

Commandant of the Coast Guard Tours Ports and Terminals Near New Orleans

Admiral Karl Schultz, the 26th commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, was in New Orleans, La., June 19 to tour port facilities on the Lower Mississippi River from aboard the Port of New Orleans fireboat, the M/V Gen. Roy S. Kelley. Leaders from the Coast Guard, State of Louisiana, Port of New Orleans and industry participating in the tour included, among others, Rear Admiral Paul Thomas, commander of the Coast Guard's Eighth District;



The commandant's visit was part of a nationwide tour of strategic ports meant to highlight both the Coast Guard's Maritime Commerce Strategic Outlook and the significant impact maritime commerce has on the United States and the world. Schultz's time in New Orleans highlighted the intersection of brown water and blue water operations as the group visited St. Bernard Port's Chalmette Slip, a slack water terminal operated by Associated Terminals, Turn Services' fleeting areas, and Associated Terminal's midstream cargo transloading operations featuring the company's towering barge-mounted Gottwald cranes.

As the M/V Gen. Roy S. Kelley moved downriver, the group had the opportunity to see both the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Lock and the Algiers Lock, which connect the eastern and western reaches of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. Right across from the Inner Harbor Canal Lock is Turn Services' Dockside Fleet, which is strategically located between both locks and near Associated Terminals' operation at Chalmette Slip, Muñoz said,

"We have the ability to moor about 150 barges in this fleet, and with these barges, we support midstream and terminal operations throughout this port as well," Muñoz said.

Todd Fuller, President of Associated Terminals, introduced Admiral Schultz to the company's operations at St. Bernard Port's Chalmette Slip, where the company handles a large quantity of breakbulk and project cargo, and farther downriver at Meraux, where several of the company's Gottwald cranes were at work. Fuller said he envisions technology, including automation, continuing to help boost the efficient handling of cargos.

He said Associated Terminals is also counting on the next generation of mariners and terminal operators, with regular school outreach efforts seeking to introduce students to opportunities in the maritime industry. In response to Admiral Schultz's request to discuss challenges and advancements that could impact terminal operators in the future, Fuller stated: "I envision technology, including automation, continuing to help boost the efficient handling of cargos. We are focusing on developing the next generation of mariners and terminal operators

by participating in school outreach efforts to introduce students to opportunities in the maritime industry."

In response to Admiral Schultz's request to discuss challenges and advancements that could impact terminal operators in the future, Fuller stated:

"I envision technology, including automation, continuing to help boost the efficient handling of cargos. We are focusing on developing the next generation of mariners and terminal operators by participating in school outreach efforts to introduce students to opportunities in the maritime industry."

