

Best Practice: Perimeter Security

Place Photo Here

Category: Perimeter Control
Location: Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala
Date Observed: March 2005

- Description:** The perimeter barrier consists of a 2 meter high wall constructed of cinder blocks with 1 meter of chain link fencing installed on top. A row of concertina wire runs along the top of the chain link fencing; making a 3.5 meter (11 foot) barrier.
- Discussion:** This wall/fence combination is extremely difficult to dig under or to climb over. It is also very difficult for persons outside the fence to surveil what is happening inside the facility. If built with collision security in mind (filling the concrete blocks with liquid concrete and rebar) a barrier of this type can protect a facility from a vehicle attack.
- Potential Down-side:** This is an expensive wall to construct and security officers inside cannot easily see what is on the outside. This can be somewhat remedied with convex mirrors mounted on the top of the wall in strategic locations, and/or video cameras mounted on the top of the wall.
- Conclusion:** While the barrier creates blind spots for security officers its effectiveness at keeping unauthorized persons out outweighs the potential loss of vision.
- Cost:** The initial cost of installing this type of perimeter barrier is significantly more than a simple chain link fence.