



Homeland Security Institute
“Quick Look” Report
January 16, 2008
Cleveland Ohio

The Ninth Coast Guard District co-hosted the Great Lakes Small Vessel Security Summit with the Lake Erie Marine Trades Association on January 16, 2008, at the I-X Center in Cleveland, Ohio during the Cleveland Boat Expo. The invitational meeting was attended by approximately 100 small vessel stakeholders with about another 100 participants viewing the summit on a live interactive Internet web cast. This was the first of a planned series of regional summits based on a recommendation by small vessel stakeholders that was made at the DHS National Small Security Summit in June 2007. The regional summits continue stakeholder discussion of a range of issues to better secure our nation’s ports, waterways and coastal areas.

In particular, the summit sought to accomplish the following objectives:

- Inform small vessel stakeholders about security risks in the U.S. maritime domain.
- Provide a regional forum for small vessel stakeholders to discuss and present their ideas about the development of security measures to mitigate gaps in small vessel management and control in the maritime domain.
- Provide a regional forum for state, tribal and local government officials, and private sector members of the small vessel community to discuss homeland security concerns and provide their ideas on means to thwart such threats.

Speakers during the Summit:

- Keynote Speaker: Rear Admiral John Crowley Jr., Commander, Ninth Coast Guard District
- Dr. Christopher Merritt, Coast Guard Intelligence Coordination Center in Washington
- LT John Taylor, America’s Waterway Watch, USCG Headquarters (CG-55302)
- Mr. Robert Gauvin, Coast Guard Office of Vessel Activities (CG-543)

Later in the day panel members, including representative stakeholder agencies, industries, associations and private citizens participated in a panel discussion addressing security concerns and issues for recreational and commercial vessels, and state, tribal and local government interests.

Panelists included:

- Mr. Ken Alvey, President of the Lake Erie Marine Trades Association (Moderator)
- Mr. William Engfer, Homeland Security and Strategic Coordinator for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Law Enforcement
- Mr. William Vedra, Jr., Executive Director, Ohio Homeland Security



- Mr. David R. Pelfrey, Director of Marine Operations, Great Lakes Air and Marine Branch, CBP
- Captain Richard A. Brown, North Coast Marine Services
- Mr. J. Thomas Pascoe, Chairman of the Ohio Waterways Safety Council

The day continued with a facilitated scenario-based workshop session. It provided the context for an analytic discussion of means or methods with which to deter, defeat or mitigate the consequences of water-borne improvised explosive device (WBIED) attacks, and consideration of issues and measures relating to radiological and nuclear threats.

Major themes which came out of the panel discussion, scenario workshop and question and answer sessions included:

- Involve professional small boat operators as homeland security partners in the maritime environment.
- Use existing credentials rather than create new ones with the expense and trouble involved.
- U.S. Coast Guard, Customs and Border Protection, and other state, tribal and local homeland security and law enforcement officials should tend to those duties in manners which do not unnecessarily inconvenience or alienate the boating public.
- Increase education, reporting and outreach activities such as the America's Waterway Watch.
- Build a culture of partnership and trust within and across the public and private sector boating community.
- Continue to enhance coordination, cooperation and communications between Canadian, federal, state, tribal, local agencies and the boating public.

The day concluded with an open plenary in which participants shared thoughts about the Summit and a way forward. Participants expressed satisfaction in the Summit, and suggested that future meetings could be improved by providing more of the background materials at the USCG NSVSS web site well in advance of the meeting. They suggested highlighting the results of the National Summit, and providing feedback regarding the results of the Summit meetings to participants and stakeholders. Attendees also suggested that programs devote more time to open discussions using panels and having more scenario workshop sessions to explore the issues.
