

PRESS RELEASE

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NCSC Chairman Conducts Jakarta Seminar on Cargo Theft for Indonesian Customs Officials

Jakarta--On June 1, 1999, NCSC Chairman Ed Badolato conducted an Executive Seminar for the Indonesian Director General of Customs, Mr. R.B. Permana Agung, and all 12 of his Deputy Directors at their Jakarta Headquarters. The US-educated (University of Illinois) Director General requested the seminar because of the serious increase in Indonesian cargo theft. The NCSC presentation covered the major factors involved in the rise of cargo crime, the modus operandi of international cargo thieves, and the role of new technologies in combating cargo crime.

Prior to the seminar, Mr. Badolato met privately with Dr. Sofyan Pernan, the Director of Customs Intelligence, to discuss the overall cargo crime situation in Indonesia, and their special concerns in the cargo security area. According to Dr. Pernan, the theft of high value cargo has been rapidly increasing, as has overall container theft and smuggling. Indonesia has unique cargo security challenges. It is composed of 9,000 islands, and has 210 million people—the world's fourth largest population. Like most of the Customs staff, Dr. Pernan was very interested in how the US is using new technologies to combat cargo crime.

The recent economic and political crises have contributed to an overall increase in crime. Last year Indonesian ports handled about 1.3 million TEUs of cargo despite their severe financial crisis, and cargo shipments should expand considerably as the economy improves. Indonesia also has to deal with the unique problem of piracy-particularly in the Singapore Strait.

While in Indonesia, Chairman Badolato met with a number of key government-industry officials to discuss the cargo security situation, such as Mr. Soedarpo Sastrosatomo, President of Samudera Indonesia Group--Indonesia's largest shipping and container handling operations; the Chairman of the largest casualty insurance company; top police officials in Jakarta and the main island of Java; and the Deputy Director of the CIA.

These discussions confirmed that cargo crime is a global problem, and the NCSC was looked upon as a leader in its ability to share information on loss control measures and training with the international cargo security community. Badolato was impressed that that key people from the Indonesian cargo transportation community had been visiting the NCSC website as well as reading the NCSC newsletter, the Cargo Security Report. "It is clearly evident that there is a tremendous desire among the international community to share information on cargo security and to increase their efforts against cargo crime."