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PORT OF PALM BEACH RECEIVES
COAST GUARD FIVE-YEAR CERTIFICATION FOR PORT SECURITY,
WITH 'ONE-PORT, ONE-PLAN' APPROACH



Port Security Ken Hern, USCG Cmdr. Sherry Dickinson and Port Director Lori Baer

RIVIERA BEACH, Fla. – The Port of Palm Beach is one of the nation’s first ports to receive a five-year certification from the U.S. Coast Guard for port security using a “one-port, one-plan” approach.

U.S. Coast Guard Cmdr. Sherry Dickinson presented the port, and each of 11 port tenants that are participating in the joint effort, with Stage Three Five-Year letters on Friday (Oct. 15). Speaking for the Miami-based Captain on the Port, Dickinson commended the group and noted the importance of a continued commitment to ensure security.

The approval letters, following Coast Guard verification and inspection, come after the Port of Palm Beach has already complied with Stage One plan submission by Dec.31, 2003, and Stage Two full implementation by July 1, 2004.

Port Facility Security Officer Ken Hern has been leading the effort for more than a year, including development and execution of the port-wide plan and coordination of training of security officers throughout the port.

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The joint approach puts in place stricter controls for access and cargo verification while building a partnership among port users. In addition, each facility is realizing a cost savings of some \$50,000 to \$75,000 through the joint effort.

“Our port and its tenants have made it a top priority to be at the forefront industry-wide in attaining the highest levels of port security,” said Port of Palm Beach District Commission Chairwoman Priscilla Taylor, “and it is very gratifying to see this effort acknowledged with the Coast Guard approval.”

Port of Palm Beach District Commission Vice Chairman Wayne Richards commented, “This has been a tremendous team effort, and each of our tenants is to be praised for understanding the need for adoption of a new mindset on every level, from top management to workers on the docks to security officers at every gate and guard booth.”

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