

As delivered

U. S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



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**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

**U. S. COAST GUARD**

**ORAL STATEMENT OF**

**ADMIRAL THOMAS H. COLLINS**

**ON**

**PORT SECURITY**

**BEFORE THE**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION**

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**JUNE 3, 2003**

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
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JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2003

- Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and distinguished members of the Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to testify on the Coast Guard's accomplishments and continuing efforts to provide security for our nation's maritime environment.
- The Department of Homeland Security and the Coast Guard appreciate your support in:
  - Passing the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (MTSA), and
  - Supporting the President's budgets, which help build our capacity and capability to provide both security and the full range of safety and environmental Coast Guard missions.
- We have several, major inter-related efforts well underway to enhance security for our ports:
  1. Implementing the provisions of MTSA;
  2. Conducting Port Security Assessments and Threat Assessments in 55 ports; and
  3. Evaluating and distributing port security grants in partnership with TSA and MARAD.
- We've established an aggressive schedule to implement the MTSA regulations:
  - We held seven Listening Sessions across the country to ensure stakeholders' input and insight to our regulations process.
  - We are aggressively working on the Interim Rules and will publish them by July 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - We will publish the Final Rules by November 2003.

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- The MTSA port, vessel, and facility security plans will be approved and in effect by July 2004.
- MTSA assigned the Coast Guard a number of reports and we owe you several of them. We are working hard to complete them and will get them to you as soon as we can.
- Our Port Security Assessments are also well underway. We greatly appreciated your support for FY03 supplemental funding, which has allowed us to accelerate the PSA schedule, so by the end of 2004 we will have completed the field work for all 55 PSAs.
  - We're on target, having completed 13 PSAs throughout the country so far.
  - PSAs will be used as one of the key inputs for our Area Maritime Transportation Security Plans, as required by the MTSA, and for the exercises we'll use to test and evaluate those Security Plans.
- We have not been idle while we pursue rulemaking and grant making. Concurrently, we have been proactive at the port level in addressing security, including increasing our presence through MSSTs, Sea Marshals, and HIV boardings. Coordination among players is facilitated by the fact that many of the key federal agencies involved are now all within the DHS. Our COTPs, in their role as Federal Maritime Security Coordinators, have conducted initial risk assessments . . . have brought port stakeholders together to form port security committees ... have developed coordinated activities of local – state – federal – private resources to help mitigate security risks and share intelligence. A few examples of how our nation's ports are more secure today:
  - I recently visited Miami, where we've increased cruise ship security zone patrols in Miami & Port Everglades to over 50,000 boat-hours per year; and increased random baggage checks to 100% screening by cruise line security contractors.
  - In NY/NJ, we established one of our MSSTs; and recently held an anti-terrorism exercise aboard the Staten Island ferry.
  - In Los Angeles/Long Beach, our Sea Marshals now provide positive-control boardings of all LA- and LB-bound cruise ships; and we established a "Port Watch" program (similar to the Neighborhood Watch programs).

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- These are just several examples of how the Coast Guard is moving forward aggressively on the MTSA, even in advance of the rulemaking being in place.
- Within our reach is the opportunity to create a truly model Maritime Security Regime. With your past support, we are well on our way; with your future support and feedback, I know we can achieve it.
- Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.