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Date: 8/30/2007 3:15 PM
Subject: NASCO Bulletin: US Cargo Pre-Screening Extends to Panama
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NASCO Bulletin
Monitoring Major Transportation Developments in North America

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Thursday, August 30, 2007

NASCO staff monitors major developments affecting the future of the freight transportation system in North America, highlighting their significance to the NASCOSuperCorridor and NASCOCoalition members, partners and supporters.

Below, U.S. Customs and Border Protection announce, and office of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, announces it has extended its container cargo pre-screening security program known as the Container Security Initiative, or CSI, to Panama. The other major foreign seaport security initiative of the U.S., the Megaports Initiative, is the active effort by the U.S. Government to extend homeland security outreach as far out and away from U.S. domestic borders as possible.

U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
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NEWS RELEASE

U.S. DEPT. OF HOMELAND SECURITY

OFFICE OF U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

New CSI Port in Balboa, Panama Becomes Operational

08/27/2007

Washington - U.S. Customs and Border Protection announced today that the Port of Balboa became the 52nd operational Container Security Initiative port to target and pre-screen maritime cargo containers destined for U.S. ports.

CBP joined the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration and the government of Panama in signing a Declaration of Principles February 12 to help prevent smuggling of nuclear and other radioactive material through implementation of the Container Security Initiative and Nuclear Security Administration's Megaports Initiative.

"Securing global trade is a major priority for CBP, so I am pleased to be partnering with Panama," said CBP Commissioner W. Ralph Basham. "We are committed to using high-tech equipment and smarter, more secure containers to safeguard the supply chain, but realize that cooperation from our friends around the globe is our most potent weapon."

Panama is a key location for transshipments of trade vessels that are destined for the United States. The initiation of CSI screening operations in Panama will give CBP critical access in Central and South America to scan cargo on maritime vessels before they enter the United States.

The Port of Balboa is one of three ports scheduled to become operational this fiscal year. The Panamanian ports of Colon and Manzanillo are projected to become operational by September 2007.

CBP's Container Security Initiative, launched weeks after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, is a cooperative effort with host country governments to identify and screen high-risk shipments before they leave participating ports.

More than 80 percent of all cargo containers destined for U.S. shores originate in or are transshipped through 52 CSI ports in North, South and Central America, Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Under the Megaports Initiative, Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration will provide specialized equipment to all CSI ports in Panama designed to indicate the presence of special nuclear and other radioactive materials in containerized cargo, thereby enhancing Panama's capability to deter, detect and interdict illicit shipments of nuclear and other radioactive materials at its ports.

The initiative is currently operational in eig
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