



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Maritime Exchange President Comments on the Status of Local Port Security Efforts

*Cites **TRACS** cargo manifest system as important  
to local maritime risk assessment*

*Philadelphia, PA – Remarks by Dennis Rochford at a Press Availability event at the U.S. Coast Guard MSO/Group Philadelphia office on July 1, 2004. Dennis Rochford is President of the Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay, a non-profit trade association representing the tri-state commercial maritime business community. Mr. Rochford participated in the event along with the Coast Guard Captain of the Port, Jonathon Sarubbi and other industry leaders. Following are his remarks.*

On behalf of the regional port, the Maritime Exchange has worked diligently with its members – primarily the steamship lines and their agents as well as the port facility operators – over the last year to help them achieve compliance with the new regulations. We are pleased to learn that 100% of the port operators in our area have completed the requirements and received their authorizations to continue operations from the Coast.

In addition to helping its members with understanding these complex regulations and preparing vessel and facility security plans, the Exchange is a direct participant in the overall effort to improve overall port security in this region. The organization operates the regional maritime intelligence database, known as Maritime On-Line. Through this system, the Exchange coordinates and distributes vessel movement schedules and reports, and distributes them not only to the business community, but

also to local representatives of various law enforcement agencies and those based in Washington, DC – such as the Office of Naval Intelligence.

Through its TRACS system, the Exchange captures 100% of all commercial cargo manifest information and transmits it electronically to Customs and Border Protection as well as makes it available to local Coast Guard and other partners in the transportation/supply chain security process.

In recognition of the critical nature of this electronic system, the New Jersey Department of Transportation recently approved a \$100,000 grant for the Exchange to enhance its electronic 96-hour advanced notice of vessel arrival system to meet emerging Coast Guard/Customs and Border Protection requirements.

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