



The

# **Broadcasters' Desktop Resource**

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... edited by Barry Mishkind – the Eclectic Engineer

## **From the Transmitter Site**

### **A Fence that Secures the Transmitter Site**

**By Michael A. Golchert**

*[August 2010] Security is always an issue, especially at unmanned sites, and doubly so when the area is known to have problems. As Michael Golchert explains, there are some solutions available that can make a site nearly trouble-free.*

When the word came down that the eight-tower KATZ directional array was going to be moved to East St. Louis, IL, Clear Channel Market Engineering Manager Daryl McQuinn was a bit apprehensive.

The new site is just off two major Interstate highways (I-64 & I-255) and is less than 0.5 km from a medium security Illinois State Prison. Furthermore, the area is well known for gangs and other crime. Security was going to be a major concern.

#### **PLANNING**

Once the new site was acquired, McQuinn knew he had his work cut out for him.

McQuinn contacted his fencing contractor, who did some research. The contractor came up with a fencing fabric that has been used to secure prisons. The fabric is a very heavy gauge metal that is so closely woven that a bolt cutter – or any other type of hand cutter – simply cannot cut the fabric.



**A fence that is immune to hand cutters**

According to the contractor, the only way to cut the fabric is with a heavy-duty grinder.

## ONE TOUGH FENCE

If you are considering such an approach, you will want to know the fabric is called AMICO Secura mesh. At KATZ, the installation included Schedule 40 posts, six strands of barbed wire, Razor Ribbon, and the fence itself. The total installed cost was approximately \$115 per liner foot.

The contractor also used a locking mechanism that should strongly resist normal unauthorized access techniques, but allows reasonably simple access for authorized personal.



**A double bar secures the gate.**

Wrapping the entire transmitter building this was not what you might consider cheap, but we have found that this type of fencing fabric, in addition to the other security measures, have been able to keep the site safe. In fact, the station has had *zero* security problems since the new fence was installed.

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