



INFRA GARD LOUISIANA



PRESS RELEASE

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LMR PORT SECURITY WORKGROUP (MSOC'S ST. BERNARD & PORT OF SOUTH LOUISIANA) CONDUCTS 11TH NOLASEC COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE

On 19 November 2020, the Ports of St. Bernard and South Louisiana conducted their 11th Lower Mississippi River MSOC (Maritime Security Operations Center) Functional Communications Exercise. The USCG Sector New Orleans NOLASEC 2020 Exercise, led by Cdr. Eric Acosta (operations) and Lester Millet III (planning), tested and validated the following target capabilities: Communications, ICS (Incident Command System), Incident Command and Control of the MSOCs, along with Intelligence Analysis / Production. Some other exercise highlights, included the following:

- ❑ The Exercise was USCG Sector N.O. sanctioned and approved (USCG Coast Guard MTSA* Regulated facilities received their yearly exercise credit by fully participating, while testing their MARSEC changes).
- ❑ 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, USCG District 8, FBI New Orleans (Cyber Taskforce & WMD Directorate), NCTC, DHS CISA PSA N.O., DHS TSA, DHS HSI, U.S DOT- FAA, LSP LA-SAFE, City of New Orleans NOHSEP, along with the Five Lower Mississippi Deep River Ports, including local Police and Fire Departments along the Mississippi River.
- ❑ Both Physical & Cyber Threats were exercised.
- ❑ Largest NOLASEC Exercise to date and largest Louisiana Exercise for 2020.

- ❑ The very successful 2020 NOLASEC LMR Exercise comprised **262** entities, along with **335** individuals, stretching from Lower Mississippi River MM 10 Venice, LA to River MM 245 in Baton Rouge, LA. Additionally, 104 vessels were contacted within the USCG Sector N.O. COTP requested security zone.
- ❑ Tim Thomasson and His Team at Public Safety Management Group, LLC served as the Exercise Evaluator and will be preparing a Detailed After Action Report, identifying major strengths, along with recommended corrective measures for the USCG Sector Area Maritime Security Plan that will be kept on file at Sector New Orleans.

***MTSA - Maritime Transportation Security Act**

Eric and Lester would like to recognize the following agencies for their support and participation:

- ❖ InfraGard Louisiana Members Alliance
- ❖ Five LMR Deep Draft Ports: Port of St. Bernard, Port of South Louisiana, Plaquemines Port, Harbor, and Terminal District, Port of New Orleans, & Port of Greater Baton Rouge
- ❖ Public Safety Management Group (Tim Thomasson)
- ❖ USCG Sector New Orleans
- ❖ USCG MSU Baton Rouge
- ❖ USCG District 8 GOM AMSC
- ❖ FBI New Orleans (Cyber Taskforce & WMD Directorate)
- ❖ NCTC (National Counterterrorism Center)
- ❖ DHS TSA
- ❖ DHS Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)
- ❖ DHS CISA PSA New Orleans
- ❖ U.S. DOT FAA
- ❖ Louisiana State Police LA-SAFE
- ❖ MTS-ISAC (Maritime Transportation System ISAC)
- ❖ LSU Stephenson Technology Corporation
- ❖ Tulane School of Homeland Security Studies
- ❖ CAMO (Coastal & Marine Operators)
- ❖ City of New Orleans NOHSEP
- ❖ St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Dept.
- ❖ St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Dept.
- ❖ St. James Parish Sheriff's Dept.
- ❖ St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Dept.
- ❖ OHSEPS: St. Bernard Parish, St. Charles Parish, St. James Parish, and St. John the Baptist Parish
- ❖ Government of Haiti

