

Best Practice: 24 Hour Watch in Pier/Berthing Areas



File Photo, not from actual

Category:	Perimeter Control
Location:	Port of Arsew/Bethioua, Algeria
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- Description:** Security guards are stationed at the gas transfer pier twenty four hours per day, seven days a week, even when no vessels are alongside the facility
- Discussion:** Having a security guard at the gas transfer pier at all times provides additional waterside security and also helps to ensure that only authorized individuals have access to the pipes and manifolds. When transfer operations are taking place, two additional armed guards are placed at the gangway. Security guards stationed on the pier at all times can also serve to identify fire outbreaks, or call for help if someone falls in the water or is otherwise injured on the pier.
- Potential Down-side:** The cost of hiring and managing additional personnel to provide coverage 24 hour time periods, 365 days a year. Due to the guard's isolated location at the end of the pier, he must be equipped with an intrinsically safe radio or cell phone.
- Conclusion:** Due to the significance of gas exports to Algeria's economy, security measures to protect the port of Arsew/Bethioua are of utmost importance. The precaution of stationing guards at the berthing areas at all times, rather than just when a ship is in port is an effective approach to improving facility security.
- Cost:** Moderate. Labor costs are relatively low in Algeria as compared to other countries. For this reason the hiring of additional security personnel is preferred over many of the more expensive technological solutions used for monitoring port activity or deterring crime/terrorism, such as CCTV or electronic alarms. Hiring guards for 24/7 coverage may be more expensive in other nations.