

Changing Threats Are Driving New Security Booth Requirements



MISSION READINESS STARTS AT THE GATE

Visibility &
Situational
Awareness

Access Control

Ballistic
Protection



Communications
Infrastructure

Future
Technology
Integration

Climate
Control

At military and government facilities, the security booth is more than a checkpoint—it's the first line of defense.

Positioned at the access control point, the security booth serves as the operational hub where guards monitor activity, communicate with security teams, and control who enters the facility.

"People often think of the guard booth as a small building at the gate," said Dave King, VP of Sales at B.I.G. Enterprises. "In reality, it's the first line of defense and a critical part of the facility's security strategy."

Evolving Threats Are Raising Protection Standards

Over the past decade, the standard ballistic threat has shifted from handguns to rifles, with an increased use of rifles in civilian attacks. According to B.I.G., higher levels of ballistic protection are now standard, reflecting broader changes in the security environment. They add that it's important for ballistic materials to be independently tested and documented to verify they meet the required protection level.

"Some booth design requirements are based on current threats in our daily lives," said Jeff Crooymans, Senior Sales Executive and Project Manager at B.I.G. Enterprises. "Another emerging requirement in certain applications is forced-entry resistance, particularly at border entry points and other high-security locations."

As protection requirements increase, security extends beyond ballistic resistance alone. B.I.G. also brings extensive experience with GSA and CBP requirements for secure window systems that support access control and help deter intruders.

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BUILT FOR WHAT'S NEXT: B.I.G. ENTERPRISES JOINS VITALSPACE

As demand continues to grow across distribution centers, data centers, government facilities, and other high-security environments, organizations are looking for guard booth solutions that combine proven performance with long-term adaptability.

B.I.G. Enterprises recently joined VITALSpace, a leader in modular innovation. B.I.G. will continue operating under its established brand and leadership while leveraging the resources and capabilities of the VITALSpace platform to support continued growth, increased capacity, and ongoing product innovation.

"This expansion builds on a year of strong momentum," said Mike Smith, CEO of VITALSpace. "Across our companies, we've expanded production capabilities, strengthened partnerships, and increased demand across justice, industrial, healthcare, and critical infrastructure markets."

According to Dave King, VP of Sales at B.I.G. Enterprises, the company has evolved from traditional parking

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Visibility Remains Critical to Situational Awareness

“Operational requirements also drive booth design,” said King, noting that 360° visibility is critical for the non-secure side of access points. Guards must maintain clear sightlines to approaching vehicles and visitors while remaining protected. Design features such as angled front glazing, properly positioned transaction windows, and strategic booth placement can improve situational awareness and help guards perform their duties more effectively.

Technology Infrastructure Must Support Future Upgrades

Technology integration continues to expand as facilities adopt more sophisticated security systems. Planning for advanced security technologies like AI analytics, biometrics, and automated barriers requires infrastructure that can adapt over time, including fiber-optic connectivity, expandable power capacity, oversized conduit pathways.

Guard Performance Starts with Good Design

“Comfort directly affects alertness,” said Crooymans. *“Military police and security personnel often work long shifts while wearing protective equipment making workspace design an important operational consideration.”*

Especially in extreme climates, properly sized HVAC systems and ergonomic design become mission-critical. Correct insulation, flooring, shelf placement, and heavy-duty hardware can reduce fatigue and improve day-to-day operation.

Planning Early Improves Long-Term Results

One area often overlooked during specification that affects long-term durability. Bullet-resistant armor plate steel has no inherent corrosion protection. Over time, exposure to moisture and environmental conditions can affect performance if the material is not properly protected.

B.I.G.'s exclusive design encapsulates the ballistic armor with continuous insulation, and an exterior layer of 16-gauge galvanized steel to help protect against corrosion and extend service life.

For government agencies and military contractors, the lesson is straightforward: involve experienced manufacturers early in the planning process to avoid costly specification oversights.

“Don't just pull a standard specification off the shelf,” King said. *“Talk to the people who design and build these systems every day. The right decisions made early can improve security, performance, and reliability for years to come.”*

applications to serving government, military, distribution centers, and data centers.

To support continued growth, B.I.G. is expanding its manufacturing footprint with a new production facility in Georgia.

Jeff Crooymans, Senior Sales Executive and Project Manager, sees the partnership as an opportunity to build on the company's legacy while preparing for the future.

“For 18 years, I've been part of the company my grandfather built and my uncle has grown,” said Crooymans. *“Now we're part of something even larger. Our commitment to quality, expertise, and customer service remains the same as we continue to expand.”*

Learn more at
www.bigbooth.com and
www.vitalspace.com