



**For Immediate Release**  
12/03/2013

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## **JTF7 honored with National Service Award for Cross-Partnership**

(BATON ROUGE, LA) On Tuesday, December 3, 2013, law enforcement task force, Joint Task Force Seven (JTF7), which is comprised of the seven sheriffs surrounding the Greater Baton Rouge area, received one of seven National Service Awards presented by Ready Communities Partnership.

Ready Communities Partnership honors men, women, organizations, or companies who have made exceptional contributions to America's domestic preparedness, response and recover capability.

The National Service Awards were presented during a symposium at the Port of New Orleans where leaders met from the Greater New Orleans region to address gaps in national domestic response capability. Attendees provided their best practices to create a template to be shared by America's strategic military base and port communities. Keynote speaker LTG Russel L. Honoré (US Army, ret.) provided the keynote address and presented the National Service Awards to local recipients.

JTF7 was recognized for creating and implementing a model demonstrating Cross-Sector Partnerships in the Greater Baton Rouge area. JTF7 partners with the Port of Greater Baton Rouge, the Coast Guard, and the private sector industry to protect the lives and the vital infrastructure of the Greater Baton Rouge area. The partnership's unique rapid-response capability and unified command structure allows JTF7 to quickly and effectively respond to unusual events at local facilities, acts of terrorism, and natural or man-made disasters.

The seven Louisiana sheriffs who form JTF7 are: Sheriff Beauregard "Bud" Torres III, Pointe Coupee Parish; Sheriff Brett Stassi Sr., Iberville Parish; Sheriff Austin Daniel, West Feliciana Parish; Sheriff Mike Cazes, West Baton Rouge Parish; Sheriff Jeff Wiley, Ascension Parish; Sheriff Sid Gautreaux, East Baton Rouge Parish, and Sheriff Talmadge Bunch, East Feliciana Parish.