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BWI Airport, Port of Baltimore earn national security awards

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BWI air travel ~

Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport was selected as a winner in Government Security News magazine's 2014 Airport / Seaport / Border Security Awards Program.

Two of Maryland's busiest points of commerce have been named leaders in national security. Governor Martin O'Malley announced Tuesday. Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport and the Port of Baltimore were selected as winners in Government Security News magazine's 2014 Airport / Seaport / Border Security Awards Program.

Recent national security advances at the airport include an automated dispatching system, mobile dispatching equipment in all first responder vehicles, an emergency call processing system, a fire station alerting system, a detailed mapping of the BWI Marshall facilities with emergency apparatus GPS tracking, and a new back-up dispatch center. The airport earned two first-place awards in the competition, including Most Notable Airport Security Program, Large Airports and Best Physical Security Information Management System.

"This highly successful project provided our security and public safety personnel with cutting-edge emergency response technology," said Paul J. Wiedefeld, CEO of BWI Marshall. "The improvements to the consolidated dispatch center help ensure increased responsiveness and situational awareness. We are honored by the recognition from Government Security News."

Port of Baltimore ~

The Port of Baltimore was selected as a winner in Government Security News magazine's 2014 Airport / Seaport / Border Security Awards Program.

The Port of Baltimore won in the category of Most Notable Seaport Security Program. It has recently begun using a remote-controlled submersible vehicle that secures the port's public marine terminals and also has the ability to detect improvised explosive devices on ships, an underwater intrusion detection system that can detect underwater attempts to attack ships, closed-circuit television of the public marine terminals, and the E-Modal Trucker Check which requires all companies and drivers transporting cargo to pre-register in an automated software system prior to arriving at the public marine terminals.

"Governor O'Malley challenged us to become one of the most secure ports in the U.S. and through these and other security initiatives in place, we have done that," said Maryland Port Administration Executive Director James J. White. "Through the help of our federal, state, and local security partners, the Port of Baltimore today has a network of comprehensive security initiatives in place that begin well before any cargo arrives, continues through its time at our Port, and right through the time it leaves our Port for worldwide destinations."

"I want to congratulate BWI Marshall and the Port of Baltimore on this impressive recognition—their efforts to respond to our State's growing security needs is unmatched,"

said Governor O'Malley. "Since 2007, we've worked to make BWI and the Port more safe and secure for the public and for the thousands of men and women who work there. This award is acknowledgement of the hard work, dedication and collaboration across State government—truly a major accomplishment for the State and the people we serve and protect daily."

"BWI Marshall and the Port of Baltimore play a critical role in Maryland's growing economy, and I'd like to congratulate them on being recognized for their commitment to safety for both Marylanders and the visitors who use these facilities to travel to Maryland each year," said Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. "As we look to the future, we will work together to ensure that all of Maryland's facilities are leaders in public safety and security."

DUNDALK PATCH

BWI Airport, Port of Baltimore Win Awards for Security

National security publication gave Baltimore props for recent improvements.

By Elizabeth Janney (Editor)

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Years of improvements at BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport and the Port of Baltimore have won the pair recognition from a magazine covering Homeland Security.

Government Security News selected the two facilities for its 2014 Airport/Seaport/Border Security Awards Program, according to a statement from Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley.

"This award is ... a major accomplishment for the state and the people we serve and protect daily," O'Malley said.

At BWI, a \$5.2 million information technology project won accolades in the large airports category.

The airport completed its Consolidated Dispatch Center Upgrades Project in 2013. It included creating a backup dispatch center; implementing a fire station alerting system; installing mobile dispatch equipment in vehicles of first responders; rolling out an automated dispatch system and emergency call processing system; and creating a BWI facilities map with GPS tracking of emergency apparatus, the statement from O'Malley said.

The Consolidated Dispatch Center Upgrades Project was named Most Notable Airport Security Program in the large airports category and Best Physical Security Information Management System, according to the statement.

"This highly successful project provided our security and public safety personnel with cutting-edge emergency response technology," Chief Executive Officer of BWI Marshall Paul J. Wiedefeld said. He added that the project "increased responsiveness and situational awareness" and "we are honored by the recognition from Government Security News."

The Port of Baltimore also received a first-place honor from the publication: Most Notable Seaport Security Program.

Among the security enhancements at the port: an system that can detect underwater attempts to attack ships; closed-circuit TV showing public marine terminals; remote-controlled submersible vehicle that secures the port's public marine terminals and can detect

Improvised Explosive Devices on ships; and an automated preregistration system for truckers arriving at terminal, the statement said.

“Through the help of our federal, state and local security partners, the Port of Baltimore today has a network of comprehensive security initiatives in place that [begins] well before any cargo arrives, continues through its time at our port and [proceeds] right through the time it leaves our port for worldwide destinations,” Maryland Port Administration Executive Director James J. White said.

“I want to congratulate BWI Marshall and the Port of Baltimore on this impressive recognition,” O’Malley said. “Their efforts to respond to our state’s growing security needs is unmatched.”