

P R E S S R E L E A S E



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LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER PORT SECURITY WORKGROUP (PORT OF SOUTH LOUISIANA AND ST. BERNARD MARITIME SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTERS) CONDUCTS 8TH NOLASEC COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE

On December 13, 2017 the Ports of South Louisiana and St. Bernard conducted their 8th Lower Mississippi River MSOC (Maritime Security Operations Center) Functional Communications Exercise. The NOLASEC (USCG Sector New Orleans) exercise dubbed “T’was A Jihad Before Christmas” was led by Cmdr. Eric J. Acosta and Lester Millet III, while testing and validating the following target capabilities: Communications, ICS (Incident Command System), Incident Command and Control of the MSOCs, Intelligence Analysis/ Production. Some other exercise highlights included the following:

- The Exercise was USCG Sector New Orleans sanctioned and approved (MTSA Coast Guard regulated facilities and vessels received their yearly exercise credit by fully participating).
- The USCG Sector New Orleans’ AMSP notification protocol (Facility and Vessel MARSEC Changes) was tested and validated.
- Multi Agency Coordination: InfraGard Louisiana, USCG Sector New Orleans, FBI New Orleans (Cyber Taskforce & WMD Directorate), City of Kenner OHSEP, St. Bernard OHS-EP and 4 Lower Mississippi River Ports.
- Both physical & cyber threats were exercised.

The very successful 2017 NOLASEC LMR exercise comprised 152 individuals, along with 71 facilities and 15 agencies, stretching from Mississippi River mile 55 in Davant, LA to river mile 234 in Port Allen, LA. Additionally, 45 vessels were contacted within the USCG Sector New Orleans COTP requested security zone. (river mile 89-91). A detailed after-action report identifying major strengths, along with recommended corrective measures for the USCG Sector Area Maritime Security Plan will be forthcoming and kept on file at Sector New Orleans.

Acosta and Millet would like to recognize the following agencies for their support and participation:

- USCG Sector New Orleans
- InfraGard Louisiana
- Thomas Malik (Pin Oak Terminals) / Evaluator
- FBI New Orleans (Cyber Taskforce & WMD Directorate)
- Maritime & Port Security Information Sharing and Analysis Organization (MPS-ISAO).

- Plaquemines Port, Harbor, and Terminal District
- Port of New Orleans Harbor Police
- Tulane Homeland Security Studies Program
- City of Kenner OHSEP
- St. Bernard Parish OHSEP



Port of South Louisiana MSOC



Port of St. Bernard MSOC

About the Port of South Louisiana

The Port of South Louisiana is a 54-mile port district on the Mississippi River between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, encompassing the parishes of St. Charles, St. John and St. James. The facilities located within the port’s district consistently handle over a quarter billion short tons of cargo annually, ranking it the largest tonnage port district in the Western Hemisphere (and the 16th largest in the world), the nation’s greatest grain exporter, and one of the major energy transfer ports in the United States. Along the 108 miles of deep-water frontage on both banks of the river there are seven grain transfer facilities, four major oil refineries, 11 petrochemical manufacturing facilities and several other facilities for a total of more than 50 docks owned and operated by an impressive group of resident tenants such as ADM, ArcelorMittal, Dow, Cargill, DuPont, Marathon, Shell, Nucor Steel, Occidental, Valero, and Occidental Chemical. To learn more, visit us at www.portsl.com, like us on [Facebook](#), and follow us on [LinkedIn](#).

About InfraGard

Nationally-recognized, InfraGard Louisiana is a public/private partnership between the FBI New Orleans, and the private sector, more specifically, the 16 aligned DHS Critical Sectors. InfraGard is an association of persons who represent businesses, academic institutions, state and local law enforcement agencies, and other participants dedicated to sharing information and intelligence to prevent hostile acts against the U.S. To learn more, go to <http://infragardlouisiana.com/>.



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