



# Acquisition Directorate

# INTERAGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

Mission execution begins here.

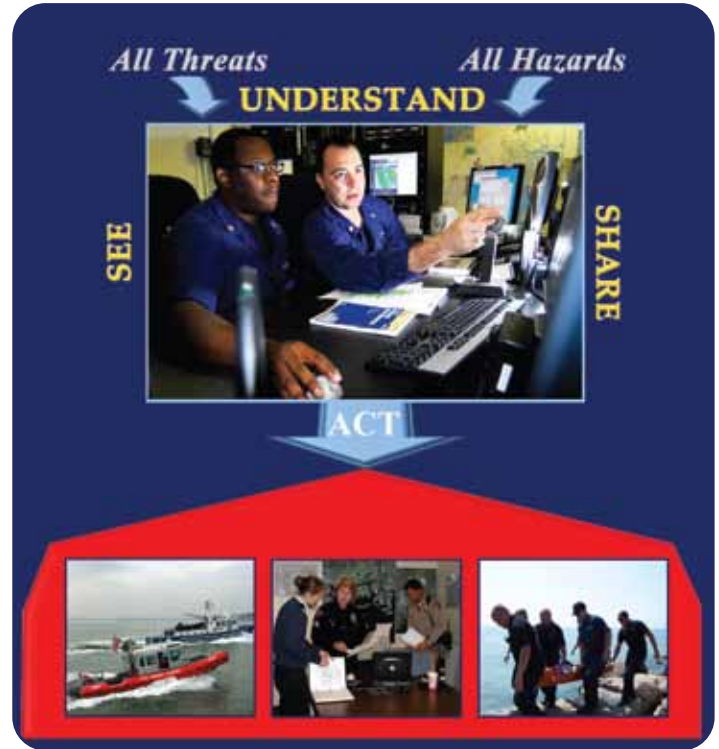
## PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Security and Accountability for Every Port (SAFE Port) Act of 2006 mandated that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) establish Interagency Operations Centers (IOCs) for security in key ports. In response, the Coast Guard began the IOC acquisition project to improve multi-agency maritime security operations and enhance cooperation among partner agencies at 35 U.S. ports. IOCs help port agencies collaborate in the conduct of first response, law enforcement and homeland security operations.

IOCs also help port partners to:

- Collaborate and jointly plan operations through assignment of resources to meet mission demands.
- Share targeting, intelligence and scheduling information to improve situational awareness, uncover gaps in planned and ongoing operations, and reduce duplication of effort between agencies.
- Develop real-time awareness, evaluate threats and deploy resources to the right places through active collection of port activity information.
- Minimize the economic impact from any disruption, whether natural or manmade.

The heart of the IOC is the *WatchKeeper* information sharing and management system software.



*WatchKeeper* coordinates and organizes port security information to help DHS and federal, state and local maritime partners make the best use of their resources to keep America's ports safe. A technology demonstration version of *WatchKeeper* has been released to approximately half of the port locations.

For updates on the IOC, visit the project's website at <http://www.uscg.mil/acquisition/ioc/>.

## FEATURES:

- Geographic information tool that provides a common operating picture to achieve enhanced situational awareness
- Shared awareness of the operational schedules of maritime assets in ports
- Tools to present and share the products of coordination meetings with federal, state and local port partners, including between the Coast Guard and U.S. Customs and Border Protection for planned vessel inspection activities