

Best Practice: Multi-Use Tetrapods



Category:	Access Control
Location:	Port of Betio, Tarawa, Kiribati
Date Observed:	September 2006
POC:	N/A
WWW:	N/A

Description: Concrete tetrapods used to prevent shoreline erosion also enhance perimeter access control.

Discussion: The use of tetrapods as erosion control devices give the added benefit of increasing perimeter access control without additional cost. Even though the primary purpose of the tetrapods is not for security, they provide a means to restrict and slow any unauthorized personnel from entering the port facility from the waterside. The tetrapods are low maintenance and long-lasting. When planning a new facility or making upgrades to an existing facility, consideration should be given to multi-use items such as tetrapods. Secondary benefits could help defray the costs of overall implementation.

Potential Down-side: The initial cost for constructing and installing tetrapods can be high but their secondary benefit has no cost associated with it.

Conclusion: Tetrapods can have secondary benefits such as enhancing perimeter waterside security at no cost. The challenge is to recognize secondary benefits or uses of similar items and use them to increase the security posture of the port facility.

Cost: The initial cost of purchasing tetrapods can be high but if port operators are already going to purchase this type of item, its secondary uses may help defray some of the initial costs.