

Best Practice: Waterside Infrared Motion Detector



Category: Perimeter Control (Waterside)

Location: Bananapuerto, Ecuador

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Description: Use of infrared motion detection device along waterside perimeter.

Discussion: The port of Bananapuerto has an electronic frontier established using infrared motion detection devices along the waterside perimeter of the facility. The infrared beam is installed so in such a way as to make it almost impossible to crawl underneath or jump over it. This, in conjunction with an extremely effective outer perimeter fence, forms a greater perimeter deterrent that significantly reduces the ability of unauthorized persons to enter the facility. An activation of the infrared motion detector will alert guards which section of the perimeter alarm was activated.

Potential Down-side: If potential infiltrators are aware of the infrared system it is possible to devise ways to circumvent it. The system can be accidentally activated by large birds or other wildlife, causing multiple nuisance responses or guards ignoring a legitimate activation.

Conclusion: There are few effective perimeter deterrents that restrict waterside access to port facilities. The infrared motion detection system can be effective when used in conjunction with other security measures and can fill in the gaps left by fencing or patrols alone.

Cost: Expensive. There is a significant cost for the purchase, installation and maintenance of an infrared motion detection system.