

Washington State Patrol

Vessel and Terminal Security Division



Operations Briefing
Presented to: AAPA Port Security Seminar
July 19, 2006
For Official Use Only

Mission Statement:

The Vessel and Terminal Security Division will provide exemplary public safety services to Washington State's mass transportation systems and critical infrastructure sites.



Background

Washington State Ferries operates the largest ferry system in the country:

- 11 million vehicles annually*
- 24 million passengers annually*
- 24 vessels – 20 ferry terminals*
- 500 sailings every day*

By comparison - SeaTac Airport handles 27 million passengers annually

Background

- *Washington State Ferry routes are considered extensions of the State Highway System*
- *This places the responsibility for providing law enforcement services with the Washington State Patrol*



1993

- *WSP began providing services to the WSF as the VATS Pilot Project*
- *30 Troopers and 3 Sergeants were provided by Field Operations Bureau Districts surrounding Puget Sound splitting duties between traffic control, terminal security, and working the road*
- *VATS mission dealt mainly with traffic control at major terminals*

1997

- *The department's Canine Unit began with the deployment of two explosive detection teams on October 8, 1997. These first two dogs, the training, and equipment were purchased with a grant from the Department of Transportation (DOT) to provide coverage and security for the Washington State Ferry System (terminals and ferries) and other transportation-related premises.*

9/11/01 – 8:46 AM (EDT)

- *The WSP VATS Mission changed – like all transportation systems, WSF was considered vulnerable to terrorist attack.*



- *More troopers were needed to provide enhanced security for WSF – focusing on not only traffic law enforcement, but also emergency preparedness and response*
- *Limited number of explosives detection canine teams were available for the new mission*

2004

- *The 2004 Legislative Session approved 2 additional Sergeants and 13 Cadets for a WSF Video Monitoring Center*
- *1 Sergeant and 7 troopers added for an additional EOD K-9 unit*
- *12 VATS troopers reassigned as 2 Sergeants 10 EOD K-9 K-9 handlers*
- *WSP worked closely with mutual aid partners to provide resources for MARSEC*

Other significant dates

August 2, 2004

- *7 EOD K-9's added*

October 4, 2004

- *2 EOD K-9's added*

November 15, 2004

- *9 EOD K-9's added*

March 1, 2005

- *VATS was established as a new division within the WSP*
- *Troopers and sergeants once decentralized throughout the Field Operations Bureau were consolidated into one Division*

Strategy linked to TEAM Washington

- 1. Protect the Washington State Ferry vessels, terminals, and riders from disruptive, criminal, and terrorist acts.***
- 2. Enhance the Washington State Patrol's response capabilities to Washington State Ferry emergencies.***
- 3. Develop the relationships necessary to facilitate the Vessel and Terminal Security Division mission.***
- 4. Citizen/stakeholder/employee education and empowerment.***





Thursday, September 09, 2004, 12:00 a.m. Pacific

Permission to reprint or copy this article/photo must be obtained from The Seattle Times. Call 206-464-3113 or e-mail resale@seattletimes.com with your request.

Head of state ferries resigns after 2-1/2 years

By Susan Gilmore
Seattle Times staff reporter

Mike Thorne, head of the Washington State Ferry

"Mike has done a first-class job in one of the most difficult jobs in the state," said MacDonal

"I'm really pleased with the results we achieved and the way he handled the transition."

Thorne, 63, appointed to the top ferry post in January 2001. He later dropped out of the race and was recruited to lead the ferry system.

The job has been fraught with controversy. Initiating a new ferry system's operating funds and 75 percent of its operating costs are covered by state bonds.

The ferries have been without food since January 2004.

Done

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has filed a lawsuit with the U.S. District Court in Seattle, arguing that the state's security requirements are unconstitutional.

The ACLU's legal director, Anthony D. Romero, said the state's security requirements are unconstitutional because they are not necessary for the state's safety.

The matter is so complex that it will take months to resolve, he said.

The ACLU's lawsuit is the latest in a series of challenges to the state's security requirements.

It's not clear that the ACLU will get what it's asking for.

Done



Sunday, October 10, 2004, 12:00 a.m. Pacific

Permission to reprint or copy this article/photo must be obtained from The Seattle Times. Call 206-464-3113 or e-mail resale@seattletimes.com with your request.

Why feds believe terrorists are probing ferry system

By Mike Carter
Seattle Times staff reporter

Copyright 2004, The Seattle Times Co.

Groups of men, including one tied to a federal terrorism investigation, have videotaped Washington ferry operations, prompting federal authorities to conclude the system has been under surveillance as a possible target for an attack.

U.S. Attorney John McKay, officials in the U.S. Coast Guard and other members of Seattle's Joint Terrorism Task Force all share in that conclusion.

"We may well be the target of preoperational terrorist planning," McKay said.

A confidential FBI assessment of the threat to the state ferries is partly behind an increase in security for large-capacity ferries nationwide, McKay and others say.

The state ferry system is the nation's largest, carrying 26 million passengers last year. It began implementing new security requirements — including tripling the number of cars screened for explosives — this weekend.

For its assessment, the FBI gathered 157 incidents on or near ferries that law-enforcement officers, ferry workers and passengers have reported as suspicious.

Done

WSP Response: Layered Security

- *Aviation*
- *K-9 Teams*
- *CIU*
- *VATS Troopers*
- *Video Monitoring - Trooper Cadets*
- *Commercial Vehicle Inspection*
- *Interagency Mutual Aid*
- *SWAT*
- *Bomb Squad*

Layered Security - Aviation

- *WSP aircraft patrol vessels & terminals looking for potential threats – such as:*
 - *Suspicious vehicles*
 - *Vessels*
- *Aircraft are equipped with FLIR cameras*



Layered Security – K9 Teams

- *Numerous explosive canine detection teams deployed throughout the WSF system*
 - *Handlers and canines attend 400 hours of training prior to being certified*
 - *All canines are trained to respond in a passive manner when they locate the source of an explosive odor*



[Close](#)

ALAN BERNER / THE SEATTLE TIMES
Washington State Patrol Sgt. Kerry Kintzley, left, with Buddy, his bomb-sniffing yellow Lab, and Trooper Mike Allan are part of the enhanced security measures at the Colm Dock in Seattle as vehicles wait to board the boat to Bainbridge Island yesterday.



Ferry Security



GREG GILBERT / THE SEATTLE TIMES
Bill Henkel of the State Patrol and Butch walk between vehicles at a Seattle ferry dock yesterday, when new rules went into effect.



Layered Security - CIU

- *CIU detective work in plain clothes, gathering critical information on suspicious activity.*
- *Detectives are assigned to and work closely with local, state and federal terrorism task forces investigating and sharing information about terrorist activity*

Layered Security – VATS Troopers



- *Traffic Control*
- *Security Screenings*
- *Bicycle Patrols*
- *Vessel cabin patrols*



Layered Security - Cadets

- *Video Monitoring*
- *Traffic Control*
- *Spotting for canine teams*



Layered Security – Commercial Vehicle Inspection

- *Specially trained Troopers inspect trucks and all applicable paperwork that should correspond with the load within the truck*



Layered Security – Interagency Mutual Aid



- *VATS relies on our Mutual Aid partners as first responders for incidents at WSF facilities and incidents involving WSF infrastructure*

Layered Security - SWAT

- *WSP SWAT Team has been trained to handle situations on vessels and terminals*
- *SWAT works closely with local law enforcement partners and the USCG MSST*



Layered Security – Bomb Squad



- *WSP has 4 bomb teams – Olympia, Marysville, Bremerton and Kennewick*
- *Teams all have special equipment such as – bomb suits, X-Ray, disrupters*

WSF Security Committee

- *United State Coast Guard*
 - *Captain Steve Metruck, Captain of the Port Puget Sound*
- *Washington State Ferries*
 - *Mr. Mike Anderson, Executive Director*
- *Washington State Patrol*
 - *Chief John Batiste*

Current Initiatives

- *Maritime Tactical Support Group*
- *WSF Intelligence Group*
- *WSP Triton Team Deployments*
- *Local LEA Partnerships*
- *Ferry Passenger Partnership Program*

Thank You – Questions?

