



## Small Vessel Security Strategy - and You

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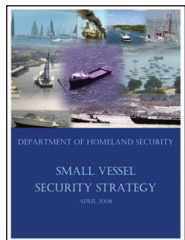
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We've all seen the slogan, "If you see something, say something!" You've even read about that and the over-arching theme of maritime domain awareness here (see SSP, "If You See Something, Say Something", 11/5/08; "Back to the Future - With Maritime Domain Awareness", 3/21/07; "Training for The Unspeakable", 9/20/06.) And as we've moved through time since 9/11/01, we've adapted to what threats have presented themselves to us ("take off your shoes and put them in the bin with your 'baggie' of toiletries") and that extends to the maritime domain. This column is about that.

### Department of Homeland Security and the Small Vessel Strategy

It should be no surprise that with the United States Coast Guard as the primary protector of our waters that DHS, our 'parent' agency, continues to evolve and refine a strategy for dealing with small vessels. As described in DHS documents, the



Small Vessel Security Strategy (SVSS) addresses the risk that "small vessels might be used to smuggle terrorists or weapon of mass destruction (WMD) into the United States or might be used as either a stand-off weapon platform or as a means of a direct attack with a waterborne improvised explosive device (WBIED)."

For the purposes of the SVSS, a "small vessel" is anything under 300 gross tons - which is a pretty wide net to throw out there. Such small vessels include commercial fishing vessels, recreational boats and yachts, towing vessels, uninspected passenger vessels, or any other small commercial vessels involved in foreign or U.S. voyages. This definition distinguishes small vessels from large commercial vessels and yachts (generally 300 gross tons and over) that are applicable to security measures already put in place under the authority of the Maritime

Transportation Security Act (MTSA) of 2002 and the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code.

The risks are, as you read above, non-trivial so the net should be wide. More specifically:

### Security Risks for Small Vessels

Security risks for small vessels can be broken down into four general categories:

- Use of small vessels as a conveyance to smuggle weapons (including, but not limited to, Weapons of Mass Destruction/Effect);
- Use of small vessels as Water Borne Improvised Explosive Device - small, explosive-laden vessels used as "boat bombs" against another vessel, maritime critical infrastructure, or key resources; (Remember the US Cole!)
- Use of small vessels as a conveyance to smuggle terrorists into the U.S.; and
- Use of small vessels as a platform for standoff weapon (e.g. Man Portable Air Defense Systems, SCUD platform for launch offshore) attacks on the maritime industry or critical infrastructure.

With that as the set of risks, the overarching goals of the SVSS are to:

1. enhance maritime security and safety based on a coherent framework with a layered, innovative approach;
2. leverage technology to enhance the ability to detect, infer intent, and when necessary, interdict small vessels that pose a maritime security threat; and
3. enhance cooperation among international, federal, state, local, and tribal partners and the private sector (e.g., marinas, shipyards, small vessel and facility operators), and, in coordination with the Department of State and other relevant federal departments and agencies, international partners.
4. develop and leverage a strong partnership with the small vessel community and public and private

sectors in order to enhance maritime domain awareness;

Where do we, the citizens of this great country, fit in? Well, if you said "#4, of course", give yourself a gold star.

### What IS Suspicious Behavior?

Well, frankly, whatever you think is suspicious - for your marina, your community, your waters... The Maritime Domain Awareness professionals with US Coast Guard Forces always stress that we can't develop an all-encompassing list of what is suspicious. It is a little like defining pornography. In 1964, Justice Potter Stewart tried to explain pornography by saying, "I shall not today attempt further to define the kinds of material I understand to be [pornography]... but I know it when I see it."

It may be the way someone asks you a question, or the pictures that they seem intent on taking of a bridge, or a fuel depot, or a particularly intense focus on a secure perimeter that just sets the hair on the back of your neck up. Don't ignore that vibe. Don't worry about looking like a "sky-is-falling-worry-wort." Call it in...

Call the National Response Center at 877-24WATCH. If there is "Immediate Danger" to Life or Property, Call 9-1-1 or Call the US Coast Guard on Marine Channel 16

If you want more information, e-mail [smallvesselsecurity@uscg.mil](mailto:smallvesselsecurity@uscg.mil) or me below.

If you want your own copy of the SVSS, email me below or go to <http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/small-vessel-security-strategy.pdf> and download it.

BTW, if you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at [JoinUSCGAux2010@aol.com](mailto:JoinUSCGAux2010@aol.com) or go direct to John Blevins, who is in charge of new members matters, at [FSO-PS@emcg.us](mailto:FSO-PS@emcg.us) and we will help you "get in this thing..."

## Enter At Your Own Risk: Gateway's Playhouse of Horrors

• by BARBARA LAMONICA

From October 1 through Halloween Night, put on your haunting best, or come as you are, but be forewarned and enter at your own risk into 'Gateway's Haunted Playhouse of Horrors' for the fright of your life. But be sure to bring someone - anyone to grab onto, if you dare to roam through the labyrinth and winding chambers of bloodcurdling scenes and screams.

At press time, Gateway and Haunted House of Horrors producer Paul Allan and a crew of hi-tech computer technicians, professional set-builders, and actors were busy putting together what is sure to be the scare of your life when the doors to the haunt creek open this Friday, October 1. Gateway's Haunted House is located at 215 South Country Road in Bellport.

During a walkthrough of the haunt-in-progress with Allan on Saturday, the producer spoke about the nuances that are going into what Gateway will offer in this second annual seasonal special. Michael Baker, Allan's assistant and a director to the haunt assures this year's haunting will be very, very different from last year's. "I have been to many haunted houses throughout the country, and our guests will be scared out of their wits," comments Baker.

Allan touts this haunt as very professional, where the ghouls are characterized by professional actors, unlike other 'haunted houses' wherein people dress up as monsters running around scaring people. "We are very formal and the residents of the haunted house will not be just people dressed up in costumes and running around like scary monsters," Allan explained. And, Allan underscores, the actors never touch or come into contact with the visitors who dare to tread into the haunt. "We're a theatrical organization, and are accus-



• photos by KEITH LLEWELLYN

tomed to creating the world for people to experience," Allan said. With Gateway's three-generations long family-owned and operated theatre and acting school having earned the reputation as the premiere live stage entertainment venue on Long Island, Allan acknowledges creating the haunt was "right up our ally with the talented staff and creative people we already have." Detailing a few more of the aspects of what guests can expect without giving too much away, Allan points out, "the monsters do not touch the people. Guests may feel threatened, but they're not really sure..."

A little hint from this reporter: Board the mini blood bus that is on the route of the haunt with cau-



tion, and be prepared to be totally creeped out with what, or whom, you will be greeted by.

From a safety standpoint, Allan underscores there will be security and intermittent exits throughout the haunt, and all lighting and sets undergo scrutiny by Bellport Village inspectors. "We have the safest haunted house," notes Baker, "and Paul is known as a champion of safety."

It is recommended that no one under age 14 enter Gateway's Haunted Playhouse of Horrors. The haunt is open seven nights a week every night through Halloween night. But be sure to get out on time because the doors shut tight at 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and they stay open an hour later until 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights and Halloween night.

So if you haven't decided what you are going to be for Halloween, one thing's for certain: You will be scared if you dare to visit the haunt on the grounds of Gateway.

For kids ages three and up to about 13, the 'Not So Scary Monster House for Kids' will feature age-appropriate boos and screeches from ghosts and goblins and ghouls. Admission prices on both haunts vary. For more information call 286-1133.