

## **Port Receives Funding for Security**

The United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently awarded the Port of Galveston over \$2 million in new security funding. This new funding was included in round two of the Port Security Grant program and distributed by the Transportation Security Administration.

“This new grant funding will compliment our award in Round One and allow us to continue our efforts to provide a secure environment for users of the Port of Galveston,” stated Steven M. Cernak, Port Director. “It has been determined that U.S. ports need at least \$400 million from the federal government to fund the latest security requirements issued by the U.S. Coast Guard. These funds will assist the Port of Galveston in fulfilling these mandates.”

The American Association of Port Authorities contends that enhancing seaport security is a top priority for national security. The Coast Guard estimates that implementing the new regulations will cost some \$1.1 billion in 2004 and close to \$6 billion during the next decade.

The Port was awarded \$2,121,000 in Round Two for security enhancements to include the East End area of the Port, the Cruise Terminal, and a relocation of the Port Police Headquarters.

The security gate in the East End will be relocated and equipped with modern surveillance equipment, cameras and lighting. Fencing will be added to secure waterside access.

New lighting and cameras will be installed in the Cruise Terminal Complex. Gates will be installed to rail and vehicle access areas. A new Waterside Cruise Terminal Protection Plan will be implemented to coordinate activities in the Galveston Channel and beyond.

The Port of Galveston Police Department will be relocated to a central area in close proximity to the cruise terminals. This building will act as the main command center for the Port and house a command center to monitor the Port entire complex.

The Round One grant awards included \$375,000 for a security assessment which has been completed. Supplemental funds were awarded in the amount of \$1,236,206 for security improvements for the West End of the Port property from Pier 30 to Pier 41. The improvements, which are currently under construction, include a security gate complex for the west end, new fencing which will define the perimeter of the west end and strategically-placed lighting.

“Sustained funding for security is vital for the Port of Galveston as we plan for our future,” added Cernak. “Our congressional delegation has supported our needs to acquire this funding and we thank them for their efforts and support. Port staff will continue to proactively seek grant funding for our security needs throughout the Port.”