

## **Best Practice: Neighborhood Watch**



<b>Category:</b>	Access Control
<b>Location:</b>	Port of Belize Ltd, Belize
<b>Date Observed:</b>	May 24, 2006
<b>POC:</b>	N/A
<b>WWW:</b>	<a href="http://www.portofbelize.com">www.portofbelize.com</a>

**Description:** The facility has forged a strong relationship with the local community by offering water and a place to rest in the general use area of the facility. In exchange, the facility requests that the local community report any suspicious persons or activity they observe near the facility.

**Discussion:** This practice enhances security of the facility by creating additional eyes and ears to watch the exterior perimeter of the facility. This practice also gives the community a sense of ownership in protecting the facility as local asset. The cost is negligible and it is an effective way to educate the community about the need for security at the facility.

**Potential Down-side:** This practice works well because the facility is divided into three security zones, with the general use area requiring minimal security screening. Further entry into the facility beyond the general use area is restricted. It would be harder to implement this type of program at facilities that do not have the space or are not already set up for a general use area at the entrance to the facility.

**Conclusion:** If a facility has the space to share with the community this type of practice could help to enhance the overall security of the facility or port. At the same time it also helps to improve the relationship between the facility and the community.

**Cost:** The cost is minimal for those facilities that already have a general use area. For those that do not, the cost could be significant depending on the space and layout of the facility.