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Memphis Airport hardens fences

By Scott Marcoux

MEMPHIS, Tenn.--The Memphis/Shelby County Airport is installing an intrusion detection system along 34,000 feet of fenced perimeter, in an effort to better protect air traffic from security threats.

The new system uses intelligent video software to alert security personnel in real time when a person or vehicle breaches the perimeter. The software is more commonly used along waterways and other areas without fences, said Safety Director Walter White, but the airport decided that its fence, even when reinforced with existing video and patrols, was still an easy target.

"A fence is a deterrent only -- it won't stop people," he said.

The system uses intelligent video software integrated with CCTV to determine the threat level of objects such as people and vehicles. If a vehicle is traveling the wrong way or an unknown person has entered a restricted area, for instance, the system alerts airport security personnel via phone, pager or a remote console. The system is tied into 200 Bosch cameras already monitored by security personnel.

White said he expects the installation to cost the airport about \$2.3 million.

Stanley Security Solutions is installing the system, with intelligent video software from ObjectVideo. Kendall Crawford, a Stanley account manager, said that while this type of system is "still in its infancy," the technology is becoming more widely accepted.