



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Marine Corps Air Station
Beaufort, South Carolina 29904-5010

1400
S3AO
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SUBJECT: RAPID SYSTEM ASSESSMENT

1. Special Security Incorporated installed their "RAPID Unmanned Checkpoint" system in support of the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort 2002 Air Show held on April 27th and 28th 2002. The system was primarily utilized as a control measure to allow for restricted access, by means of the RAPID system, to the Operations Building aboard the Air Station. Credential verification was limited to Aerial Performers and critical Air Show Staff members. Approximately 150 RAPID cards were issued during the show.
2. The objective of employing the Rapid system was to reduce security personnel requirements, as they were needed elsewhere during such a large event, while providing controlled, yet fast and efficient accessibility. Exceptions to the restricted access list are typical at an event such as an Air Show. Delays would occur while security force personnel at a guarded entryway were validating non-card holders. Those who possessed a RAPID card could enter through the unmanned "RAPID" entrance. This entrance was displaced from the guarded entrance and Air Show staff quickly became comfortable with its use.
3. The Special Security, Inc. staff were professional. The check-in and card generation process was well organized and efficient. Most cards were generated within 3 minutes. The performers were understanding of our need for security and were receptive to the RAPID system. There were a few instances when access was delayed due to system response, or lack of knowledge on how to operate the system, however these were minor in nature and remedied quickly. We were able to greatly restrict traffic flow throughout the operations building, verify personal credentials, and allow building access without tying up additional manpower at the checkpoint.
4. Overall, the system worked well for our enhanced security purposes. The staff involved in setting up the system was fast and creative in adapting to a new environment or means of implementation. Several recommendations were generated and incorporated to reduce delays identified above. The use of the RAPID system to control access to the Operations Building was one of the success stories during this year's Air Show. I would recommend this system for similar scenarios requiring positive verification of identity and would like to use it again for future Air Shows or events that demonstrate a similar security need.

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