Honeywell Provides Radar Security for “Cruise Capital of the World”

It’s one of the busiest seaports in the U.S. The Port of Miami is known as the Cruise Capital of the World and the Cargo Gateway of the Americas. It contributes more than $17 billion annually to the South Florida economy and supports more than 176,000 jobs. In 2008, more than 4.1 million passengers traveled through the Port, and more than 7.4 million tons and 828,349 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of cargo passed through the facility. Port officials turned to Honeywell for a waterside radar security system to provide situational awareness of the waterways in the general area.
The Situation:

Because passenger safety is their first priority, Port officials sought a way to identify intruders who could potentially damage a docked cruise ship. In addition to protecting the wharfs, they wanted exclusion zones for protecting the ship channel from terrorism and other threats. Depending on what type of vessel is in the channel, officials wanted the zones scaled to alert security operators if another vessel came within certain proximity of a ship.

The Solution:

Close collaboration with the Port’s Information Technology section enabled Honeywell to integrate its Radar Video Surveillance (RVS) solutions with the Port’s access control and ship scheduling systems to monitor ship traffic. Intruders detected by the radar system are depicted on the RVS Graphical User Interface, allowing security personnel to use Honeywell’s ACUIX™ pan/tilt/zoom (PTZ) cameras to assess and track the targets. The access control integration allows the Port’s existing central alarm monitoring system to be immediately notified of RVS alarms, while the Automatic Identification System (AIS) provides information about arriving and departing vessels to the Port’s existing Ship Scheduling System. The RVS system enables authorities to respond quickly to potential threats by integrating waterside radar with AIS, Global Positioning System (GPS) and video data. The RVS software allows security personnel to create rules for identifying potential threats, including defined alarm zones, time of day, ship speed and direction, and other operator inputs. The system alerts officers immediately when there’s a problem.

“The recently, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement ranked the Port of Miami among the top installations in Florida in terms of safety and security, thanks to all these innovative systems and technology. We’re very proud of that.”

Louis Noriega
Chief of Information Technology
Port of Miami

The Benefits:

Because all the systems for the Port are automated and integrated, operators are more efficient and the Port processes run more smoothly. Operators receive alarms from fire control, energy management, the access control system for doors and gates, and from the radar system. The Port has found that it’s a major advantage to have a system that uses a graphical display to alert an officer when a vessel has entered a restricted area. “The implementation of the Radar Video Surveillance System and the Automated Information System is another example of how the Port of Miami is implementing cutting-edge technology to strengthen our ability to provide a secure environment for both our cruise and cargo customers,” said Bill Johnson, Port of Miami director.

The Honeywell solution quickly transmits radar and video display information to the Port’s control center through wireless and fiber optic networks. In the command and control center, security personnel view the user interface on displays where tracking and video information are displayed via a geospatial map, providing the Port with a situational awareness assessment of potential threats. The solution also wirelessly transmits the information to patrol boat officers who use laptops outfitted with the RVS software for onsite real-time target and video display.

Maritime security is one of the most scrutinized homeland security issues today, and effectively securing a seaport is an extremely challenging task due to the sheer size of the area. By using an integrated approach, Honeywell has provided a solution that quickly delivers critical information that security personnel at the Port of Miami need to make an informed decision when responding to a threat.

The Products:

- Radar Video Surveillance (RVS) System
- Automatic Identification System (AIS)
- ACUIX™ PTZ cameras

For more information:

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