



Wilmington a pilot for smart card Security Technology

entrance will soon accommodate the new card access system. The main gate will include three entry lanes, two exit lanes, and a special permit lane. Each of the seven lanes will be upgraded with proximity

about the security upgrades and to create a customer based security committee.

“We invite our customers to be involved in shaping the use of the TWIC card at the Port,” Boles said. He explained, “This is our opportunity to design how security will enhance rather than interrupt business in the future.”

The Port of Wilmington will soon be one of the first seaports in the nation to implement the national Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) card, a technologically advanced identification card to monitor vehicular traffic and personnel entering and leaving the Port. This one single TWIC card, which will be issued to all maritime and transportation personnel nationwide, will eventually enable authorized access to any U.S. transportation facility.

card access; capability for biometric thumbprint readers; intercoms connecting gatehouses to security personnel; cameras for driver identification; rear cameras for vehicle tag identification; and security barrier gates.

The Port is partnering with the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Maritime Exchange of the Delaware River and Bay in a pilot program to bring TWIC cards to the Delaware River region. TSA, one of 22 agencies within the nation’s Homeland Security agency, announced this spring that regional pilot programs would be launched in an effort to field test various smart card technologies.

Diamond State Port Corporation Security Manager Bill Boles has instituted a chain of contact procedures for the Port’s emergency response plan. Boles is also on the Managing Board of the Port Security Committee for the Port of Philadelphia (COTP). This position puts him in contact with many agencies in a coordinated effort to protect against terrorism – the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS), the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Customs, TSA and Maritime Administration (MARAD), along with the State of Delaware Anti-Terrorism Task Force, and regional emergency management entities.

Employees, customers and contractors of the Port currently use bar-coded identification cards to enter the Port complex via land. Once the TWIC ID card is in place, the Port’s security measures will include several of the latest identification technologies including biometric scanning and photo ID systems.

Boles commented, “These measures are to ensure that current and potential customers of the Port feel even safer doing business in Wilmington.” Renovations to the main gate are scheduled for completion this summer, he noted.

The renovations that are currently underway at the Port’s main gate

On July 8, Port customers and tenants met at the Port of Wilmington with Port security and TSA representatives to learn

Cargo viewed with “X-ray” vision

Other security enhancements at the Port of Wilmington include a system to detect contraband within containerized cargo. The Mobile Vehicle And Cargo Inspection System (VACIS) is an instrument manufactured by SAIC that scans a container at the rate of about one foot per second using a gamma ray imaging technique. Gamma rays are similar to X-rays but emit less radiation and are faster and less costly to use.

Mobile VACIS can protect against:

- Consumables being tampered with
- Stolen goods being loaded onto ships
- Contraband coming off of ships
- Immigrants seeking illegal entry into the U.S.
- Terrorists gaining secret entry into the U.S.

Infrastructure improvements such as these have been made possible by Homeland Security grants awarded to the U.S. Customs team at Port of Wilmington in January.