Seaport Security & Law Enforcement

Presented by
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Port of Houston Authority
Port Security & Emergency Operations Manager
Port of Houston Overview

- 1st in U.S foreign tonnage
- 2nd in total tonnage
- 222 million tons handled
- More than 7,700 vessel calls
- 150 public/private terminals
- 7,057 ships annually
- 150,000 barges
The Risks

- 53 mile long ship channel
- 2nd largest petrochemical complex in the world
- Large population in close proximity
- Tropical weather
The History

Texas Water Code, Title IV, Chapter 49.216 -
‘A district may contract for or employ its own peace officers with power to make arrests when necessary to prevent or abate the commission of:’

- Personnel initially security officers
- To remain armed, requirement of being peace officer
- Existing personnel sent to LE academy
PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
PORT SECURITY & EMERGENCY OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

JUNE 1, 2008
TOTAL STAFF: 72
The Mission

• Prevent loss or harm from threats to health, welfare, and assets
• Monitor, evaluate and implement programs for continued security improvement
• Be proactive in emergency response planning to ensure operational recovery
• Maximize port security while expediting the flow of commerce
Responsibilities

• Enforcement of MTSA regulations and state statutes at PHA-owned facilities located along Houston Ship Channel
• Operate a 24/7 police, security and marine fire dispatch center
• Responsible for the activation, manning, maintenance of Port Coordination Center
• Mobile Command Center
Local Challenges

Multiple Jurisdictions
Federal Challenges

Multiple Jurisdictions

[Images of various federal agencies]
Overall Challenges

- Certification – keeping current
- MTSA - expanding knowledge
- Compensation – staying competitive
What Lies Ahead?

• Regional initiatives
  ➢ Houston Ship Channel Security District
  ➢ Regional fusion centers – all hazards awareness
• A greater role in maritime security
• Expanding government compliance
• More grant money for first responder initiatives
Steel Leading

The Port of Houston Authority