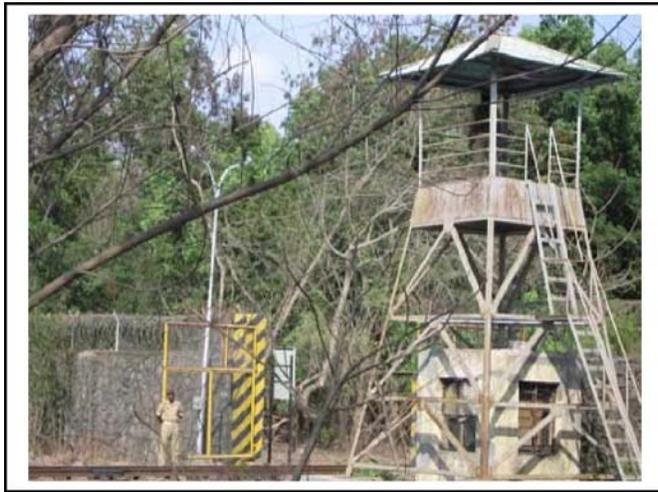


## **Best Practice: Observation Tower & Guards At Train Entrance to Facility**



<b>Category:</b>	Access Control
<b>Location</b>	
<b>First Observed:</b>	Port of Neva Sheva, Mumbai, India
<b>Date First Observed:</b>	May, 2005

**Description:** Facility managers built a tall guard tower overlooking the railroad entrance to the facility, and post two guards to aid in the detection of unauthorized persons or property in incoming or outbound trains.

**Discussion:** Trains and railroad tracks entering port facilities present a number of security issues for facility managers and security officers. The Neva Sheva facility addressed train security by installing a gate that is closed and locked across the tracks when no train is expected, and by posting two guards at the entrance when the gate is opened to permit a train to pass. The facility requires trains entering or exiting the facility to travel at extremely slow speeds. Two guards are posted at the opened gate when trains are transiting; one at ground level on one side of the tracks, and a second on an elevated tower overlooking the train. The guards are assigned to look for unauthorized persons or materials concealed on the train. Powerful lights on the tower would improve the ability to detect unauthorized persons or materials.

**Potential Down-side:** It is important to ensure trains entering and leaving are traveling at a very slow speed so guards can effectively see areas that could conceal persons, weapons, or contraband. These observation positions do not permit guards to effectively see the undercarriage of the trains.

**Conclusion:** These measures are a significant improvement over lesser practices, but don't fully address the security issues posed by trains entering and exiting a facility. It is important to inspect the undercarriage of entering and exiting trains for unauthorized persons or materials.

**Cost:** Moderate; depending on construction (wood, steel, etc.) and accessories (lights, phones, sensors, etc.) between \$500 and \$5000 USD.