



COMDTINST 16500.15

JAN 6 1997

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 16500.15

Subj: AIDS TO NAVIGATION INFORMATION SYSTEM (ATONIS)

- Ref: (a) ATONIS 2.0 Unit User Manual
(b) ATONIS 2.0 District User Manual
(c) COMDTINST 16478.11, Aids to Navigation Battery Tracking System
(d) COMDTINST M16500.7, Aids to Navigation Manual - Administration

1. PURPOSE. This instruction promulgates policy and guidance for use and maintenance of the ATONIS database.
2. ACTION. District commanders and unit commanding officers shall ensure the provisions of this Instruction are followed.
3. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. None.
4. DISCUSSION.
 - a. ATONIS 2.0 is an upgrade and revision of the original ATONIS (commonly called reQuest ATONIS or ATONIS 1.0) which was implemented in 1987. ATONIS 2.0 was created by the USCG Research and Development Center; delivered to G-NSR in 1994; implemented throughout the Coast Guard in FY95-96; and is currently supported and maintained through the software support division at Operations Systems Center (OSC), Martinsburg, West Virginia. The name ATONIS, for the remainder of this instruction, will refer to ATONIS 2.0 and subsequent upgrades.
 - b. ATONIS was created to meet the COMDT's requirement for 4th Generation Language systems, to create a standard Coast Guard-wide ATON database, and because reQuest software was no longer included on the CGSW software bundle or supported as standard software.

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	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
A	1						1				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
B	8	20*		1									1		1											
C				1					1									1					1			
D				1																						
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- c. ATONIS is a software tool/relational database management system for managing aids to navigation. It is critical to the Coast Guard's short range aids to navigation program because it facilitates day to day management of the program as well as long term planning. A wide range of users at all levels can use ATONIS for program oversight, determining budget models, reporting marine information, evaluating trends, producing inventories, creating various reports, managing assets, building servicing schedules and tracking ATON and related hardware. ATONIS is considered a Mission Essential Application and will be converted to Standard Workstation III.
 - d. ATONIS is the official asset list for the purpose of building and maintaining the district budget models. This places even more importance on the quality and quantity of data in ATONIS. The Short Range Aids program will have a difficult time supporting requests for changes to the models and/or funding levels unless ATONIS inventory data supports these.
 - e. ATONIS data is critical to the determination of servicing and workload allocations, such as the Service Force Mix 2000. Also, the servicing interval data is critical to program evaluation of the recent policy to allow extended servicing intervals for minor aids to navigation.
5. GOALS. The primary goal of this instruction is to promulgate policy on and mandate the use and maintenance of ATONIS by districts and units.
6. RESPONSIBILITIES.
- a. Headquarters Offices. As the program sponsor for ATONIS, G-OPN has responsibility for successful performance of this program and will administer funding, provide direction, future guidance and support to districts as needed.
 - b. District and Area Offices. The ATON program managers of the Area and District Commanders will:
 - (1) Ensure that subordinate units follow the provisions of this instruction.
 - (2) Ensure the prompt and correct entry of required data into district level ATONIS.
 - (3) Develop and negotiate timetables for any district-specific required reports.
 - (4) Prepare requests and required reports for timely submission to G-OPN.

c. Units. Commanding Officers and OinCs will:

- (1) Ensure ATONIS is utilized and maintained in accordance with the provisions of this instruction.
- (2) Promptly and correctly enter required data.
- (3) Provide timetables and any required reports as needed.

7. GENERAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES. ATONIS is the official system used by the Coast Guard to store pertinent information relating to short range aids to navigation. Its use is mandatory. Every time an aid is serviced, the servicing unit is required to produce a Field Information Document (FID) from ATONIS which will be signed by the CO/OinC. The original will be stored in its respective aid folder at the unit, with a copy (paper or electronic) forwarded to the district command.


- a. Batteries. Per reference (c), any action performed on a battery will be logged in ATONIS. Additionally, within federal aid records, batteries contained within aids shall have their serial numbers entered in the unit remarks section.
- b. File/directory maintenance. With limited hard disk space at some units, it is imperative to maintain ATONIS directories and files. Files in the import and export directories (lad/dad/*, dad/lad/*) should be listed and old files should be deleted. Once an update has been received and imported or an export has been sent out and successfully imported, the database should be backed up and the update files should be deleted. It will also serve the system well to have the system administrator truncate the ATONIS.bi and ATONIS.lg files on a regular basis to prevent them from growing too large.
- c. Updates. Per Section 5 of references (a) and (b), ATONIS is actually a system of multiple databases (that are not connected in real-time). Hence, some sense of the "state" of a database is necessary. Units should send an update to their respective district (oan) after completing an ATON mission as per district SOP. Districts should send a QIC tape, of the ATONIS.DB and ATONIS.BI files only, to G-OPN concurrent with submission of the Quarterly SRA Report (see 8.c. below). G-OPN will return tapes upon receipt of next update.

- d. Procedures for bug fixes and enhancements. In the event that any software error is encountered, the system administrator should be contacted to determine if the problem is system related or ATONIS related. If the problem is ATONIS related, a phone call should be made to OSC for software support at (304) 264-2500. If an enhancement to ATONIS is desired (e.g. change to canned reports, user interface change, etc.), or software “bugs” are identified, units should draft an e-mail to their district (oan) stating the desired enhancement, or software error, and related specifics. Districts desiring an enhancement, or a correction of a software error, should also draft an e-mail in the same manner. Districts should send their requests and forward unit requests to the G-OPN ATONIS program manager. The requests should be very specific (i.e. federal vs. private, unit vs. district, “add field for Environmental Concerns”, etc.). This will eliminate guesswork. G-OPN will develop and validate a list of ATONIS fixes and enhancements and provide these to OSC annually.
- e. Importance of ATONIS data for ATON related census. Uses of ATONIS to enumerate certain ATON related populations (solar panels, aid types, chain etc.) is critical to the Coast Guard’s Short Range ATON mission. For instance, ATONIS can be used to determine the number of workable buoys for a newly deployed cutter, determine the percentage of buoy hulls that will need to be replaced in a certain time period, tally the number of functional pieces of hardware, etc.
- f. Training. Districts (oan) received initial training from G-OPN. Training will be conducted as needed at the unit level by members of the district (oan) staff.

8. DISTRICT POLICIES & PROCEDURES.

- a. Local Notice to Mariners Reports (LNMs). All LNMs will be created from the ATONIS LNM Report options using data entered in the Chart Correction and Discrepancy tables.
- b. District Annual Aid Availability Report (RCN-16500-1). At the end of each fiscal year, 30 September, each district shall produce an annual aid availability report using the Aid Availability Report from the Utilities menu option. This report will take all of its data from the ATONIS discrepancy table. This report requires, and districts shall enter, the difference between the DTG field on screen 1 (Date Time Group Reported) and the DTG field on screen 2 (Date Time Group Corrected) in the Correction Time field. The Correction Time field will automatically calculate the difference between the two fields by placing the cursor on the field and pressing the spacebar.
- c. Quarterly Short Range Aids to Navigation Report (G-OPN-15400). Districts shall submit to G-OPN, within ten days of the end of each fiscal year quarter, a quarterly report of short range aids to navigation (SRA Quarterly) produced from ATONIS.

- d. Private Aids to Navigation. As per reference (d), district commanders shall approve requests to establish, discontinue, or change private aids to navigation. When such a request is approved, the district staff shall make appropriate changes to the private aid table in ATONIS. Due to the current state of the distributed ATONIS databases, when a private aid verification is performed, the aids to navigation team or other unit with cognizance over the aid must enter the verification information into the private aid table within the **unit** version of ATONIS. This information will be included with the unit's next electronic update to the district (see 7.c above).
 - e. ATONIS/AAPS comparisons. Currently, many discrepancies exist between information contained in the Automated Aid Positioning System (AAPS) and the ATONIS database (i.e. AAPS and ATONIS may list different positions for the same aid). District ATONIS managers should compare information shared between ATONIS and AAPS and ensure that both contain identical and accurate information. This standardization between shared ATONIS/AAPS data will simplify the centralization of ATONIS and the ultimate merger of ATONIS and AAPS into one application.
9. FURTHER INFORMATION. The points of contact for this program are LTJG Kris Gholson, G-OPN, (202) 267-0411 and Mr. Chuck Mosher, G-OPN, (202) 267-0350.



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