

## **Best Practice: Firearms Range**



*File photo; not taken in Turkey*

<b>Category:</b>	Guards and Police
<b>Location:</b>	Aliaga, Turkey
<b>Date Observed:</b>	February, 2005
<b>POC:</b>	N/A
<b>WWW:</b>	N/A

- Description:** The TUPRAS petroleum facility employs armed security forces to protect the facility. Security officers carry side arms, sub-machine guns, and shotguns depending on their assignment. To permit their personnel to maintain and improve their marksmanship qualifications, the facility has a 50-yard outdoor firing range on their facility complete with movable targets.
- Discussion:** To maintain firearm proficiency and accuracy, police and security officers should practice with their weapons as frequently as possible. Due to logistics and cost constraints, it is common for police and security officers to not practice or qualify with their firearms as often as is desirable; often just once or twice per year. To make firearms practice more accessible and inexpensive for their officers, this facility built their own five lane firing range inside the facility grounds. Officers can practice with their firearms while they are on the facility at no cost, not detracting from their ability to respond to a security incident
- Potential Downside:** If located, constructed, or managed improperly, a firing range can create a significant danger to other employees, the public, or flammable/explosive cargo, and a significant liability for the facility. The sound of shooting at a facility can be distracting to other facility employees.
- Conclusion:** Depending on the size of the security force, the numbers of weapons they are required to maintain proficiency on, and the size and configuration of a facility, the installation of a shooting range on a facility can improve the opportunities for security officers to maintain and improve their firearms skills. There are definite benefits to security officers being more proficient with their firearms, including the ability to defend the facility against attackers, and less of a chance that security officers will accidentally discharge their firearms, or miss their intended target in an intentional shooting, resulting in an innocent person or non-intended target being struck.
- Cost:** Outdoor range: \$1,000 - \$10,000 (USD), depending on size and features. Indoor range: \$20,000 – \$40,000 (USD), depending on size and features.