



# SAFETY, SECURITY & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



## OVERVIEW

Meridian supports private and public organizations in achieving their goals for promoting safety, security, and environmental protection by providing these prevention and response services:

- Operational Risk Management;
- Security Services;
- Safety and Environmental Management Systems Improvement;
- Contingency Preparedness;
- Incident Response Management;
- Post-incident Support; and
- Organizational Safety, Security, and Environmental Culture Assessment.

## OUR COMPANY

In 2009, Meridian was formed to provide a cost-effective solution to combating piracy. We were the first US-based, ISO 28007-certified maritime security firm. Since then we have also achieved ISO 9001 certification and today we provide comprehensive services that promote safety, security, and environmental protection.

Meridian personnel have extensive experience in security, law enforcement, critical energy infrastructure, incident and crisis management, and regulatory compliance in the government and private sectors. Our team members have served in senior security and regulatory roles with government agencies and Fortune 500 companies. Our subject matter experts have demonstrated the technical expertise and ability to deliver the best performance while serving in such leadership positions as:

LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Captain of the Port</li> <li>▪ Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection</li> <li>▪ Federal Maritime Security Coordinator</li> <li>▪ Federal On-Scene Coordinator</li> <li>▪ Federal Security Director</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chief Executive Officer</li> <li>▪ Chief Operating Officer</li> <li>▪ Corporate Marine Operations Director</li> <li>▪ Corporate HSE Director</li> <li>▪ Corporate Security Director</li> </ul>

Additionally, our personnel have the following certifications:

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Professional Engineer</li> <li>▪ Type 1 Incident Management Team</li> <li>▪ ISM and ISO 9001 &amp; 14001 Lead Auditor</li> <li>▪ ICS Instructor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Homeland Security Exercise Evaluator</li> <li>▪ ISPS/MTSA Instructor and Auditor</li> <li>▪ Marine Inspector</li> <li>▪ Marine Casualty Investigator</li> </ul>

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**Main Office:** 812 Downtowner Blvd Suite A  
 Mobile, Alabama 36609  
**Other Locations:** Florida, Louisiana, Texas

## OUR OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Meridian.us has extensive experience in the compliance and enforcement of federal maritime safety, security and environmental protection laws and regulations, and international standards, including:

COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 104 Maritime Security: Vessels</li><li>▪ 33 CFR 105 Maritime Security: Facilities</li><li>▪ 33 CFR 126 Handling of Dangerous Cargo at Waterfront Facilities</li><li>▪ 33 CFR 127 Waterfront Facilities Handling Liquefied Natural Gas and Liquefied Hazardous Gas</li><li>▪ 33 CFR 154 Facilities Transferring Oil or Hazardous Materials in Bulk</li><li>▪ 33 CFR 155 Oil or Hazardous Material Pollution Prevention Regulations for Vessels</li><li>▪ 33 CFR 156 Oil and Hazardous Material Transfer Operations</li><li>▪ 33 CFR 158 Reception Facilities for Oil, Noxious Liquid Substances, and Garbage</li><li>▪ 49 CFR 172 - 177 Hazardous Materials Transportation</li><li>▪ 49 CFR 193 - 194 Pipeline Security and Response</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Safety of Life At Sea Convention (SOLAS)</li><li>▪ International Safety Management (ISM) Code</li><li>▪ Code for the Investigation of Marine Casualties</li><li>▪ International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)</li><li>▪ International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code</li><li>▪ International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code</li><li>▪ International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW)</li><li>▪ ISO 9001 Quality Management Systems</li><li>▪ ISO 14001 Environmental Management System</li></ul>

Our team's major accomplishments include:

- Safely completed hundreds of armed vessel security deployments
- Led implementation of ISM Code and Code for the Investigation of Marine Casualties for Texas
- Led implementations of MTSA and ISPS for Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan
- Successfully supported many major homeland security projects and events: Port Security Grant Program, Transportation Worker Identification Credential, 2008 Presidential Election, and Pittsburgh G20 Summit
- Led Coast Guard investigation of the MODU Deepwater Horizon serious marine casualty
- Supported major responses to Hurricane Katrina, and BP Macondo Oil Spill.

## OUR APPROACH

In delivering a scalable and cost-effective solution that meets or exceeds client expectations, we use a multi-disciplinary approach and intelligence-centric methodologies to address rapidly evolving challenges and emerging threats. We have developed work processes that utilize lessons learned and best practices. We determine areas of emphasis by examining a client's compliance status, industry trends, and regulators' priorities. We deploy senior consultants who have a broad understanding of the maritime safety net and the necessary knowledge, skills, and judgment to solve your immediate issues and to generate quality performance improvement plan.

## OUR SERVICES

For normal operations, we can help protect vessels and facilities by deploying teams of multi-skilled personnel to provide prevention and response measures. When comprehensive support is needed for ensuring effective threat assessment, contingency preparedness, and management systems, our highly experienced project managers and subject matter experts are ready to assist.

<b>SAFETY &amp; ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Towing Safety Management System</li> <li>▪ Subchapter M Third Party Organization</li> <li>▪ Bridging Document Development</li> <li>▪ Contractor Vessel Risk Assessment</li> <li>▪ Contractor Management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Internal Audits</li> <li>▪ Incident Investigation</li> <li>▪ Environmental Compliance Plan</li> <li>▪ Organizational Safety Culture Assessment</li> </ul>

Meridian.us provides armed security for commercial, as well as Military Sealift Command, vessels transiting high-risk waters. Our teams are led by combat decorated U.S. Marines and Army Special Forces operators who have been through extensive training regarding escalation of force procedures and the use of the weapons employed on vessels. To date we have safely deescalated more than twenty pirate attacks without our team members firing a single shot. We also provide unarmed security for shore facilities and Flotel working in the Gulf of Mexico.

<b>SECURITY</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Intelligence</li> <li>▪ Threat Assessment</li> <li>▪ Armed Vessel Security</li> <li>▪ Fixed Asset Security</li> <li>▪ Executive Protection</li> <li>▪ Travel and Journey Management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Crowd and Protest Management</li> <li>▪ Cybersecurity</li> <li>▪ Business Continuity Planning</li> <li>▪ Direct Asset Response Team</li> <li>▪ Route/Convoy Security</li> </ul>

Our instructors have a minimum of 15 years' experience in the fields they conduct classes in. Our highly trained and experienced staff can provide training in the following areas:

<b>TRAINING</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NIMS ICS 100b/200b, ICS 300, 320, 400, 410, 420, 440, Executive Level and Section Specific</li> <li>▪ Facility, Vessel, and Corporate Security Officer (FSO, VSO, CSO)</li> <li>▪ Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT)</li> <li>▪ Security Awareness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ TWIC Escort</li> <li>▪ USCG, EPA, BSEE, and DOT Qualified Individual</li> <li>▪ IMDG Code and 49 CFR Hazmat Transportation</li> <li>▪ Firearms</li> </ul>

Our regulatory planning staff can provide whole or partial plans depending on the needs of your organization. We presently offer:

<b>CONTINGENCY PLANS PREPARATION</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Integrated Contingency Plans</li> <li>▪ Emergency Response Action Plans</li> <li>▪ Facility and Vessel Response Plans</li> <li>▪ Tactical Plans</li> <li>▪ Integrity Management Plans</li> <li>▪ Facility and Vessel Security Plans</li> <li>▪ Hazardous Waste Contingency Plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans</li> <li>▪ Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plans</li> <li>▪ Oil Discharge and Prevention Contingency Plans</li> <li>▪ Operations Manuals (docks, pipelines, platforms)</li> <li>▪ All Hazards Planning and Preparation</li> </ul>

We offer a wide range of drill and exercise programs to meet your organization's preparation and training needs. These include:

<b>DRILLS &amp; EXERCISES</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tabletops emphasizing Training/Coaching</li> <li>▪ Tabletops of various intensity and scope</li> <li>▪ Worst Case Scenario Equipment Deployment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Homeland Security/MTSA/HSEEP</li> <li>▪ National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (NPREP)</li> <li>▪ IMT/SMT/QI drills and exercises</li> <li>▪ Comprehensive multi-day exercises</li> </ul>

Our response teams are geographically and strategically located to enable response personnel to be on scene within just a few short hours in almost all cases. Our emergency on call personnel are available 24/7/365. Our team can provide response expertise to oil and hazmat spills across the U.S. and Canada with:

<b>RESPONSE</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ IMT/SMT partial team augmentation</li> <li>▪ IMT/SMT full team deployment</li> <li>▪ Qualified Individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Operations/Planning/Finance/Auditing/Documentation</li> <li>▪ Government Liaison/Public Information/Safety</li> <li>▪ GIS and trajectories</li> </ul>

Through state-of-the-art GPS surveying, we can provide geo-referenced latitude and longitude coordinates for:

<b>GPS SURVEYING</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pipeline and Facility Maps</li> <li>▪ Utilities</li> <li>▪ Transportation Systems</li> <li>▪ Evacuation Routes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Socio-Economic Sensitivities</li> <li>▪ Equipment Deployment and Staging Areas</li> <li>▪ Endangered Species and Wildlife Habitats and Refuges</li> </ul>

We can provide spill trajectories for:

<b>SPILL TRAJECTORIES</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Contingency Planning</li><li>▪ Spill Management</li><li>▪ Response Exercises</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Decision Support</li><li>▪ Risk Assessment</li></ul>

## **OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM**

- Jonathan McConnell, esq. – President/CEO
- Captain Hung Nguyen, USCG (retired), Chief Operating Officer
- Jason R. Wilbur – Vice President, Corporate and Regulatory Security
- Joshua Simonson – Manager, Maritime Security
- Brandon Miller – Manager, Corporate Security
- Zac Schlarb – Manager, Regulatory Security



**Jonathan McConnell, esq.**  
**President/CEO**

Jonathan served as an infantry officer in the United States Marine Corps. On his first deployment to Iraq, he commanded 3D Platoon (reinforced) Lima Company, 3D Battalion 2D Marines. Jonathan was charged with quelling the insurgency on the outskirts of Fallujah, Iraq and received personal combat decorations. On his second deployment to Iraq, Jonathan was the Executive Officer of Weapons Company 3D Battalion 2D Marines as well as 1ST Mobile Assault Platoon Commander. During this deployment, he maintained Battle

Position Da’Nang in the Al Anbar Province near the Syrian border. His company was co-located with an Iraqi Army infantry company in which he was charged with training and conducting joint operations.

Upon completing his second tour in Iraq, Jonathan earned his law degree from the University of Alabama Law School and passed the Alabama Bar. In response to the attack on the Maersk Alabama in 2009, Jonathan, with his fellow Marines, sought a cost-effective solution to combating piracy. In 2009, Jonathan formed Meridian.US and began positioning embarked security teams on U.S. flagged vessels.



**Captain Hung M. Nguyen, USCG (ret)**  
**Chief Operating Officer**  
**Vice President, Regulations**

Captain Nguyen has over 30 years of experience in operational risk management and regulatory compliance. He successfully led the implementation of the International Safety Management Code, the Maritime Transportation Security Act, and the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code.

As a Co-chairman of the Joint Department of the Homeland Security and the Department of the Interior Deepwater Horizon Casualty Investigation, he identified many safety improvement recommendations that have been enacted by the U.S. Coast Guard and the International Maritime Organization.

Captain Nguyen’s awards include Legion of Merit, four Meritorious Service Medals, two Coast Guard Commendation Medals, Department of Transportation 911 Medal, and four Coast Guard Achievement Medals. He also received the Congressman James Sener Award for Excellence in Marine Investigations.



**Jason Wilbur**  
**Vice President, Corporate and Regulatory Security**

Jason served with Meridian as a maritime security team leader since 2012 until transitioning into a senior management position. Before joining Meridian full time, Jason successfully operated his own safety & security company as well as a firearms training academy.

Jason served in the United States Marine Corps Infantry from 2005-2009 with Weapons Company, 3D Battalion 2D Marines. During Jason’s first deployment to Iraq, he served as the Fire Direction Center (FDC) Chief for the Battalion’s 81mm Mortar Platoon as well as a turret gunner in a Mobile Assault Platoon. He also participated in mounted and dismounted patrols conducting cordon-knocks, searches, raids and gathering intelligence. Jason deployed to a Iraq a second time as a section leader for a mobile assault platoon, leading over 100 combat mobile patrols on top the numerous personal security details and quick-reaction missions.



**Joshua Simonson**  
**Manager, Maritime Security**

Josh served with Meridian as a maritime security team leader, as well as its operational manager over all maritime operations before transitioning to Vice President over all International Operations.

Josh served In the United States Marine Corps Infantry from 2003–2013, deploying on three combat deployments with Lima Company, 3D Battalion 2D Marines. Josh then went on to a Special Duty Assignment at the School of Infantry East (SOI East), where he filled the billet of a Marine Corps Combat Instructor, Master Platform Instructor of Infantry Tactics and Battalion Curriculum Developer. After his time at SOI East, Josh deployed with 2D battalion 2D Marines on the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) as an Infantry Platoon sergeant. While deployed on the 22nd MEU, Josh was the assistant TRAP (Tactical Recovery of Aircraft Personnel) Leader for all NATO TRAP missions in the Mediterranean and Libya during NATO Operation Unified Protector in 2011. Josh honorably finished his time with the United States Marine Corps, while earning numerous personal and combat decorations, before transitioning to Meridian.



**Zac Schlarb**  
**Manager, Regulatory Security**

Zac Schlarb has served with Meridian as a Maritime Security Team Leader since 2013 before transitioning into his current position as the Manager of Regulatory Security.

Before Meridian he served in the United States Marine Corps Infantry from 2003-2007, deploying on three combat deployments to both Afghanistan and Iraq with Lima Company, #D Battalion, 2D Marines. During his third combat deployment, which was in Iraq, Schlarb served as a team leader, patrol leader, and assistant squad leader. Upon returning from his final combat deployment, he went on to a Special Duty Assignment as an instructor/controller at the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twenty-Nine Palms, California. After being honorably discharged in 2007, he obtained a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies in 2011. On completion of his degree, he gained a tremendous amount of security experience conducting high threat executive protection operations in Baghdad, Iraq. In 2015, Schlarb graduated from The Pennsylvania State University with a Master of Professional Studies in Homeland Security.



**Brandon Miller**  
**Manager, Corporate Security**

Brandon served with Meridian as a project manager of multiple fixed site security operations in Southwest Louisiana before transitioning to Manager, Corporate Security. Before joining Meridian, Brandon served in Law Enforcement as a Sheriff's Deputy at the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office.

Brandon serves in the Louisiana National Guard as the Executive Officer of Headquarters Company 3rd Battalion 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Prior to this, Brandon served as a light infantry Platoon Leader in Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Brandon has responded to multiple state level emergencies and led operations spanning multiple parishes in Southwest Louisiana.