



United States Coast Guard
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

23 SEP 2021
FM: CHDIRAUX
TO: ALAUX
ALAUX 035/21

Subj: CYBERSECURITY BEST PRACTICES AWARENESS REMINDER

1. October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month. All Auxiliarists are strongly encouraged to remain vigilant against cybersecurity threats and to actively apply strong countermeasures in their personal and Auxiliary activities. In 2017, more than 300,000 individuals in over 150 countries fell victim to the WannaCry ransomware attack in a single weekend causing the loss of countless files and billions of dollars in damages. Threats like these are still prevalent and dangerous, and it is critical that we all take the necessary steps to prevent an attack. The following ten practices are highly effective methods to achieve a strong cybersecurity posture:

- Use strong passwords and create separate passwords for each account.
- Use current and supported operating systems.
- Install all system security updates and patches.
- Keep antivirus software up to date.
- Regularly scan files for viruses.
- Install spyware protection software.
- Turn on firewall protection.
- Regularly back up and securely store files.
- Change default logon ID and passwords for operating systems and applications.
- Use caution when opening emails and do not view emails in preview pane mode.

2. To view the entire U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Cybersecurity Awareness presentation, click [here](#).

3. Internet release is authorized.

For many reasons including the value of keeping communication lines clear and open as well as facilitating access to training and educational tools, all Auxiliarists are urged to have their own email address and to keep it updated in AUXDATA.

*All ALAUX's are posted on the Chief Director of Auxiliary web site located at: [CHDIRAUX ALAUX](#)

If you have a question regarding this ALAUX, please seek resolution within your Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM) including up to your servicing District Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX). If your question still cannot be resolved after that, then please email CGAUX@uscg.mil.