



Homeland Security

IT Program Assessment USCG – Vessel Logistics System (VLS) (2010)

Review

The DHS CIO conducted a comprehensive program review of the USCG Vessel Logistics System (VLS) program on March 4, 2010 with representatives from the Coast Guard Logistics Systems Division, and Coast Guard CIO. VLS is the primary logistics system deployed on large US Coast Guard ships and provides a wide variety of logistical support including but not limited to a requisition interface, configuration and maintenance management of deployed assets, financial information management, and supply chain management.

Major findings include the following:

- VLS has been in a steady state of operations and maintenance since the mid to late 1990s and receives back end enhancements to improve functionality.
- Due to costly deployment difficulties much earlier on in its lifecycle, the cumulative lifecycle cost of VLS is approaching Level I status.
- The Program Manager is completing his Level III certification.
- VLS is unable to provide a CFO audit compliance tool set.
- The CFO is looking for consolidation opportunities for logistics support. The Coast Guard will provide a whitepaper that has already been developed to the CIO that addresses some of those consolidation issues from a USCG-CBP perspective.
- There are capability gaps that currently exist in the VLS system that will be addressed by the deployment of CG-LIMS.

Assessment

USCG's modernization efforts through the LIMS program is planned to replace VLS; however, some significant enhancements may be required in the interim if delivery of the LIMS module replacing VLS is too far in the future. While it has some capability gaps, the vessels on which VLS is deployed represent a relatively small proportion of total USCG mission hours. VLS is having a negative effect on the USCG financial audit.

Score: 3