

News Release

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For Immediate Release

PORT OF GALVESTON AWARDED GRANT FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Port of Galveston Receives Another Federal Security Grant

Galveston, Texas...June 12, 2003...The Port of Galveston announced today that it has received a grant for \$1,421,000 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to further enhance security at the Port.

“We are pleased that once again we have been able to secure additional federal funding for security enhancements at the Port of Galveston,” stated Donald L. Schattel, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Port of Galveston. “Staff has worked diligently on securing grants for the Port of Galveston, and their success demonstrates our dedication to providing a secure and safe environment for our facilities along the Galveston waterfront, allowing our customers to grow.”

In 2002 the Port received two awards for federal funds. In June, the Port of Galveston’s application for a Federal grant for a Port Security Vulnerability Assessment was approved by the Transportation Security Administration in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Transportation for \$375,000. Then in September, 2002, another Grant Application was approved by the Transportation Security Administration and the U.S. Department of Transportation – Maritime Administration – in the amount of \$1,236,206 for physical security enhancements for the west-end of the Port of Galveston.

“The first grant in 2002 allowed the Port to retain a security consultant to conduct a comprehensive Port Safety and Vulnerability Assessment of Galveston’s Port facilities,” added Steven M. Cernak, Port Director. “That assessment identified targets, threats and developed mitigation strategies using both qualitative and quantitative assessment tools. Using this study, we have identified security-related improvements port-wide. The grant that we have received today allows us to continue implementing identified security improvements.”

Congressman Nick Lampson was involved in the allocations of these federal funds. The Ninth Congressional District, represented by Congressman Lampson, received more than \$16.5 million in critical funding to enhance security efforts at ports in the upper Texas Gulf Coast Region. “I am pleased that these ports and facilities are receiving this critical funding,” said Congressman Lampson. “Port security is a key aspect of national security and these grants are just the beginning.”

“Because security is a high priority at the Port of Galveston, we are very appreciative of the Transportation Security Administration and the U.S. Department of Transportation in recognizing our need and the importance in addressing these issues,” concluded Cernak. “Our Congressional delegation continues to communicate and work with us. The Port of Galveston appreciates their support and interest in securing this critical funding for our port.”

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