

# Investing for technology success

## *C4&IT releases enterprise architecture, ensures technology investments meet needs of mission execution*

Information is critical to every Coast Guard job, and it's up to the team at Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Information Technology (C4&IT) to provide "cradle-to-grave" information systems and technologies that are matched to the agency's mission and business needs and goals. On May 15, C4&IT took another step toward that goal with the first release of a new enterprise architecture (version 1.0).

### **What is EA?**

EA is a discipline that brings together key business and technical information across the organization to support better decision-making. EA knowledge helps users align their technologies to support the Coast Guard mission, pursue information sharing and accessibility, build interoperable applications, comply with technology standards, develop performance measures, and make

their systems secure.

"Enterprise architecture is essential to successfully align C4&IT investments with mission execution," said Adm. Ronald Hewitt, former assistant commandant for C4&IT. "EA ensures that each C4&IT investment is tied to mission and business needs and not done just for technology's sake. EA also ensures that all the various C4&IT projects being developed will work together when they are deployed."

EA is a significant portion of Commandant Intent Action Order (CIAO) No. 10, which entrusts C4&IT to better serve the needs of all internal and external customers through complete delivery of e-Coast Guard.

EA can be used by anyone who is working on a project with C4&IT; looking to acquire C4&IT resources, such as software or hardware; or seeking to align their initiatives with the Coast Guard's C4&IT strategy and standards.

### **How to use it**

EA information is easily accessible through the EA Web site on CGCentral. (Click on "Resources" then "Enterprise Architecture" on the left menu bar.) The EA Web site provides a robust knowledge center where a user can navigate through the six "perspectives" of the

EA architecture: performance, business, information, services, technology, and security (see information box below).

Once there, users can locate information about planned services for performing reviews of requests for new technologies. There is a simple five-step process for going through these reviews, and the necessary submission forms and instructions are provided. The findings and recommendations from these reviews are provided to the C4&IT Investment Review Board, which determines project approval and funding.

### **What's next?**

In this first release of the EA, C4&IT developed a governance process for new C4&IT requests as well as an initial set of information products that show some of the relationships between technology investments and mission performance. As they move forward, C4&IT will continue to bring new information into the EA knowledge center and to share that information throughout the agency, creating an environment of transparency and improved decision-making.

*Story by Andrew Blumenthal, director,  
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### **Six EA Perspectives**

- **Performance:** The measurement of strategic and business outcomes. (Coast Guard Budget-in-Brief and Performance Report)
- **Business:** The functions and activities that the Coast Guard performs. (Ports, Waterways, and Coastal Security)
- **Information:** The information needed to perform CG mission and business activities. (Vessels, cargo, parties, patrols, rescues, boardings, investigations)
- **Services:** The applications and capabilities that support CG information requirements. (MISLE)
- **Technology:** The underlying technology that supports service delivery. (Coast Guard Data Network)
- **Security:** The assurance of confidentiality, integrity, availability and privacy. (MISLE certification and accreditation)