Best Practice: Elevated Tower Overlooking Entering Trucks

Category:	**Access Control**
Location First Observed:	**Port of Kandla, India**
DateFirst Observed:	**May, 2005**

Description: The port built steel observation towers at port entrances so guards can look at the top of all trucks entering the port facility.

Discussion: Port officials recognize that persons or materials can be hidden on the top of truck cabs or trailers entering the port. They built elevated towers for guards to stand on at the facility entrance so they would have a clear view of vehicle tops. This serves as both a deterrent to smuggling, and an effective means better inspect incoming vehicles. To be most effective, guards need to be stationed on the towers to observe all entering vehicles, but intermittent random use of the towers will still have a strong deterrent effect. The towers are fitted with a steel roof to protect the guard from the rain and sun. A strong moveable light mounted on the tower would significantly enhance their effectiveness at night. A heavy steel plate mounted around the guard's area would provide ballistic protection if the guard was also armed to provide facility protection in the event of an armed attack.

Potential Down-side: None. Depending on security staffing levels, it could potentially cost more to have an additional security guard stationed in an elevated tower. A similar benefit could be had by mounting fixed or moveable cameras over the entrance to the port, with video monitors inside the entrance station so a single gate guard could examine the driver's credentials while remotely scanning the top of the truck

Conclusion: An elevated tower or a facility entrance station with an elevated observation point that permits the examination of the top of trucks and other large vehicles is a low cost means to help prevent unauthorized persons or materials from entering a port facility.

Cost: Approximately $500 USD each to build by welding steel stock. Lower cost for wood construction.