

## Port Everglades Cruises to Safety with Security One Systems and DVTEL

by Paul Smith

Almost 6,000 ships call at Port Everglades annually, and its growing containerized cargo business places it 12th among the nation's seaports. The port's petroleum storage and distribution hub serves all of South Florida, it is one of the top three cruise ports in the world, and it boasts a major convention center within its 2,000 acres. Port Everglades is one of South Florida's strongest economic engines with annual operating revenues of approximately \$100 million. A major security incident or act of terrorism would have strong negative impact on the port and South Florida as well as reverberations throughout the world.

Few sites pose more complex or more critical challenges than the nation's seaports. In addition to the usual concerns of asset and employee protection, ports face additional security threats from terrorism, drugs and other smuggling operations, and stowaways. Mel Becena, Port Everglades Security Administrator, describes it this way, "Seaports have to allow public traffic on the waterside; we're not a naval base where we can seal off access. There's no way we can ever shut off access, it would impact millions of dollars of commerce."

### System Design

The Port Everglades security operation is directly in charge of the port's four access gates where thousands of vehicles pass daily, the land perimeter, and the critical waterside. The initial design for the port's Homeland Security system upgrade called for 14 "node rooms" spread out over 2,000 acres, in which DVRs and other equipment would connect directly to nearby cameras before the data was put on the network. This design meant expensive hardware would be scattered all over the complex, no centralized control and recording, time-consuming and complicated maintenance, and worst of all, the system design was unnecessarily costly.

The installation integrator, Tony Belotto from Security One, a PSA member based in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., recommended that the port utilize the unique architecture of DVTEL's software-based solution to extend and improve on the

initial design plan. The DVTEL Network Video Management System enables the port to take advantage of its dedicated one gigabyte network to bring all data back to the Security Operations Center (SOC). Camera data now travels into DVTEL

an IP-based system architecture? Using DVTEL's Latitude NVMS (Network Video Management System), we can bring all the data back to the Security Operations Center (SOC), where we now have the bulk of the hardware, and we control

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encoders in the node rooms and is then transmitted over the network to the SOC to an automated video surveillance (AVS) system for intelligent video analysis and to the DVTEL NVMS for monitoring and recording.

### Utilizing IP-based System Architecture

"Originally the DVR and AVS systems would be spread out all over the port," Tony explains. "It seemed to me that with DVTEL's advanced technology there was an alternative. Why not utilize the dedicated network to take advantage of

everything from one centralized location. We saved the port money and made the system much more manageable and scalable than what we had first planned."

Tony continues by saying that the final integration will be set up so the DVTEL and the access control systems will pass information back and forth. In the future, most of the alarms will come from access control monitoring and such alarms will pass to the DVTEL NVMS to automatically pop video on a specific screen in the SOC. All three systems--access control, AVS, and DVTEL--can create alarms that will pop video in the SOC for immediate and thorough investigation. In addition, to protect remote equipment the access control system can tie in door contacts and thermostats in the node rooms to provide even more control for security personnel.

*Security One Systems, Inc. is Florida's largest privately owned electronic security integrator providing design, installation, and service of CCTV Video Surveillance Systems and Access Control Systems from six statewide offices: Miami, Tampa, West Palm Beach, Orlando, Fort Lauderdale, and Jacksonville.*

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**Aerial View of Port Everglades**

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