



# U.S. Coast Guard Sector Ohio Valley Port Security Information Bulletin



01-2019

January 31, 2019

## Suspicious Cyber Incident

On January 26 2019, a commercial vessel received an email from an individual or entity claiming to represent an official port state control body. The email originated from an email address noted as "[port@psc.gov](mailto:port@psc.gov)" and was sent directly to the vessel's Master requesting sensitive information about the vessel, its crew, and its cargo. The Master was skeptical about the request and immediately activated elements of the vessel security plan related to this type of suspicious cyber incident. The vessel Master reported the incident and forwarded the suspicious email and information to the local USCG Captain of the Port for investigation and follow-up.

As a reminder, CG-5P Policy Letter 08-16 titled "*Reporting Suspicious Activity and Breaches of Security*" outlines the criteria and process for Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA) regulated vessels and facilities to report suspicious activity (SA) and breaches of security (BoS) including cyber incidents.

The Coast Guard's National Response Center (NRC) remains the federal government's primary point of contact for notifications of all SAs or BoSs including cyber. For cyber incidents that do not impact physical security or cause a pollution incident, the Coast Guard allows reporting parties to report the incident to the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC) in lieu of the NRC. The NCCIC can be reached at (888) 282-0870 and may be able to provide technical assistance to the reporting party.

If contacting the NCCIC in lieu of the NRC, it is imperative that the reporting party inform the NCCIC that it is a Coast Guard regulated entity in order to satisfy the reporting requirements of 33 CFR part 101.305. The NCCIC will forward the report electronically to the NRC, who will notify the appropriate COTP.

Cyber-related risks in the maritime environment continue to be cause of concern. Cyber technologies enable the Marine Transportation System to operate with an impressive record of reliability and at a capacity that drives the U.S. economy and supports national defense, homeland security, and related needs. While cyber systems create benefits, they also introduce risk. Exploitation, misuse, or failure of cyber systems could cause harm to the marine environment or disrupt vital trade activity. As a result, cyber risk management is increasingly important.

For additional information concerning this bulletin, please contact the Coast Guard Sector Ohio Valley Port Security Specialist, Mr. Jim Armstrong at (502) 779-5314, or [James.S.Armstrong@uscg.mil](mailto:James.S.Armstrong@uscg.mil).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. B. Zamperini".

M. B. Zamperini  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard  
Commander, Sector Ohio Valley