

Better BORDER CONTROL

Integrated system helps Texas Border Patrol agents enhance security, speed response time



The United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Alpine Border Patrol Station is one of 12 Border Patrol Stations in the Marfa Sector, which covers 165,000 square miles and encompasses 155 counties in Texas and Oklahoma — the largest geographical area of any sector along the Southwest border. CBP agents in the Marfa Sector are responsible for securing more than 510 miles of river border.

To enhance overall security, and support its customs and border protection mission more efficiently, Alpine Border Patrol Station sought a security solution that integrated video surveillance with intrusion and access control. The station also wanted a system that would enable its agents to readily manage its entire operation on a single software platform. Additionally, it wanted a modular and scalable system that could be upgraded and modified as its needs changed, as well as a system that could easily integrate with existing security systems.



Surveillance systems are integrated with intrusion and access control systems.

Station officials chose systems integrator Senspex Inc., which, in turn, chose Honeywell's WIN-PAK PRO 2005 access control platform integrated with intercom stations, VISTA-128FBP intrusion panel, and Fusion Digital Video Recorder (DVR) with multiple fixed and Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) cameras for the hub of its new security system.

The system has substantially reduced the time needed

for Alpine Border Patrol Station agents to access and respond to potentially dangerous situations. By consolidating all of the station's security on a single platform, the system enables agents to scan the entire region using a single screen. Agents can also control any camera in the system from the same screen to quickly assess risks and resolve issues.

"This security system allows the Border Patrol to tightly control the level of access that personnel have to sensitive areas, remotely monitor all activity and respond to situations quicker and more efficiently," says William Renfro, Senspex senior project engineer.

The VISTA-128FBP intrusion panel provides off-site notification to an MX8000 alarm receiver located at a remote site, while a 32-channel Fusion DVR supports 23 fixed cameras and five PTZ cameras located throughout the premises. All activity is logged, and can be stored for later retrieval.

In the past, management had to manually change locks throughout the facility whenever a key was lost or after an employee was dismissed. Today, administrators can simply delete lost or stolen user access cards from the system. Other time-saving benefits include reduced training time for new agents, as well as

real-time management of information, which simplifies access control for sensitive areas. For example, an administrator can grant access to a group and employees tagged to that group automatically inherit its global access polices.

Looking ahead, the Alpine Border Patrol Station is working on connecting other Border Patrol stations to its own alarm receiver, which will help agents to centrally monitor and respond to alarms along a much greater portion of the Southwest border. Station officials are also considering the addition of biometric card readers to ensure HSPD-12 and FIPS 201 compliance. **ST/D**

California Cities Tackle Vehicle Access Control

Bollards play leading role in traffic control, homeland security

To block off residential areas from nighttime traffic off of Sunset Boulevard and mitigate traffic from the Sunset Millennium Shopping Center, the City of West Hollywood has been using the same type of anti-terrorism bollards used by the federal government to stop car bombers at embassies. In West Hollywood, however, the bollards keep busy nighttime traffic from entering residential streets.

"Delta TT210 bollards were installed on Hammond Avenue 15 years ago," says Sharon Perlstein, West Hollywood (Calif.) City Engineer, Department of Transportation and Public Works. "They have survived with little cost for restoration or repair. Over the years, the bollards have been hit by a several cars going 30 to 40 miles per hour."

The TT210 vertical lift bollards from Delta Scientific can destroy the front suspension system, steering linkage, engine crank case and portions of the drive train of a 7.5 ton non-armored or non-tracked vehicle at 62 mph. They will also stop a 15 ton vehicle traveling at 44 mph.

During the day, the bollard systems are recessed and remain in the down position to let cars through. During the evening, they raise to keep cars off residential streets. Parking Enforcement raises and lowers the bollards with a key operation.

A second system was installed to mitigate traffic from the Sunset Millennium area, which includes a shopping center, hotel/retail section and retail/office area. In order to build the project, the developers were required to keep shoppers away from West Hollywood's residential areas and needed to block off a street.

To do so, the developer, in concert with the city, decided to install the same model bollards on West Hollywood's Alta Loma Road, turning the street into a cul-de-sac.

The West Hollywood Emergency

Services Department was very concerned, however, and requested that the bollards be able to be lowered for emergency traffic, Perlstein says. In response, Delta created a system that responds to the sound of a siren by lowering the bollards. Parking Enforcement then re-raises them through a key operation.

LAPD Deploys Mobile Barriers

Just a couple bus stops from West Hollywood, the Los Angeles Police Department has deployed Delta's self-contained MP5000 High Security Mobile Barricade Systems (pictured below) to protect its historic downtown Parker Center headquarters during times of heightened homeland security threat levels. The barricades, which can be towed into position to control vehicle access within 15 minutes, are also used for special events unique to Los Angeles, such as the Academy Awards, major sporting events, high-profile trials, or in the potential event of riots or natural disasters such as earthquakes.

When the homeland security threat alert rises, the LAPD's secure perimeter expands several blocks. The barricades can be mobilized in response to a threat level change, creating a safe zone at the outer areas surrounding the Parker Center headquarters.

The barricade system does not require excavation or sub-surface preparation. Once positioned, the mobile barricade unpacks itself by using hydraulics to raise and lower itself off its wheels. A DC powered pump then raises or lowers the barrier.

