

Castle Meets with Port Employees, Offers Assistance with TWIC Implementation -- October 15, 2007

Wilmington, DE -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle today visited the Port of Wilmington to get a first-hand look at the enrollment process for the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) program. As of tomorrow, the Port of Wilmington will be the first port in the nation to enroll its longshoremen, port workers, and truckers in the TWIC program, which ensures that all individuals who have unescorted access to secure areas of port facilities and vessels has received a thorough background check and is not a security threat.

Today at the port, Rep. Castle saw a demonstration of the process workers must undergo in order to enroll in the program. While there, he also had the opportunity to speak with the Coast Guard and officials from TSA and the Port of Wilmington about the execution of the program and the decision to start the program in Delaware. Following this morning's demonstration, Rep. Castle's staff sat down with local representatives and the union to discuss ways of assisting the workforce with implementing this new identification system. After years of work from numerous people and agencies, Rep. Castle says he is pleased to see the program kick-off in Delaware.

"It took a good deal of effort and a lot of hard work to move forward with this program at the Port of Wilmington. Over the last several months, we have been in close contact with port representatives, industry stakeholders, and local officials to facilitate communication with the TSA and help make certain that employees are provided every opportunity to comply with these new requirements. Together, the Coast Guard, Transportation Security Administration, and the Port of Wilmington can ensure all port employees are fully enrolled in this program. Ports around the country will benefit from our best practices as well as our policies in need of improvement."

For more information on the TWIC program, visit TSA's website at www.tsa.gov.

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