



## TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE NEWS

A compendium of discussion at the monthly meeting by the Trade Facilitation Committee Of the MARINE EXCHANGE of the San Francisco Bay Region – John A. Leitner, Chair  
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### December 2001

**Chairman** Leitner opened with Holiday wishes. He then stated that MISNA, which was founded by the SF Marine Exchange, has entered into an agreement with the US Navy to provide seven-day advance notice of ship arrivals. MISNA is comprised of maritime associations at ten major US seaports as well as Vancouver, BC. This same service might be provided to the Coast Guard. The committee meetings next year will be held at the new World Trade Club facility that is bayside of the old ferry building. Schedule is for the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month except for December.

**U.S. Customs** announced that importers who currently import wearing apparel through the Port of San Francisco (2801/2809) might participate in a new Quota Preprocessing Program (QPP) prototype beginning 1 January 2002. Under this prototype certain quota entries will be processed through Customs prior to the arrival of the carrier, provided certain criteria is met. A written application must be submitted. A participant may be suspended from the prototype and any future phase of the program if found guilty of misconduct or unacceptable compliance risk.

An additional five staff retired from the Oakland operation along with two officers. In all, over 250 years of customs experience is

going with the December and January retirees. In January there will be about 90 positions unfilled, with permission to hire five people. The two CES contracts are now ready for bid.

A bill passed that would send additional resources to staff the Northern Border. Currently six people from California with six more from Hawaii are going for one month at a time.

The Commissioner is working on an anti-terrorism and security agreement for mutual security of the Northern Border. Cross-border importers with an approved security program can expect expedited border processing. Seaport security will also see some firms taking the responsibility for their own compliance. This could include carriers who go to "source" countries having increased risk and accountability for their cargo and their vessels. The Commissioner asked the trade community to assist in the security process and to encourage their customers to do the same, as we are in it together.

Homeland Security is still being defined, with varying proposals over their function, which could include making the decisions on various benefits such as green cards, student visas, etc.

**Banking** added that since the terrorist attack, the government's list of bad guys is constantly changing. This makes it more important than ever for every party in the transaction to know whom

they are dealing with. . With the increased concern on import and export, it might be a good time to develop web links between the Marine Exchange and other trade participants, especially the banking industry, via IFSA. The chairman will contact IFSA regarding this.

**Coast Guard** Commandant Adm. James M. Loy stated that maritime security has to be balanced with the needs to keep commerce moving. The country must find a way to facilitate commerce in a secure way, perhaps with one-stop inspection by all federal agencies done at the same time at one site.

**CBFANC** reported that new directors have been elected by the membership, with officers being elected by the board next month. The highly acclaimed education program will continue, although Customs can not participate as fully as before until the alert level is reduced. Brokers and importers need to develop written procedures to know what is in their facilities and to be able to identify the differences associated with suspect freight or transactions.

Attending: Alan Steinbrugge, & Bruce McBride, Marine Exchange; Alice Rigdon & Francean Rible, US Customs Service; Fred Higdon, CBFANC; Fred Hosking, Hoyt Shepston; Louis Andrade; Glenn Colville, Comerica Bank; Ted Rausch, Ted L Rausch Co; Chaired by John Leitner, Byrnes.