



DOT 45-02
Thursday, May 2, 2002
Contact: Bill Mosley
Tel: (202) 366-5571

U.S. Department of Transportation Applauds Association of American Railroads' Initiative to Create a Center to Enhance Security

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta and Association of American Railroads (AAR) President and CEO Edward R. Hamberger today announced the creation of a "Surface Transportation Information Sharing and Analysis Center" (ST ISAC) that is designed to promote security in the transportation sector. AAR has retained EWA Information and Infrastructure Technologies, Inc. (EWA IIT), based in Herndon, VA, to establish and operate the new ISAC.

Recognizing the importance of freight railroads to our nation, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) commends the AAR's leadership in serving as sector coordinator for the railroad industry. Freight railroads have a large physical infrastructure that is heavily dependent on information technology in their daily operations.

"The security of America's intermodal transportation system is vital to the public health, the national defense, and the economy," Secretary Mineta noted. "The ST ISAC will help ensure that intrusions on transportation information technology – such as viruses and attacks – do not disrupt the nation's transportation operations."

"The Association of American Railroads is proud to offer this added measure of security to the railroad industry and to other surface modes of transportation," Mr. Hamberger said. "The ST ISAC is a natural extension of the railroad industry's 'Terrorism Risk Analysis and Security Management Plan' which we implemented following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11."

DOT is currently in the process of developing a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week "Transportation Information Operations Center" (TIOC) that will serve as a conduit of information and intermodal link between the Secretary, the transportation industry, and other federal agencies. The proposed TIOC will rely on industry resources, such as AAR's ST ISAC, for physical and cyber-related information and to serve as a link with industry.

The services provided by the ST ISAC will create a robust security related capability for owners and operators of transportation infrastructure. The ST ISAC will collect, analyze, and distribute critical vulnerability and threat information, both physical and cyber, and coordinate with the department's TIOC in efforts to protect industry members' vital infrastructure from attack. ST ISAC services are specifically tailored to meet the security demands of each one of its members.

###

[Briefing Room](#)