

Best Practice: Elevated Security Tower



The enclosed observation tower can be seen in the background .

Category:	Security Infrastructure
Location:	Port of La Haina, Dominican Republic
Date Observed:	November, 2005
POC:	

Description: The facility built a 70 feet tall enclosed observation tower from which security officers and port managers could look over the entire facility and adjoining waterway. The tower permitted the security forces to continually monitor personnel and vehicle on the facility, as well as vessels or swimmers approaching the facility. Tower is climate controlled, and includes CCTV security monitors.

Discussion: An elevated observation tower provides many benefits, including the actual observation of activities on the facility, and a perception by persons walking, working, and driving vehicles on the facility that they are always under surveillance. The tower permits security personnel to observe any persons climbing over perimeter fences, driving vehicles unsafely, or other activity that might constitute a security or safety situation. A tower can also be used by facility managers to oversee day to day facility operations. Elevated observation towers can be simple 20 foot tall open structures of steel frame construction or 100 foot tall enclosed structures with office space, climate control features and an elevator. Towers can be used to simultaneously support CCTV cameras, high intensity lighting, and/or radio antennas.

Potential Down-side: None

Conclusion: An elevated observation tower is a highly effective multi-benefit approach to improving security and improving the efficient operation and management of a facility.

Cost: \$5,000 - \$100,000 USD, depending on height and construction features.