

# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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## **NEW ASSISTANT PORT OPERATIONS DIRECTOR Port of South Louisiana**

The Port of South Louisiana recently hired Mr. Edward “Tootie” Nowell as assistant director of port operations reporting to long-time director, Mitch Smith. In this position, he serves as primary assistant to Mr. Smith in directing security, harbor patrol and emergency response operations.



Mr. Nowell comes to the Port with experience patrolling and conducting search and rescue on the waterways of St. John Parish. He spent 31 years with the St. John Parish Sheriff's Department, and at the time of his retirement, was Commander of the Marine Division, where he was responsible for water patrol and search & rescue for the lakes and rivers in the parish. Nowell was also team leader for the Parish Rapid Assessment Team (PRAT), which worked out of the St. John Parish Office of Public Safety Homeland Security Division.

Nowell holds certificates in bomb/explosives detection, hazard material detection, national incident management systems, and several other certificates pertaining to homeland security.

“I am excited to be a part of the Port of South Louisiana, said Nowell. For years, I have watched it grow into a very important asset to the River Parish Region,” he added.

“The Port is pleased to have someone with direct experience securing the Mississippi River and the other waterways in this region,” said Joel Chaisson, port executive director.

The Port of South Louisiana, a 54-mile port district on the Mississippi River between New Orleans and Baton Rouge encompassing St. Charles, St. John and St. James parishes, is the largest tonnage port in the western hemisphere and accounts for over 50 percent of all Louisiana imports/exports.

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