Mississippi Freight Plan and MDOT Freight Webpage

We are pleased to announce that the MS Freight Plan and the MDOT Freight Webpage have been launched. The MS Freight Plan is a collaborative effort between the University of Mississippi, the State of Mississippi, and the USDOT. The MDOT Freight Webpage provides information on freight activities and can be accessed through the link above.

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Bids on reworking Interstate 55 stretch are rejected

The Mississippi Department of Transportation has requested all design-build firms to propose a solution for the Interstate 55 project that is free of liability.

After reviewing the bids received, it was determined that none of them were in line with the project's requirements. The Mississippi Department of Transportation has now decided to reject all bids and invited new companies to submit their proposals.

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Owner-operator truck group urges fed to drop proposal requiring speed limiters

The group representing about 15,000 of the nation's owner-operator truckers is calling on the government agencies that proposed the rule to reconsider its proposal for trucking on highways or federal-aid roads to be limited at 55 mph to prevent accidents and traffic congestion.

In a letter sent yesterday to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA) said that uniform highway speeds for all vehicles and trucks would not be the best way to keep the highways safe. Separate speed limits for cars and trucks by contract would increase the risk of crashes, the group said.

The group requested to submit a proposal that would make it easier for drivers to comply with traffic laws and to reduce the risk of accidents.

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142 U.S. troops involved in Nepal earthquake relief

There are 142 U.S. service members currently involved in earthquake relief efforts in Nepal, according to a statement from U.S. Pacific Command.

That breaks down to 74 Marines, 30 soldiers, and 38 airmen. All of the service members are deployed in support of relief efforts.

The Los Angeles Times reported Saturday that as many as 120,000 U.S. troops could be part of relief efforts, but U.S. officials could not verify the figure.

On Sunday, four Marine Corps CH-53D helicopters arrived in Nepal to deliver relief supplies being stored at the airport in Kathmandu and elsewhere. The Marines said they had received permission from local officials to land at the airport. The soldiers are from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 based out of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Okinawa, Japan.

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U.S. Ports See Costly Delays as Cargo Ships Grow

PORTSMOUTH, Va... The Port of Virginia, one of the nation's busiest, is being built to handle higher volumes of cargo traffic and extend the bay area.

But on the way, they are now stepping up to pick up a load of shipping, along with hundreds of other ships. The delays could make it through a new long line to be one of the ports. Formerly, inside the 45,000-ton cruise ship, 1,300 passengers, 1,300 crew, and 1,300 workers are able to board 31,000 tons wide and 1,300 deep. By the time they leave, the ship is set up and moving slowly.

A key reason is the rise of the Chinese: a large number of Chinese ships are built to handle the higher volumes of cargo traffic and extend the bay area.