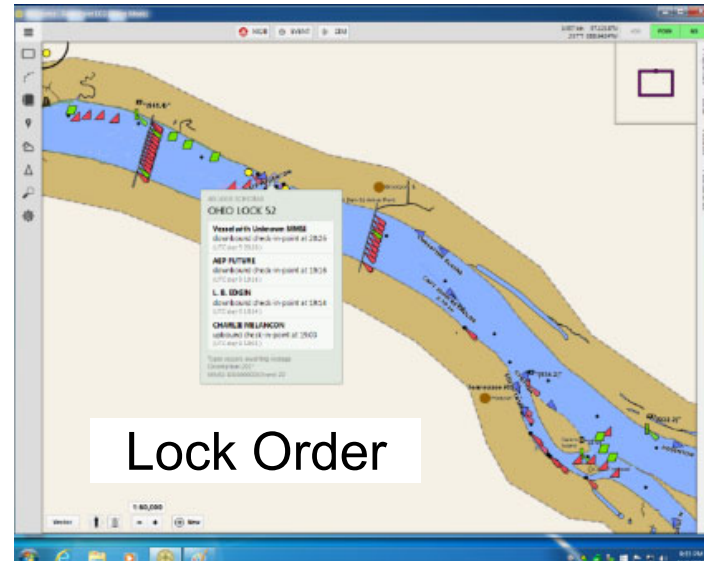
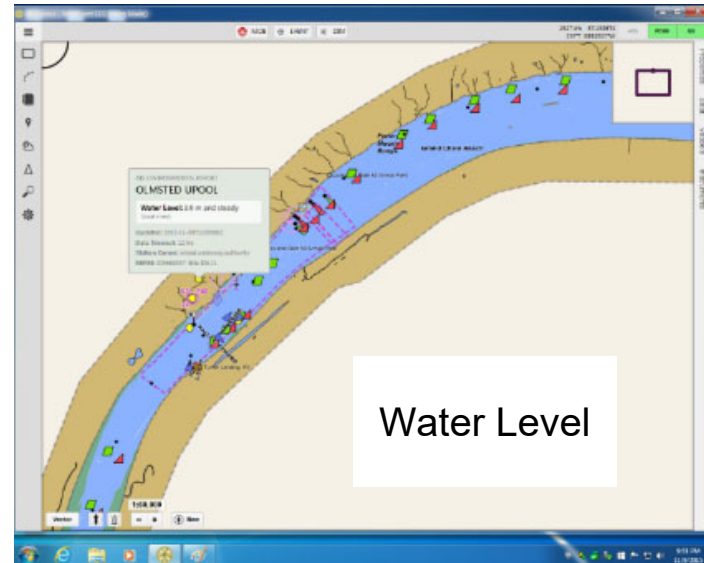
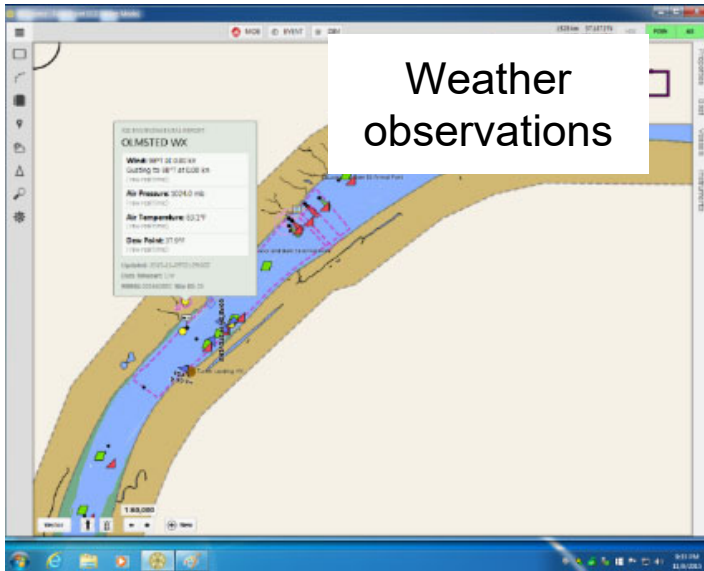
## IENC:

- What AIS AtoN are charted?



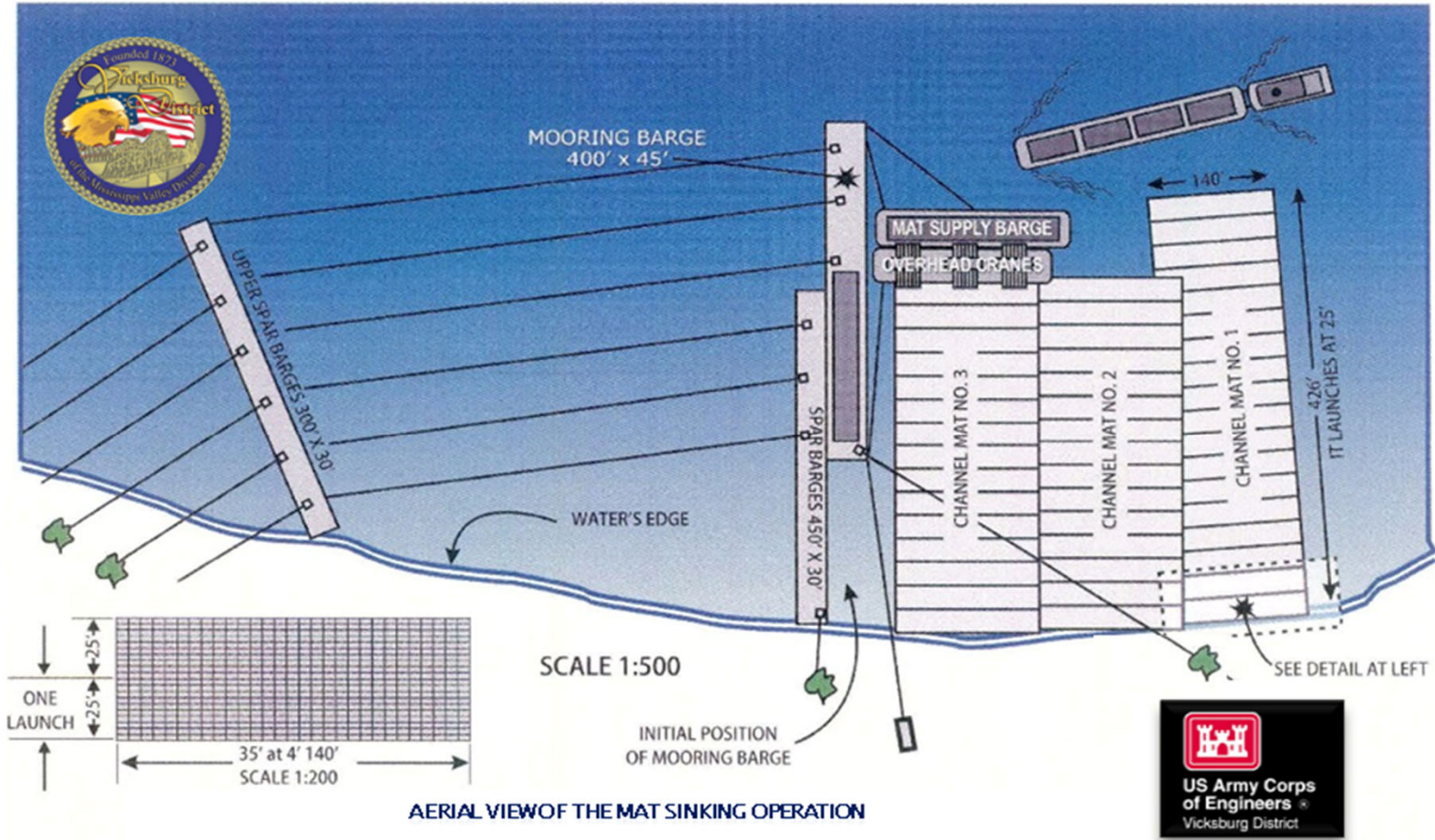


# INFORMATION DELIVERED TO VESSELS VIA AIS





# Mat Sinking Unit operations





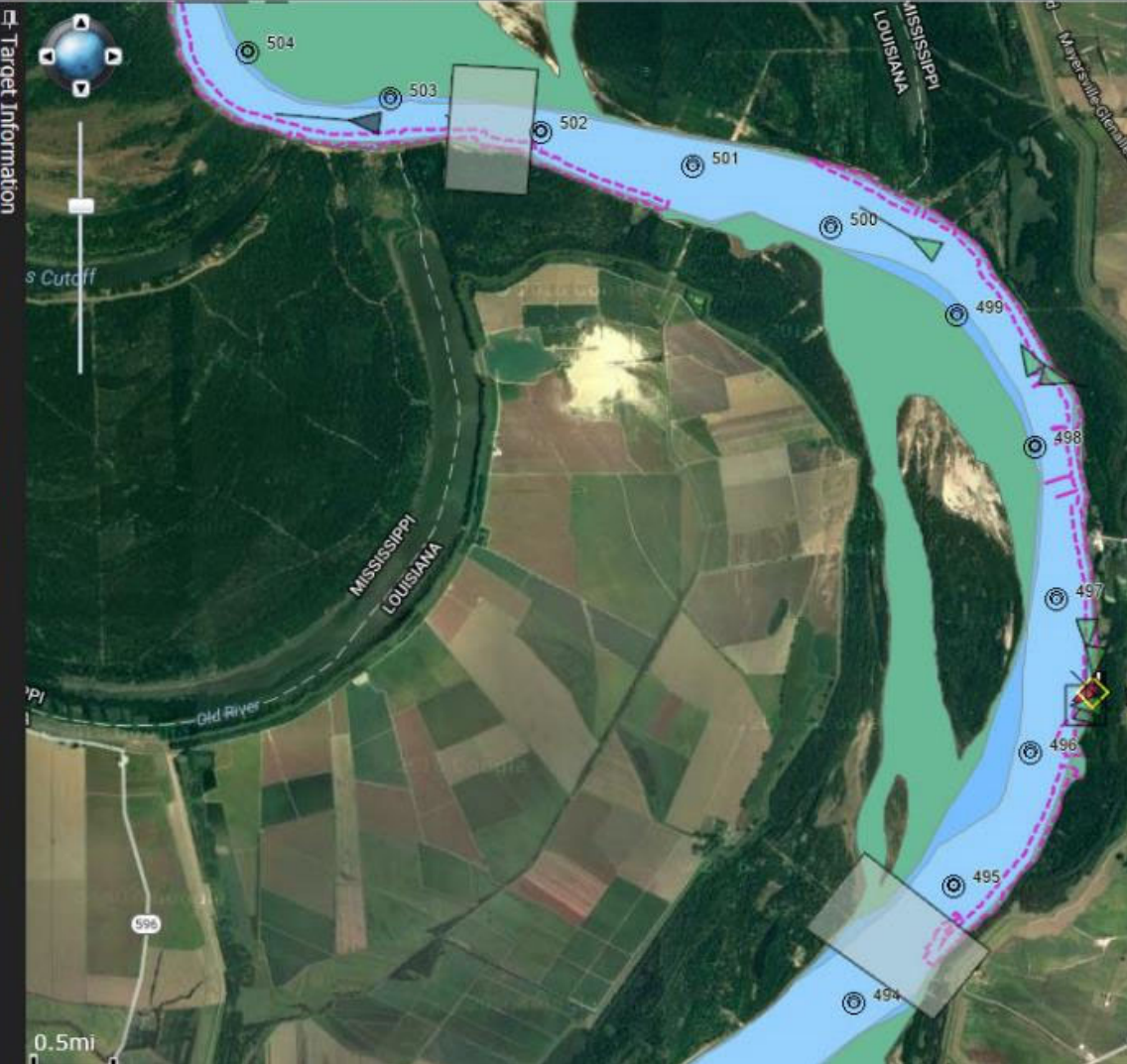
# Lock Operations Management Application (LOMA) v1.1.174 Application Certified for Unclassified

[LPMS](#) | [Support](#) | [Contact](#) | [Logout \(Michael.F.Winkler\)](#)

[Live Plotter](#) | [Playback Plotter](#) | [Zone Configuration](#) | [Zone Reports](#) | [Gadgets](#)

## Target Information

Name	WILLIAM JAMES
MMSI	366999267
Callsign	AAAG
Latitude	32°54'05"N
Longitude	091°03'40"W
SOG	0 mph
Heading	Not available
COG	272°
Nav Status	Moored
Operating Mode	Autonomous
Rate Of Turn	Not available
Length	164.00 ft
Beam	45.92 ft
Type of Ship	Vessel - Towing
Type of Cargo	N/A
CargoType	31
IMO Number	0
Draught	0.00 ft
Nav Sensor	GPS
DTE Status	Available
Nationality	United States of America
Lock	Not available
Mile	496
River	Mississippi River Mouth of Ohio River to Baton Rouge LA
Time since last update	00:03:46









Collision between the *Riley Elizabeth* Tow and  
US Army Corps of Engineers Barge Plant  
Mississippi River near Waterproof, Louisiana  
July 18, 2014

NTSB

Marine Accident Report

## 4. Recommendations

As a result of its investigation, the National Transportation Safety Board makes the following safety recommendations to the US Army Corps of Engineers:

Specify in the information you provide to the public how far US Army Corps of Engineers projects extend into the waterway. (M-15-13)

Use automatic identification system aids to navigation or application-specific messages to mark potential hazards to navigation. (M-15-14)

### BY THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

**CHRISTOPHER A. HART**  
Chairman

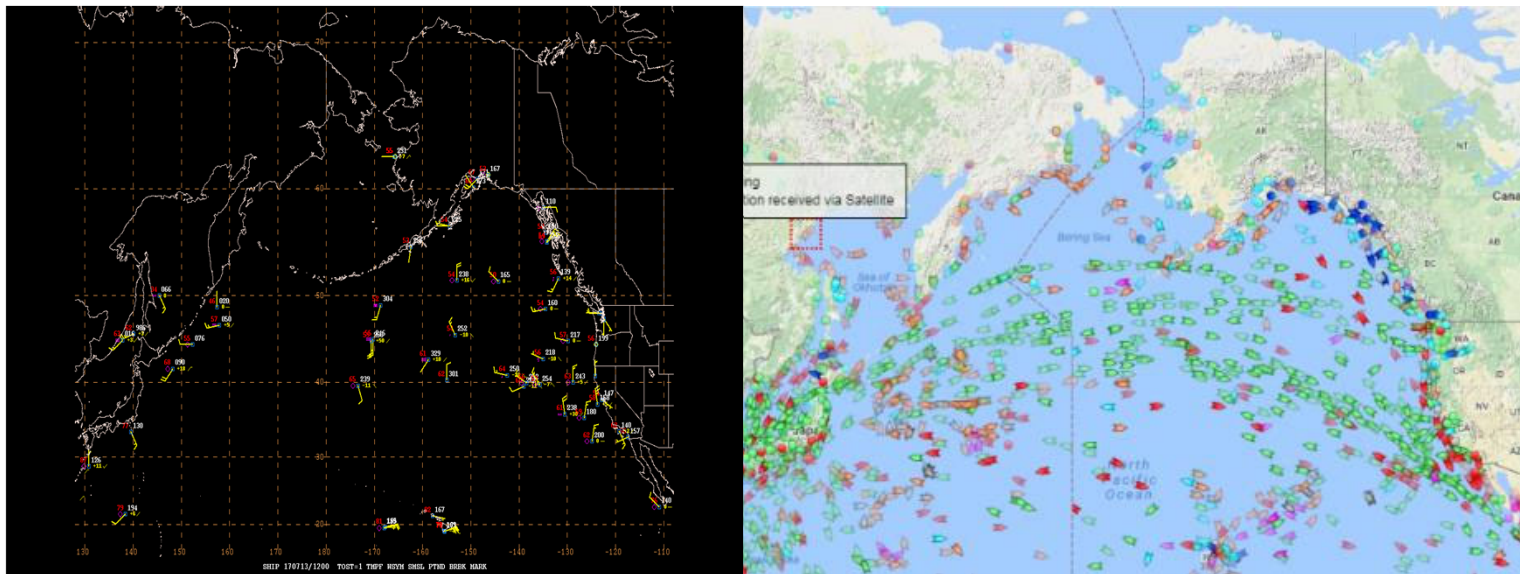
**ROBERT L. SUMWALT**  
Member

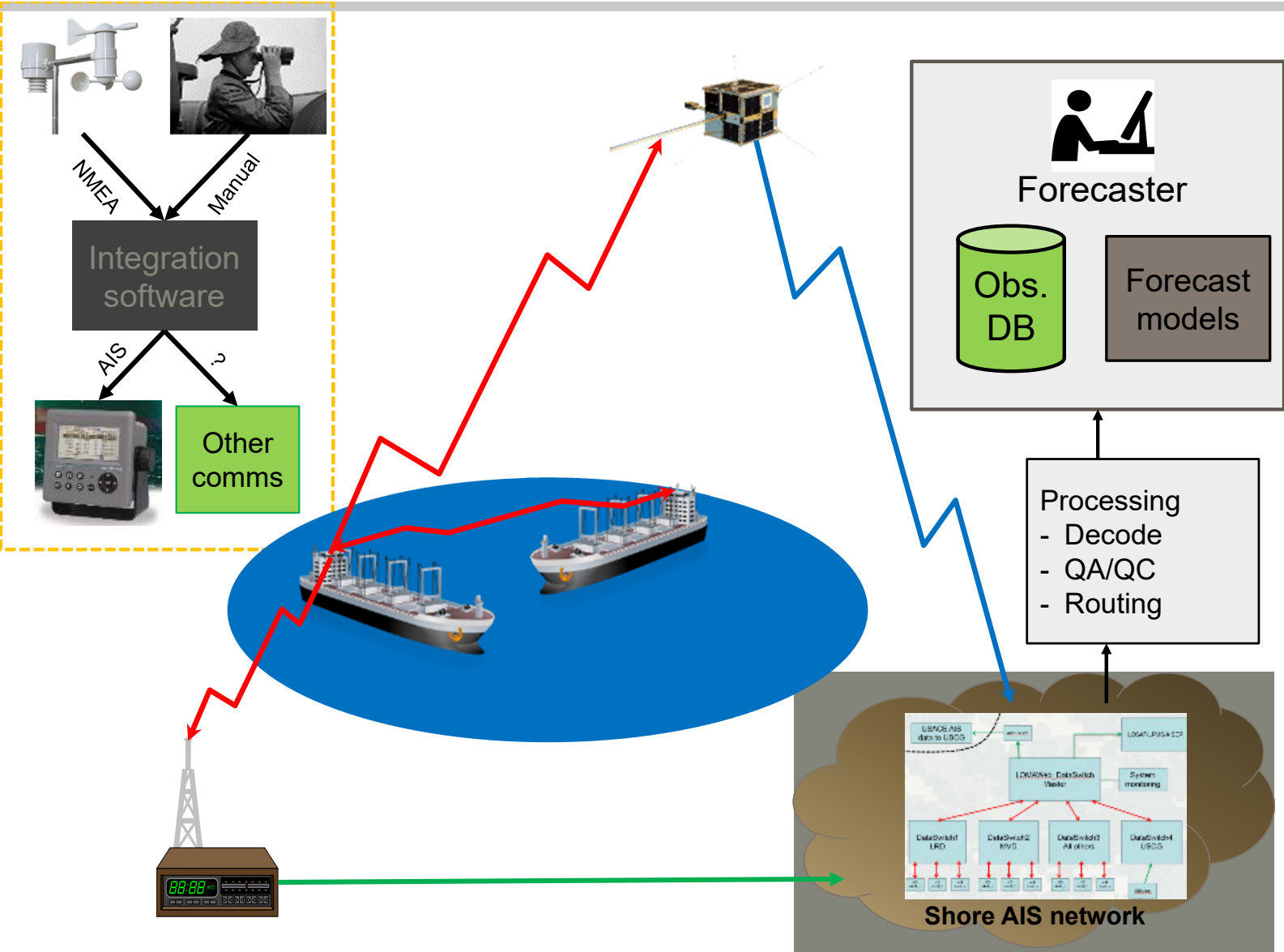


# WEATHER OBSERVATIONS VIA AIS



Weather forecasters need more observations  
Small fraction of vessels provide voluntary observations  
Observations are usually manually collected  
Communication of observations from vessel to weather offices can be problematic









The laptop was placed on a ledge adjacent to the AIS pilot port; a cable from the pilot port was run to the laptop. A power strip plugged into the one available outlet was used to power the laptop and weather station.



Figure 7. Left: Laptop (orange arrow) on ledge to the right of the pilot port (green arrow). Right: close-up of pilot port.




The screenshot displays a computer desktop with a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet in the background and a terminal window in the foreground. The terminal window, titled 'C:\ShipWeatherMonitor\ShipWeatherMonitor.exe', shows a log of weather reports for the ship 'MMSI 303940000'. The reports are timestamped and include various data points such as wind speed, direction, and temperature. The spreadsheet in the background has columns labeled A through Q and rows of data. The terminal window also shows a list of reports with timestamps and various data points.

Figure 10. Shore side software (Ship Weather Monitor) is running in upper right window. The CSV file of logged data is shown in the background with reports from the CAPE WRATH (MMSI 303940000)



# USACE-USCG ISA



 <b>Homeland Security</b>	
<p><b>Interconnection Security Agreement</b></p> <p><b>between</b></p> <p><b>United States Coast Guard (USCG)/ Nationwide Automatic Identification System</b></p> <p><b>And</b></p> <p><b>United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)</b></p>	
<p><small><b>WARNING:</b> This document is FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO). It contains information that may be exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). It is to be controlled, stored, handled, transmitted, distributed, and disposed of in accordance with DHS policy relating to FOUO information and is not to be released to the public or other personnel who do not have a valid "need-to-know" without prior approval of the NAIS and the USACE Disclosure Offices.</small></p>	
<p>May 20, 2015</p>	
<p><i>Securing Information that Protects the Homeland</i></p>	

For Official Use Only


**MEMORANDUM OF Understanding (MOU)**

Between

**United States Coast Guard (USCG)/ Nationwide Automatic Identification System (NAIS)**

And

**United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)**



May 20, 2015

**Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU)**

For Official Use Only



# SYSTEM MONITORING



LOMA Transceiver Status Report 11/27/2018 0830 CT (UNCLASSIFIED) - Message (Plain Text)

FILE MESSAGE McAfee E-mail Scan ADOBE PDF



Tue 11/27/2018 9:33 AM

Towne, Brady A CIV USARMY CEERD (US)

LOMA Transceiver Status Report 11/27/2018 0830 CT (UNCLASSIFIED)

To: Aust, Kimberly J CIV USARMY CEIT (US); Brooks, Curtis J CIV CEMVR CEMVD (US); Chambers, Gary E CIV DFAS (US); Christopher, P.Padilo@uscg.mil; Dennis, R.Foster@uscg.mil; DiJoseph, Patricia K CIV USARMY CEERD-CHL (US); Eckhardt, W Cody CIV USARMY CEMVD (US); Elvin, G. Bruce2@uscg.mil (Elvin, G. Bruce2@uscg.mil); Heindold, Thomas D Jr CIV USARMY CEMVR (US); Jacob, E.Littley@uscg.mil; James Kilroy (DREH); Jennifer, M. Newman2@uscg.mil (Jennifer, M. Newman2@uscg.mil); Johnson, Gregory W; Kilroy, James T Jr CIV USARMY CEERD-CHL (US); Lauth, Timothy John CIV USARMY CEMVS (US); Martin, Matthew O CIV USARMY CEMVR (USA); michael\_j.newman@uscg.mil; Mitchell, Kenneth N CIV USARMY CEERD-CHL (USA); Ramon Villa; Riley, Steven D CIV (US);

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

LOMA Transceiver Status Report 11/27/2018 0830 CT All LOMA units are up and operational except:

COLUMBIA\_OB\_0X2D ACE-IT INC # 6953207  
SELDEN\_BW\_OJZW ACE-IT INC # 6988495  
MVM\_BGU ACE-IT INC # 7168243/7176106/7175895  
MVM\_HURLEY  
MVM\_MISSISSIPPI  
USACEENSLEYARD\_0WMW

IWR FEED UP

ACE-IT: Site	Incident Date	Incident Time	Ticket #	Notes
LRLJTM - John T Myers Lock & Dam - Vernon, Indiana	24-Nov-18	1045 CT	7233561	Degraded / UITOC
SAMSELr1-vpn - Seldon Lock & Dam - Sawyerville, Alabama	14-Aug-18	0945 CT	7129080	Down / UITOC / Awaiting p
SWLDAV-David D Terry Lock and Dam #6 - Scott, Arkansas	21-Nov-18	0934 CT	7232225	Down / Telco

ACE-IT Maintenance:  
- ACE-IT Vicksburg (CPC) Scheduled Database Migration Maintenance, Friday, 30 November 2018, 1400-1900 Central Time  
- ACE-IT Scheduled ESD Electrical Room Maintenance, Thursday, 29 November 2018, from 1200 to 1600 Central Time

## LOMA Admin Console

Admin Panel Bottom Connections Top Connections Map Analysis

### DataSwitch Status

Web DataSwitch	Online	11/26/2018 7:58:06 AM
DataSwitch 1	Online	9/25/2018 3:30:27 AM
DataSwitch 2	Online	11/20/2018 12:49:52 AM
DataSwitch 3	Online	11/20/2018 12:40:23 AM
DataSwitch 4	Online	11/26/2018 7:46:26 AM

### DataStore Status

DataStore	Up	281.6
-----------	----	-------

### Server Status

Web Server	140.194.60.240	Online
DataSwitch 1 Server	140.194.60.242	Online
DataSwitch 2 Server	140.194.60.243	Online
DataSwitch 3 Server	140.194.60.244	Online
DataSwitch 4 Server	140.194.60.245	Online
Authentication/Tools Server	140.194.60.49	Online
Database Server	140.194.20.33	Online



# SYSTEM MONITORING



## USACE Performance Report Production – OSC Feed 26 November 2018

### 1. Analyst Report:

- See Analyst comments.

### 2. Analyst Comments:

- C3CEN has not received USACE data via the OSC production feed since November 23, 2018 @ 0500 EST (0000 GMT).

VILLA.RAMON.F  
LORES.JR.11559  
62620

Digitally signed by  
VILLA.RAMON.FLORES.JR.11  
55962620  
Date: 2018.11.27 07:58:16  
-05'00'

NAIS Analyst



## USACE Performance Report Pre-Production - Direct Feed 26 November 2018

### 1. Analyst Report:

- 138 – Total valid receivers.
- 134 – Valid receivers online and reporting.
- 4 – Valid receivers offline.
- 0 – Valid receivers online, but not reporting.
- 97.10% – Percent of total valid receivers online.
- 0 – Unknown receivers.
- 0 – Receivers with greater than 5% bad data.
- 1691 – Unique MMSI(s).

### 2. Analyst Comments:

- 0EK6, 0EL3, and 0JVF all report valid and compliant sentences, with 0 class A and B message types, and 1 MMSI.
- There are 2 receivers reporting as non-operational on the LOMA TSR dated 11/26/2018 that did not report offline in pre-production: 0A9W and 0C31.
- There are 2 receivers reporting offline in pre-production that did not appear on the LOMA TSR dated 11/26/2018: 096K and 0JZW.

### 3. Total Data Report from Analysis Tool:

Receiver Name	Compliant Sentences	Sentences	MMSI	Class A	Class B	% Bad Data	Own Base Station	Remarks
rACE01HW	260261	260261	118	224686	2972	0	1	
rACE01PN	36351	36351	4	7095	0	0	0	
rACE01SU	35247	35247	6	5970	0	0	0	
rACE01VK	34308	34308	6	3600	0	0	0	
rACE021Z	30083	30083	2	841	0	0	0	
rACE0230	31702	31702	5	2427	0	0	0	
rACE0239	30086	30086	3	1290	0	0	0	
rACE024S	34835	34835	5	5377	182	0	0	
rACE034E	115775	115775	20	57801	0	0	0	