Dear CSR Colleague,

We hope that the CSR Newsletter finds you safe and sound in the days following Hurricane Sandy. This newsletter comes to you delayed following a week-long closure of our lead university, Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ. As we resume our Center’s operations, our researchers are working closely with the first responder and emergency response communities to assess the storm’s impacts on the closure of the Port of New York and New Jersey, the nation’s third largest port, and the subsequent supply chain disruptions and gas shortages.

The length of the port closure and the significant impacts of the storm on the New Jersey/New York coastal and urban communities will provide critical data as we continue our research efforts to develop state of the art tools and enhanced processes for maritime and port resilience.

We wish you well and look forward to sharing more information with you in our next newsletter.

Sincerely,

Julie Pullen, Director

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**CSR NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2012**

**NYPD Counterterrorism Training at Stevens focuses on Port Awareness and Security**

The impacts of a terrorist act or catastrophic event in the New York Harbor were candidly discussed in a Port Awareness and Response Training, held at the Stevens Institute of Technology on Oct. 22, 2012. The event was hosted by CSR and led by Detective Peter Montella of the New York Police Department Counterterrorism Bureau (NYPD) and Frank Fiumano, a maritime security specialist from the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG).

The training session brought together a diverse group of stakeholders from the maritime community – along with students, faculty and staff from Stevens – to enhance maritime and port awareness in the New York City metropolitan area. More than 40 participants attended the one-day training.

Presentations by members of the NYPD, USCG and Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and perspectives by the Fire Department of New York Marine Division (FDNY Marine Ops), provided first-hand insight into the complexities of safeguarding the New York Harbor and the city’s critical infrastructure, without impeding the flow of commerce in and out of the areas’ ports, terminals and waterways.

The one-day training session gave Stevens faculty, staff and students a unique opportunity to interact with the emergency response and first responder community and for the responder community to learn about the tools and technologies that Stevens and its CSR academic partners are developing to enhance their maritime awareness and surveillance capabilities in the field.

Additional training sessions will be held at the Stevens Institute of Technology campus in the near future.
Students Volunteer for PANYNJ Disaster Drill at Newark International Airport

Fifteen students volunteered as “actors” for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey’s (PANYNJ) full-scale emergency exercise, held at Newark International Airport on Oct. 20, 2012. The two-hour disaster drill—which took many months to plan—created a real-life simulation of a crash between a passenger jet and a cargo jet, allowing first responders to practice command elements, tactical response, medical treatment of casualties and other critical functions.

The Stevens team primarily simulated living crash victims. Sprawled on the ground all across the runway while fake smoke and crash noises echoed around them, some donned fake injuries while others held index cards which explained their symptoms. Meanwhile, volunteers from other groups played the role of injured, panicked or disoriented passengers who needed to be assisted off the plane. Dummies were used to simulate the dead.

Over two hours, an ordered series of emergency response activities took place involving firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical technicians. “Interacting with the first responders was easily the most valuable component of the day,” said Brandon Gorton, Maritime Systems Master’s Degree Fellowship student. “It was mutually beneficial because as we were able to facilitate the training of those who are tasked with emergency response, and they enabled us to be better prepared should we find ourselves in a similar situation.”

The students’ participation in the emergency exercise was facilitated through CSR’s partnership with the PANYNJ and the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness. A news video of the event can be found via the following weblink:
Watch a video of the exercise from CBS News.

CSR and CIMES academic partners test HF Radar capabilities in the Arctic

Dr. Scott Glenn, CSR researcher from Rutgers University and Dr. Hank Statscewich, Center for Island, Maritime and Extreme Environment Security (CIMES) researcher from the University of Alaska Fairbanks utilized CODAR Ocean Sensors’ real-time ship detection software on Long-Range and Hi-Res SeaSonde radar systems in Barrow, Alaska, this past August.

The purpose of the vessel detection work in Alaska was to demonstrate that the real-time capability Rutgers University currently has in operation for monitoring the New York Harbor approaches could also be applied to an Arctic environment, where unique sea ice and aural effects exist. The tests were held in Barrow, as this location serves as the focal point for vessels transiting between the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas.

The test results demonstrated that the system operated well in the remote arctic settings where shore-based grid power is unavailable and autonomous power and communication systems are required. The vessel detections and AIS data feeds from the ships operating in the area will be transmitted to Rutgers in real-time for further association and QC analysis.

The collaborative work being conducted in the Arctic is a centerpiece project of CSR’s sister research center, CIMES, led by the University of Hawaii.

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