

Best Practice: Turnstile and Camera linked to ID Card



Category:	Access Control
Location:	MedCenter Container Terminal (MCT) Gioia Tauro, Italy
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Description: When a pedestrian uses a facility issued electronically encoded identification card to pass through the turnstile gate, a camera records their image and immediately displays it on the computer in the security center. The computer in the security center also displays the individual's identification information and a file photo. This process is activated when personnel enter and leave through the turnstile gate.

Discussion: Electronic access cards are susceptible to being stolen or given to unauthorized persons. This system combines the electronic access control system with CCTV to monitor all personnel entering through the pedestrian gates. The system allows the security guards to confirm the identity of each person accessing the facility without being physically present at the gate. This keeps guards out of inclement weather and maximizes personnel resources by manning a single location to simultaneously monitor the pedestrian entrances and other CCTV cameras.

Potential Down-side: The potential exists for guards on duty to become complacent or inattentive to the monitoring system.

Conclusion: The use of CCTV cameras in conjunction with access control cards provides an immediate visual confirmation of the card holder as well as providing historical video footage for investigating incidents of unauthorized access if they occur.

Cost: Although this system requires a significant initial investment for purchasing and integrating the equipment and providing training, over time it should prove more cost effective than employing the additional guards to man the gate and the security center. Additional costs may be incurred to maintain or upgrade the system as necessary.