

ABC 2 NEWS

MD Gets \$6M in Homeland Security Grants

BALTIMORE (AP) -- Maryland is getting \$6 million in federal stimulus funds to help build an Anne Arundel County fire station and for port security initiatives.

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, Gov. Martin O'Malley and Sen. Barbara Mikulski announced the grants in Baltimore on Wednesday.

Maryland will receive \$4.1 million to protect critical infrastructure in the Port of Baltimore area and \$1.9 million to replace a fire station in Glen Burnie.

Napolitano says the grants will enhance resiliency and national security.

ABC 7 NEWS – D.C.

Maryland Gets \$6M in Homeland Security Grants posted 2:44 pm Wed September 23, 2009 - BALTIMORE from ABC 7 News -

<http://www.wjla.com/news/stories/0909/661972.html> Maryland is getting \$6 million in federal stimulus funds to help build an Anne Arundel County fire station and for port security initiatives.

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BALTIMORE SUN

Md. to get \$6 million in stimulus money for port, transit security

Napolitano visits Baltimore in wake of unspecified terror warning issued this week

By Brent Jones | brent.jones@baltsun.com

September 24, 2009

Maryland will get \$6 million of federal stimulus money to go toward port and transit security and firehouse construction, an announcement government officials made Wednesday in Baltimore amid the backdrop of an unspecified terrorism warning issued this week.

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said the money earmarked for the state will create jobs through construction projects and is part of a \$510 million federal government effort to improve security at some of the country's major ports.

Napolitano visited Baltimore as the government continues its investigation into Najibullah Zazi, a 24-year-old Denver airport shuttle driver who authorities say received al-Qaida explosives training in Pakistan and was found entering New York City two weeks ago with bomb-making instructions on his computer. Zazi was arrested Saturday in Colorado.

On Monday, federal counterterrorism officials sent bulletins to police departments in major cities urging law enforcement and private companies to be vigilant at stadiums, entertainment complexes and hotels. Napolitano, joined by Gov. Martin O'Malley and Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger at the Inner Harbor, reiterated that the government has no information on timing or the location of a specific plot.

"The grants I announced today are part of overall vigilance efforts," Napolitano said. "For example, we want people to be vigilant about places where people gather."

Maryland will receive \$4.1 million under the Port Security Grant Program for infrastructure improvements to the port of Baltimore area and \$1.9 million for local fire and police departments. The port's money will go toward vehicle screening, port-operation improvements and closed-circuit television capacity.

"These will be investments that will allow us to integrate the databases we have that control access to the port and identification cards," O'Malley said. "And we will be able to make some investments that will allow us to do a better job of inspecting cargo as it comes through the port."

Ruppersberger, a Baltimore County Democrat who serves on the Appropriations Committee and the Homeland Security Subcommittee, added that the port is an important economic vehicle, and the stimulus money will help sustain its operation.

The money "really helped state and local government move forward," Ruppersberger said.

Other local jurisdictions receiving money include:

- Maryland State Police for bomb squads;
- Salisbury Fire Department for a rapid-response vessel;
- Baltimore County Fire Department for underwater dive and search equipment and tactical vessels;
- Anne Arundel County Fire Department for fire station construction.

MARYLAND DAILY RECORD

Stimulus money will upgrade Maryland port security

ANDY ROSEN

Daily Record Business Writer

September 23, 2009

The state is getting \$4.1 million in stimulus cash from the federal government to help the Maryland Port Administration pay for security upgrades at its public marine terminals.

The money is part of a \$6 million package that also will pay for a new fire station in Glen Burnie. The grants were announced during an appearance in Baltimore Wednesday by Janet Napolitano, secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

James J. White, executive director of the Maryland Port Administration, said the port money will go toward new closed circuit camera equipment, security booths at the Dundalk and South Locust Point marine terminals, and vehicle inspection and emergency communication equipment.

He said the federal money is crucial given the pressure on the state's transportation budget.

"The funding that we get from the transportation trust fund for projects like this is under attack right now because of the economy," he said.

The new vehicle inspection equipment will be used both for commercial trucks and personal vehicles at the two terminals.

Rules for entry into the state's terminals and port facilities nationwide have been reworked this year, as the U.S. Transportation Safety Administration launched the Transportation Worker Identification Credential, or TWIC.

Beginning last December, the MPA began requiring the cards for entry into the state's public terminals. All of the private terminals within the Port of Baltimore had to request the cards at the start of the year.

There have not been any major problems with the card, White said, but the MPA still has not gotten word about when scanners that were supposed to come along with them will be made available.

The TWIC cards use "biometric" technology to verify the identities of their holders using their fingerprints, and that technology requires a scanner. White said the state is now inspecting the cards visually. TWIC cards cost up to \$132.50, in part because of the cost of the scanning technology. Some businesses have worried that truckers who visit the port occasionally might not be willing to pay for them.

BALTIMORE BUSINESS JOURNAL

Homeland security chief awards stimulus grants to beef up Port of Baltimore terror defense

Ryan Sharrow

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano held a press conference Wednesday morning at Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

View Larger U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano traveled to Baltimore Wednesday morning to unveil more than \$380 million in stimulus grants for fire station construction and port and transit security across the country.

Maryland will receive \$6 million of the funds, with the biggest chunk going toward protecting the Port of Baltimore from terrorism.

Napolitano, flanked at an Inner Harbor press conference by Gov. Martin O'Malley and U.S. Congressman C.A. "Dutch" Ruppersberger, said the grants are "designed to help keep our country safe." The Port of Baltimore's \$4.1 million grant will be used to support the implementation of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential, a tamper-resistant biometric credential issued to workers who require unescorted access to secure areas of ports and vessels.

The grants will help the Port of Baltimore become "one of the model ports from a security perspective," Napolitano said, with the USS Constellation docked in the near distance.

Ruppersberger, a Maryland Democrat, called the port a major "economic engine" that helps fuel 120,000 jobs in the state.

The remaining \$1.9 million in grants for Maryland, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will be used to replace an Anne Arundel County fire station in Glen Burnie.

Following the announcement of the grants, Napolitano was peppered with questions from the national media regarding security bulletins issued Monday by the government. Those bulletins outlined terrorists possibly targeting hotels, stadiums, and entertainment venues in the U.S.

"We do not have information of timing, location or a specific target," she said in response to one question. But the department is working with local governments "to make sure everyone is vigilant going forward and make sure we take nothing for granted."

The Homeland Security office is "doing everything possible to keep Americans safe," she added.

JOURNAL OF COMMERCE

DHS Releases \$150Million for Port Security

Recovery Act funds to aid terrorism prevention, economy, jobs
U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano on Sept. 23 released \$150 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for port security. The stimulus grants "will enhance the resiliency of our critical infrastructure and improve our emergency response capabilities by supporting risk-based initiatives integral to our national security," she said.

"These grants help protect America's ports as well as provide jobs and aid our economic recovery," said Kurt Nagle, president and chief executive officer of the American Association of Port Authorities. The grants "help secure assets vital to our nation's long-term prosperity," he said.

Secretary Napolitano made the announcement Wednesday at an event at Baltimore's Inner Harbor, where she was accompanied by Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, Congressman "Dutch" Ruppersberger, D-Md., and Port of Baltimore Executive Director Jim White.