

SECURING

Our Nation's Waterways

Law enforcement personnel at the state and local levels are engaging in a wide range of maritime security activities as they partner with federal agencies in the war on terrorism. Activities these officers support range from routine patrol functions to the boarding of large merchant ships. With the increased level of partnerships between state and local law enforcement agencies with the Coast Guard and other federal law enforcement agencies in the area of maritime security, there is a corresponding need to develop a training program to enhance the ability of state marine patrol agencies to effectively partner with U.S. Coast Guard, in support of the enforcement of safety and security zones.

Lt. Colonel Don Holway, Major Dennis Post, Lt. Roger Young, Investigator Larry Jernstedt, Officer Louis Hinds, Officer Grant Burton with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission assisted the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators' Homeland Security Committee in developing just such a program – Introduction to Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE-100). For their efforts, the officers were recently honored with certificates of appreciation. Ted Morgan, chief executive officer of STS International, and Duane Bedell, director the National Terrorism Preparedness Institute, presented the awards to the officers.

MLE-100 consists of two major components. The first component is a six-hour, nine-module computer-based training (CBT) program that provides students with

a basic understanding of maritime law enforcement operations involving commercial vessels. The second component is a video-based virtual training program. This aspect of the training provides the student with the opportunity to apply the knowledge gained in the CBT program in a simulated operational environment.

MLE-100, developed by STS International, is a cooperative effort involving the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Charleston, S.C.; the Coast Guard Maritime Law Enforcement Academy, Charleston, S.C.; the National Terrorism Preparedness Institute, St. Petersburg, Fla.; and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators. MLE-100 training provides maritime security and law enforcement personnel with an introduction to maritime law enforcement operations and basic aspects of maritime operations.

Development of MLE-100 is the first stage of a project to create a series of training programs that will serve to enhance the capability of state and local law enforcement officers in providing another layer of defense of the nation's maritime transportation system. Activities to support creation of the second course in the series, Tactical Small Boat Operations (MLE-200), are currently under way.

Founded in 1993, STS International is a systems engineering, integration and production company with a proven record of accomplishment in providing services, training and innovative security solutions for the Department of Defense, federal agencies and commercial industry.

The National Terrorism Preparedness Institute strives to prepare the nation's civilian and military first responders to survive and mitigate the consequences of terrorist use of weapons of mass destruction. NTPI provides conventional classes with hands on components, distance learning via the Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency Preparedness Network and distance learning broadcasts via satellite. ■



(Left to right) Investigator Larry Jernstedt, Lt. Roger Young, Officer Louis Hinds, Officer Grant Burton and Major Dennis Post received certificates of appreciation for their efforts in developing a maritime law enforcement training program.

Photo submitted