



## SMART PORTS 4.0 SUMMIT

Excerpts from an interview with  
**Captain Kevin McCloskey**  
*Commanding Officer of Maritime Operations  
Port of Los Angeles Port Police*



### **What would be the key message you would like to share with the industry?**

I work for the Port Police which is a part of the Port of Los Angeles organization. My perspective is through the particulars of safety, security, resiliency, resumption, regulation, and enforcement to name a few. The application of new technology can enhance performance of legacy missions. It also creates new missions and challenges. None of these can be addressed alone. Relationships ships are key to working with the many, many different actors with activities in the port environment.

### **What are the signs of the inevitable ports digital revolution? Which major changes can we expect?**

The tenants and users of the port are more reliant on digital processes than ever before. The USCG now has a Cyber Command with one of its missions being to protect the maritime transportation system. We can expect challenges in this domain both in securing it and responding to disruptions. A global example of reliance on digital systems involves the reliance on GPS technology and its vulnerability to being spoofed over wide areas or simply

disrupted on a small scale. The causes could range from innocent equipment interference to nefarious intent by nation states or criminal enterprises. This impacts the future safety of autonomous equipment and will require investment in robust systems.

### **Which were the key difficulties your company/organization faced in the recent time?**

The impact of COVID on operations has been a huge challenge. Admittedly, some projects benefitted from the application of technologies such as the ease of meeting virtually without parties having to travel to meet face to face. Some challenges were not really technological but human. We were not willing to accept and adopt to doing business digitally. In a COVID environment barriers to electronic documents, signatures etc. were eased. In response to this new work environment, we have had to really work hard to make sure that the institutional knowledge of our organization is shared. After a year, personnel changes have taken place both inside and outside our organization. Maintaining relationships as well as job knowledge suffers.