

What is the Port Security Committee?

The Captain of the Port is responsible for establishing a Port Security Committee and developing and exercising Port Security Plans. The committee is comprised of government agencies, commercial facilities and industries, and individuals interested in preserving the security of our shared waterfront areas. The committee will strive to build an awareness of our port activities, identify risks, improve security measures, improve communication, and to coordinate a rapid response to changes in threats to our security.

What is the purpose of the Port Security Committee?

The purpose of the Port Security Committee is to provide a framework to communicate, identify risks, and coordinate resources to mitigate threats and consequences. The Coast Guard will work with DOD, other federal, state, and local agencies, and owners and operators of vessels and facilities, including port authorities and service providers to and within a port. They will cooperate to detect, deter, prevent, and respond to attacks against U.S. territory, population, and Marine Transportation System (MTS) components by those intent on causing mass destruction or disruption. Disruptions to be considered include those resulting with economic, public safety, environmental or defense operations impacts.

What are the role and responsibilities of the Port Security Committee?

The Port Security Committee will:

- Help coordinate planning and other port security activities;
- Help make use of, and disseminate the information made available under existing security parameters;
- Make recommendations concerning initial security evaluations and port vulnerability assessments by identifying the unique characteristics of each port;
- Assist in the review of port vulnerability assessments developed by the Coast Guard
- Help develop the Port Security Plan and annually review all maritime security plans for each local port authority, waterfront facility operator, or operator of a public or commercial structure located within or adjacent to the marine environment;
- Assist the Captain of the Port in conducting a field exercise to verify the effectiveness of the Port Security Plan

What is the difference between the Port Security Committee and Harbor Safety Committee?

Unlike the Port Security Committee, The Harbor Safety Committee of the San Francisco Bay Region was created under the mandate of the California Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act (OSPR). The goals of OSPRA are to improve the prevention, removal, abatement, response, containment, and clean up and mitigation of oil spills in the marine waters of California. The Act created harbor safety committees for the major harbors of the state of California to plan “for the safe navigation and operation of tankers, barges, and other vessels within each harbor... [by preparing] ... a harbor safety plan, encompassing all vessel traffic within the harbor.”

Harbor Safety Committees and Port Security Committees are both viable forums for addressing safety and security interests within port and waterways and they address different aspects of port safety and security. The Port Security Committee will provide a framework to communicate, identify risks, and coordinate resources to mitigate threats and consequences. The threats include any attacks against U.S. territory, population, and MTS components by those intent on causing mass destruction or disruption. Disruptions to be considered include those resulting with economic, public safety, environmental or defense operations impacts.

What is the Port Security Plan?

The Port Security Plan is the result of planning and coordination by the Port Security Committee. Information

gathered through the risk assessment system, action undertaken under various Maritime Security Levels, identification of key agencies and stakeholders, communication plans, training and exercises, and what to do in the event of a threat or an actual event will be included in the plan. The Port Security Plan has elements of both prevention and response plan. Similar to other contingency plans, development of the Port Security Plan is a continuing process. After the original is developed, it should continue to be reassessed, strategies redesigned and implemented and then evaluated for their effect.

How does the Port Security Plan fit and relate to other existing security plans?

The Port Security Plan fits into a “family of plans” concept that will also include the development of security plans for certain marine facilities and vessels using U.S. Ports. Together the execution of these plans ensures the security of the nation’s MTS. The Port Security Plan will be developed by the Port Security Committee to integrate with other security plans. In addition, the Port Security Plan will provide a means to address issues not covered by other plans.

If you have additional questions, please contact LCDR Charles Srioudom at 510-437-2763.

PORT SECURITY COMMITTEE
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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