Port Fourchon, LA
Greater Lafourche Port Commission
Lafourche Parish, Louisiana

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INNOVATIVE PRACTICE

Port Fourchon, LA Uses Grants to Integrate Maritime Domain Awareness

SUMMARY

The Port of Fourchon in Louisiana, which is governed by the Greater Lafourche Port Commission (GLPC), used Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) funds to create an integrated Maritime Domain Awareness System to protect against threats to the port and assist in emergency response operations.

DESCRIPTION

Lafourche Parish in southern Louisiana contains a significant portion of the United States' oil infrastructure—including Port Fourchon, which services roughly 20 percent of the Nation's oil supply and 90 percent of the deep-water activity in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico. To protect this critical

Port Fourchon services roughly 20 percent of the Nation's oil supply and 75 percent of off-shore oil along the gulf coast.

infrastructure, the Greater Lafourche Port Commission created the C-4 (Command, Control, Collaboration, and Communications) Maritime Domain Awareness System.

Port Fourchon developed the system after identifying the need for an integrated platform to adequately address the threats and hazards that it faced. The Commission worked with local public and private stakeholders—including the police department, parish emergency response personnel, and private sector partners—to design and develop the C-4 system.

The C-4 system integrates multiple video, radar, weather, and law enforcement data feeds into a single platform to provide shared operational awareness to Port Fourchon and its local stakeholders, as well as state and Federal partners. The port uses the C-4 system to assist in incident management, suspicious activity detection and identification, and steady-state operations and communications. Additionally, the C-4 system allows port officials to model vulnerabilities and run real time "what-if" scenarios where operators review various situations to forecast how each component of the port would react.

After evacuating Port Fourchon and surrounding low-lying areas during Hurricane Isaac in 2012, the port's staff used the C-4 system to remotely monitor water and flooding levels and estimate damage. Lafourche Parish emergency response officials also monitored the floodgates and levees that protect much of the region. Using this information, officials prepositioned response assets and returned the port to normal operations within three days.

LLIS.gov defines Innovative Practice as successful and innovative procedures, techniques, or methods developed and/or implemented by the emergency management or response community to adapt to changing circumstances that others may wish to emulate.

The C-4 system also assisted response efforts following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Responders and cleanup officials used the system to track and coordinate the deployment of 117 miles of oil containment booms along the coast in Lafourche Parish, helping to protect its fragile ecological environment.

INVESTMENT INFORMATION
Since 2007, Port Fourchon has invested $10.3 million in PSGP funds to create and maintain the system. The Greater Lafourche Port Commission continually invests in the system to enhance capability and resilience.

REFERENCES
Port Fourchon Wins 2013 AAPA Information Technology Award
http://www.portfourchon.com/explore.cfm/20131009itaward/