CIMES UPSV featured at the DHS S&T 2014 Innovation Showcase.
Dr. Kevin Kelly, Deputy Director, CIMES, met with DHS stakeholders and law enforcement practitioners at the February 2014 DHS S&T Innovation Showcase, to discuss the utility of the Center’s Unmanned Port Security Vessel (UPSV), to provide port mapping and enhanced situational awareness during maritime events. Developed by Dr. Brian Bingham, CIMES researcher, and a team of students from the University of Hawaii, the UPSV was created to conduct surveillance and to provide situational awareness when it may be too dangerous or unsafe for divers and emergency responders. On display at the Innovation Showcase, the twin-hulled, battery powered vessel can be used to map the seafloor in high resolution, photograph critical infrastructure below and above the waterline, detect chemical leaks or spills and relay real-time video. To learn more about CIMES UPSV, please visit the following weblink: http://www.cimes.hawaii.edu/UPSV.

Dr. Hugh Roarty, Research Project Manager, participates in a planning meeting to test state and national alert and notification procedures during a maritime crisis situation. Dr. Hugh Roarty, Research Project Manager, Rutgers University and CSR researcher, recently participated in a planning meeting, hosted by Mr. Brian Oniell, New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (NJOHSP), to develop a maritime crisis scenario and exercise designed to test the alert and notification procedures of military, federal, state and local agencies. The test will incorporate the use of Rutgers HF Radar and coastal radar systems to detect and track vessels in the approaches to the New York Harbor. The multi-agency exercise will take place in late April 2014. CSR representatives and students have participated in past NJOHSP coordinated emergency response training events, including a tabletop exercise focused on strategic and tactical approaches to ensure unified command during catastrophic events, and in the jointly coordinated USCG preparedness for response exercise program (PREP) - table top exercises (PREP-TTX), designed to address maritime crisis events involving a broad range of New York and New Jersey local, municipal, state and federal emergency response agencies and environmental groups.
Kai Trepte and Jim Rice, MIT Center for Transportation and Logistics, publish article on port capacity bottlenecks and resilience in the International Journal of Shipping and Transport Logistics. CSR researchers Jim Rice and Kai Trepte from the MIT Center for Transportation and Logistics, have authored an article entitled An initial exploration of port capacity bottlenecks in the USA port system and the implications on resilience, to be published in the upcoming 2014 Volume 6, No. 3 issue of the International Journal of Shipping and Transport Logistics. The article discusses the sensitivity of the U.S. port system to adverse events and disruptions to the supply chain. The researchers highlight the need to harden ports and decrease recovery times when failures do occur, to increase the resilience of the port system as a whole.

Thomas Wakeman and Jon Miller, Stevens Institute of Technology, publish report entitled Lessons from Hurricane Sandy for Port Resilience. Dr. Thomas Wakeman, Deputy Director Davidson Laboratory and Dr. Jon Miller, Research Assistant Professor, Stevens Institute of Technology, prepared a report on lessons gleaned from Hurricane Sandy and the storm’s impact on port resilience. The report was supported by the Research Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), a research component of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The report relates that while the Port of New York and New Jersey, and the corresponding waterways were opened after a week-long closure, numerous terminals and facilities did not resume their operations for several weeks following the landfall of Hurricane Sandy. The report highlights interviews with key port stakeholders to identify the circumstances that led to storm-related impacts and operational recovery in the port. The project reviewed the existing design codes for infrastructure and attempted to identify how building codes could be improved to enhance port resiliency. To download and review the report entitled Lessons from Hurricane Sandy for Port Resilience, please visit the University Transportation Research Center website at http://www.utrc2.org/research/projects/hurricane-sandy-port-resilience.

STUDENTS IN THE FIELD:

Ms. Danielle Holden, DHS 2011 CGD Maritime Systems Fellow and 2010 Summer Research Institute Alumni, (pictured left) has accepted a position as an Environmental and Navigational Risk Analyst for DNV GL Oil & Gas in Houston, TX. Danielle’s responsibilities will include oil and gas spill risk assessments and marine risk assessments related to terminals and oil and gas transport, and will include assessing risk related to the use of LNG as fuel for vessels. Mr. Hector Pacheco Gonzalez, 2011 Summer Research Institute Alumni, is currently employed as a Systems Engineer at Raytheon Space and Airborne Systems in Ft. Wayne, IN. Ms. Grace Python, DHS 2012 CGD Maritime Systems Fellow and 2012 Summer Research Institute Alumni, is currently working as a Research Associate at Stevens Institute of Technology, and is conducting research in support of the USCG. Mr. Walter Semi, 2010 Summer Research Institute Alumni, is employed as a Firmware Engineer with Crestron and recently completed a Master’s degree in Software Engineering from Monmouth University. Ms. Tanaira Cullens, is completing her Master’s of Science degree in Environmental Science and Policy at Johns Hopkins University, and Mr. Hasan Shahid, 2011 Summer Research Insitute Alumni, has been awarded a DHS Career Development Grant to continue his studies on the Master’s Degree level in Maritime Systems and Security at Stevens Institute of Technology.

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