



**April 2003**

## **AROUND THE PORT . . .**

**As a precaution, the U.S. Coast Guard has raised its terrorist threat level for the San Pedro Bay ports from Level 1 to Level 2, ramping up already-tight security measures.**

At the higher security level, visitors and vendors are being escorted through port facilities. Terminals are inspecting deliveries, conducting random searches of vehicles, and adding extra security patrols. Cargo continued to move uninterrupted, even as the Coast Guard increased inspections of vessels and their crews. Local authorities were sharing intelligence on potential threats.

“We participate with several working groups to ensure that if any threat information is received that it is evaluated and acted upon in the quickest and most appropriate manner,” said Port of Long Beach Executive Director **Richard Steinke**.

**Shipping terminals at the port handled the equivalent of 322,606 twenty-foot-long container cargo units in February, a decline of 11.1 percent from February 2002.**

Slowed by the Feb. 1 Chinese New Year shutdown in Asia, inbound container cargo traffic fell 21.5 percent to the equivalent of 158,863 twenty-foot-long container units, compared with higher-than-usual numbers for the same period a year ago.

This February, outbound container cargo fell 18.8 percent to 67,645 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), compared with February 2002. With the weakness in exports, the number of empty containers shipped through the port jumped 24.2 percent to 96,098 TEUs. Most of the empties were headed overseas.

Factoring out the February 2002 totals of Maersk Sealand (which stopped calling in Long Beach in August), the port’s “same” terminals

reported a 15 percent increase in overall container volume in February, largely because of gains in shipments of empty containers. The number of inbound containers fell 2.9 percent in February. Exports rose 8.1 percent. Empties climbed 77.3 percent.

**One more and the port will have a triple “three-peat.” For the eighth consecutive year, the readers of Cargonews Asia have voted the Port of Long Beach the best seaport in North America.**

Based on a poll of more than 13,000 readers, the newspaper honored the industry’s best service providers at the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Asian Freight Industry Awards March 14 in Singapore.

The newspaper also named Long Beach Container Terminal Inc., the Orient Overseas Container Line subsidiary that operates the Pier F facility, as the best container terminal operator in North America for a sixth straight year.

**The port has launched “Healthy Harbor Long Beach,” a comprehensive environmental initiative building on recent successes that have improved air and water quality and expanded wildlife habitats throughout the port area.**

The campaign will be identified with its own logo – a light green pelican and light blue waves under a yellow sun set inside a deep blue field shaped like an “H.” The logo will be used on brochures, posters and other port materials to help strengthen the identity of environmental programs currently administered by the port and several new efforts that will be announced over the next year.

**The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners has approved the first element of the Healthy Harbor initiative, a comprehensive Air Quality Improvement Program.**

The Air Quality Improvement Program exceeds state and federal requirements because it aims to reduce diesel emissions from tenant- and port-owned vehicles and equipment as well as locomotives -- so-called off-road sources that are less regulated by the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency and the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

The port will conduct at least one pilot project in cooperation with one or more terminal operators to study the feasibility of using liquid natural gas or other alternative fuels in yard tractors, forklifts or other heavy-duty terminal equipment.

As part of a \$2 million program, the port is retrofitting yard tractors at the Hanjin and California United Terminals facilities with diesel oxidation catalysts to reduce emissions.

The port is launching a major study of “cold-ironing,” whereby ships

would use shore-side electricity rather than internal combustion power while at berth. The port will require tenants to prepare plans to significantly reduce emissions by 2007. It is actively promoting and funding efforts to develop advanced technology for truck scheduling and freeway message systems that will also help reduce truck congestion and idling.

### **The Board of Harbor Commissioners has approved an amendment to the lease with Ultramar Inc. that extends until the end of this year the deadline for Ultramar to replace a petroleum coke storage shed.**

Under terms of the amendment, Ultramar will construct a new shed with a minimum capacity of 50,000 metric tons to replace an existing 28,000 metric-ton shed on Pier G, and replace coke-handling equipment to comply with air quality regulations.

Under a 10-year lease that began in 2001, Ultramar was to have replaced the shed by June 30, 2002, but the project has been delayed by corporate changes and problems with the removal of lead-based paint.

### **A delegation of top port officials traveled to Washington to convince Congress and the Bush administration to help fund construction of a replacement for the Gerald Desmond Bridge and other vital projects.**

The officials included Harbor Commissioners **John Hancock**, **Roy Hearrean**, **John Calhoun** and **Doris Topsy-Elvord**, port Executive Director **Steinke** and port Director of Governmental Affairs **Gus Hein**. They asked Congress for \$18 million in the 2003-04 federal budget for engineering studies, and a commitment for \$352 million in matching funds through the next six years to replace the Desmond Bridge and make improvements to the Long Beach (710) Freeway. Construction could begin next year.

Port officials also sought \$3.8 billion for long-range improvements to the 710 Freeway (in addition to a current re-paving project), and an additional \$20 million grant for security improvements.

### **Pacific Container Terminal has taken delivery on two Chinese-made gantry cranes that are among the largest in the world, able to reach across an as-yet-to-be-built generation of vessels 24 containers wide.**

The largest ships calling at the port now are 17 containers wide. PCT's cranes are slightly larger than the new cranes at Hanjin's Pier T terminal, which can reach across 22 containers.

PCT's new cranes, built by Shanghai's Zhenhua Port Machinery Co.

(ZPMC), will be used at the terminal's southern wharf, at berth J268. They are each capable of lifting a 65-ton container or 100 tons of bulk cargo.

**Caltrans will be closing the southern end of the Long Beach (710) Freeway on selected weekends – from Friday night through Monday mornings – through June as part of a \$20 million project to rehabilitate and re-pave the heavily traveled roadway.**

The freeway, between Pacific Coast Highway and the San Diego (405) Freeway, will be closed for 55-hour periods, with complete closures between 11 p.m. Friday and 7 a.m. Saturday; partial closures from 7 a.m. Saturday to 10 p.m. Sunday; and complete closure from 10 p.m. Sunday to 5 a.m. Mondays.

The closures are scheduled for the weekends of April 4, April 25, May 2, May 9, May 16, May 30, June 6, June 13, June 20 and June 27. The closures will not be in effect Easter weekend, Memorial Day weekend or the weekend of the Toyota Grand Prix.

**Sea Launch has lifted a precautionary grounding of its satellite launches after completing an investigation into a malfunction of a rocket similar to the Russian-made one it uses.**

The next launch is scheduled for May, and will place the satellite TV Dish Network's Echo Star IX satellite into orbit. Sea Launch, which is homeported at the Port of Long Beach, has four other launches scheduled this year.

**Carnival Cruise Line is moving its operations to Long Beach from San Pedro, with its first vessel, the 2,000-passenger *Ecstasy*, scheduled to call at a newly completed passenger terminal next to the Queen Mary on April 14.**

**Following a safety audit, Cal OSHA (the state Division of Occupational Safety and Health) has recognized the Morton Salt facility on Pier F for attaining Voluntary Protection Plan "Star Status."**

Cal OSHA's VPP certification recognizes employers whose occupational safety and health programs are exemplary and meet specific guidelines, which include management commitment, employee involvement, work site analysis, hazard prevention and control, and safety and health training.

**Because of the conflict in Iraq, the World Trade Center Association has rescheduled the 14th Annual Hall of Fame Dinner, hosted by broadcaster Larry King, from March 27 to June 25.**

The event will honor **Timothy Hoelter** of Harley-Davidson, **Robert Nardelli** of Home Depot, Sir **Richard Branson** of Virgin Management Ltd, and lifetime achievement honoree **Robert Kleist** of Evergreen. The dinner will be held at the Los Angeles Center Studios in downtown Los Angeles. For more information, call (323) 904-4400.

**The Long Beach Chamber of Commerce will present its annual Economic Outlook Conference beginning at 7:30 a.m. April 3 at the Westin Long Beach Hotel.**

At the luncheon, the chamber will honor ACTA CEO **James Hankla** as its Entrepreneur of the Year. For more information, call (562) 432-8128.

**Stephanie Williams of the California Trucking Association will be the speaker for the Harbor Transportation Club dinner April 3 at the Reef Restaurant in Long Beach. For more information, call (562) 434-7393.**

**Donald Snyder of Mattel Toys will be the speaker for the Los Angeles Transportation Club luncheon April 8 at the Norwalk Marriott Hotel. For more information, call (562) 856-9197.**

**The Propeller Club will host a panel discussion of the state's ballast water management program at 8 a.m. April 9 at the offices of Keesal, Young & Logan, 400 Oceangate in Long Beach. For more information, call (818) 951-2842.**

**The Propeller Club's 41<sup>st</sup> annual golf tournament will begin at 11 a.m. April 14 at the Candlewood Country Club in Whittier. For more information, call (818) 951-2842.**

**The Propeller Club's annual Secretary's Day Harbor Cruise will be held April 23, and feature a two-hour tour of the San Pedro Bay ports.**

The motor yacht *Spirit* will depart at 11:30 a.m. from Dock 9 north of Parkers Lighthouse in Shoreline Village. For more information, call (818) 951-2842.

**The International Business Association will hold its annual Salute to Education luncheon on April 30 at the Long Beach Hilton Hotel.**

The event, which begins with an Executive Shadow program in the morning, will kick off the World Trade Week festivities in May. For more information, call (562) 432-8128.

**The Steamship Association of Southern California's 54<sup>th</sup> annual**

dinner dance will be held May 3 at the Century Plaza Hotel in Century City. For more information, call (213) 627-0634, ext. 204.

#### PORT PEOPLE. . .

**John R. “Jack” Jeffrey, who helped Orient Overseas Container Line design and operate the Long Beach Container Terminal on Pier F, has died in Palm Desert. He was 69.**

The Hong Kong-based U. S. States & Ports Association has elected Edward Yau, the port’s Hong Kong overseas representative, as its vice president and secretary.

**Family Service of Long Beach has honored port Trade and Maritime Services Director Wilma Powell and her husband, Long Beach firefighter LeVon Powell, for community volunteer work and service in strengthening family life.**

**Yvonne R. Smith has returned to the port as communications director, succeeding Fausto Capobianco who resigned.**

Smith, formerly Yvonne Avila, was the port’s communications director for 10 years before leaving in 2000 to head public relations for Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo.

#### **E-MAIL NEWS BULLETINS!**

**The port issues a free Internet version of Tie Lines and e-mail “news flashes” on breaking news.**

**To sign up, send a blank e-mail to [polb-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:polb-subscribe@yahoogroups.com),**

**or go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/polb/>**

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