

## **Best Practice: Mobile Guard Tower**

**Photo Not Available**

**Category:** Security Infrastructure  
**Location:** Manzanillo, Mexico  
**Date Observed:** October 2004  
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**Description:** The Port of Manzanillo has portable guard towers. These towers are approximately 20 feet high, constructed of metal, and can be easily relocated.

**Discussion:** These guard towers provide a fairly good visibility of various sections of the port and therefore enhance the effectiveness and deterrent value of the guard force. Because they are relocated periodically, their value is increased, as an individual planning to do something illegal will never know where the post will be next and therefore makes it more difficult to be sure that one will avoid surveillance.

**Potential Down-side:** Because the towers are constantly relocated, their placement can sometimes interfere with cargo operations. In addition, to make them portable and inexpensive, the towers are not very durable.

**Conclusion:** These towers provide a cost effective way of enhancing security in a port facility. Care must be taken to coordinate their relocation and placement with those responsible for cargo operations, and the towers must be inspected frequently to insure that they remain safe for use.

**Cost:** The initial cost is per tower is approximately \$700 per tower.