

News Release

For Immediate Release

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SECURITY MEASURES UPGRADED AT PORT OF GALVESTON

GALVESTON, TEXAS (August 16, 2004) – The Port of Galveston announced today the first of many security improvements funded by Federal Port Security Grants.

A new security gate at Pier 40, along with improvements to lighting and fencing, will enhance security from piers 30 through 40 for the Port of Galveston's tenants and customers.

The new entrance and other elements of the project enables the port to secure and isolate the western portion of its property to eliminate the unauthorized entry of vehicles and persons. The implementation of these controls is critical to maintaining a secure environment for port operations.

“The Port of Galveston was like many ports in the United States before 9-11 – security was not of major importance,” said Port Director Steven M. Cernak. “Most of us were focused on increasing our cargo and cruise businesses. Now things are very different. We are now concentrating on security measures port-wide. This new gate is just the first of many efforts that will become evident in the near future.”

The \$1.2 million gate project was one of several recommendations adopted from the port's security assessment. This assessment used an advanced terrorist-

modeling technology known as AVERT (Automated Vulnerability for Risks of Terrorism), developed by the ARES Corporation.

In March 2002 the federal government approved \$92 million to fund the first round of Port Security Grants to assist seaports in mitigating security vulnerabilities.

The federal government developed the Port Security Grant Program to assist seaports in making security improvements that were unforeseen prior to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) are involved in all aspects of administering the grant program.

In this project and in subsequent rounds of the grant program, the Port of Galveston has been awarded more than \$5 million from the Port Security Grant Program to implement security improvements. Additional security projects are underway and will be completed over the next several months.

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