



Port Awarded \$4.6 Million Security Grant

Funding for Underwater Surveillance and Communications Integration

May 14, 2007

The Port of Long Beach received a \$4.6 million federal security grant this week for two major projects to improve undersea surveillance and integrate security systems at the port complex.

“We’re very excited,” said Port Security Director Cosmo Perrone. “There is much more we want to do, but every step is important in improving Port security.” Perrone added that the funds will allow the Port to complete needed monitoring systems and to enhance integration and coordination among the Port, its tenants and law enforcement agencies.

The Long Beach grant is part of \$15 million awarded to agencies and businesses for security in the Long Beach-Los Angeles port complex and comes from \$202 million handed out by the Department of Homeland Security.

The grants given to the local ports will be used as part of a coordinated strategy to improve security at the neighboring ports with complementary projects, Perrone said.

New underwater sonar equipment, additional cameras and enhanced radar will give the Port of Long Beach a better ability to monitor the movement of vessels through its waterways. In addition, an integrated communications system for a new joint command and control center, which is currently under construction, will dramatically enhance communication, cooperation and coordination among the Port, tenants and law enforcement on a regional basis. This effort will tie together security systems and camera systems from more than 31 entities.

This is Homeland Security’s seventh round of grants since 2002 to strengthen the ability of ports to prevent and respond to terrorist attack, major disasters and other emergencies.

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