**Infrastructure Security**

Infrastructure is the basic physical and organizational structure needed for the operation of a society or enterprise, or the services and facilities necessary for an economy to function. It can be generally defined as the set of interconnected structural elements that provide a framework supporting an entire structure of development.

Infrastructure security, however, is the security provided to protect the infrastructure, especially critical infrastructure. Critical infrastructure is a term used by governments to describe assets that are essential for the functioning of a society and economy. Most commonly associated with the term are facilities for: electricity, gas production, oil and oil products, transportation systems, telecommunication, water supply, agriculture, public health, financial services, and security services.

Critical infrastructure is vital for essential functioning of a country. Incidental or deliberate damage will have serious impact on the economy as well as providing essential services to the communities it serves. There are a number of reasons why infrastructure needs to be heavily secured and protected.

 Terrorism - person or groups deliberately targeting critical infrastructure for political gain.

 Sabotage - person or groups such as ex-employee, political groups against governments, environmental groups in defense of environment.

 Information warfare - private person hacking for private gain or countries initiating attacks to glean information and also damage a country's infrastructure.

 Natural disaster - hurricane or natural events which damage critical infrastructure such as oil pipelines, water and power grids.

Many countries have initiated government agencies to directly manage the security of infrastructure usually through the Ministry of Interior/Home Affairs, dedicated security agencies to protect facilities such as United States Federal Protective Service and also creation of dedicated transport police such as the British Transport Police. There are also commercial transportation security units such as the Amtrak Police in the United States.