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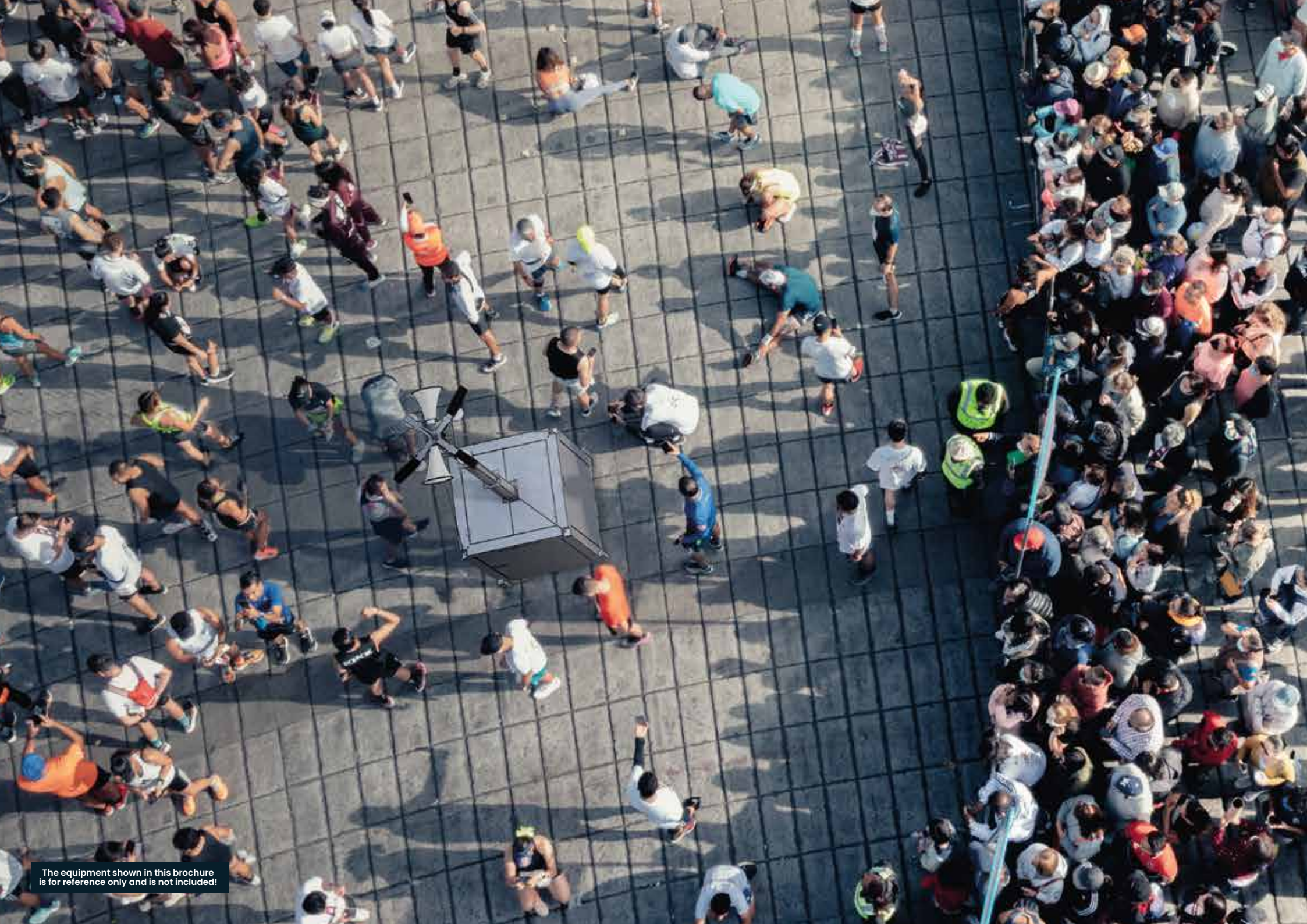
Surveillance Towers vs. Trailers in Security

In the United States (US), remote mobile video surveillance systems are most commonly deployed on trailers, skids, and poles, with trailers being the dominant platform. However, with the introduction of TelescopicMast's tower platforms in the US, customers now have a new option for mobile security missions.

Deciding between a surveillance tower and a surveillance trailer can be challenging when planning a remote deployment. By carefully evaluating operational requirements and weighing the advantages of each platform, organizations can select a solution that optimizes effectiveness and cost efficiency. Although both towers and trailers are designed to enhance situational awareness and deter threats, the differences between them are not always obvious.

Exploring the hidden benefits of each platform can help identify the best option for achieving mission objectives.





The equipment shown in this brochure is for reference only and is not included!

Rapid Deployment

Rapid deployment is often touted as a defining feature of mobile surveillance systems. To truly evaluate this, it's important to consider the number of personnel needed for deployment, the expected duration of use, and how frequently the system must be relocated.

A system that a single person can deploy is naturally more cost-effective than one requiring multiple technicians. Additionally, if the system will remain on-site for days, weeks, or months, the difference between a 30-minute and a 60-minute setup time becomes less relevant. Historically, "rapid" described systems deployed faster than those requiring permanent infrastructure.

Today, the term is more relevant to tactical scenarios where systems must be quickly moved into a dynamic event or moved multiple times in quick succession, especially in life-critical situations.

Trailers may be more practical in such cases due to their integrated wheels and towing connections. However, for non-tactical or longer-term deployments, towers and trailers are comparable in terms of manpower required and setup time.

Transportability

The ease of transporting a surveillance system to and from sites is often a key consideration. Trailers are inherently mobile given they are equipped with wheels, suspension systems, brake lights, and towing mechanisms – making them easy to move between locations. Surveillance towers, however, require separate transportation methods, such as trucks, trailers and/or lifting equipment.

Transportability is also relevant to how long a system will remain on-site. For example, one enterprise customer reported deploying over 80 surveillance trailers, none of which had been moved in three years. In hindsight, the mobility features of these trailers represented a significant capital expense for functionality that wasn't utilized—funds that could have been redirected toward additional surveillance systems.

In comparison, TelescopicMast's specialized pallet trailer provides a cost-effective solution by allowing towers to be transported and deployed efficiently without the need for built-in mobility features on each platform. Furthermore, towers typically have a smaller footprint than trailers, enabling more units to be transported per freight load. This minimizes logistics costs while maximizing deployment numbers, making towers an advantageous choice for longer-term deployments where frequent movement is unnecessary.



Platform Security

While the primary mission of any mobile surveillance system is to protect people and property, the platforms themselves can sometimes become targets of vandalism or theft. As mobile systems become more prevalent, so do attempts to disable or steal them—either to prevent identification during other crimes or to salvage valuable components such as copper wiring and camera equipment.

When deployed in high-crime areas, towers offer a distinct advantage over trailers. A trailer's mobility makes it easier for a thief to hitch it to a vehicle and drive away. In contrast, towers require specialized lifting equipment for relocation, significantly reducing their vulnerability to theft.
Both platforms may face risks of vandalism, particularly to solar panels or ground-level components. However, towers have an edge here as well. Their elevated masts and design features often include anti-climbing mechanisms, making tampering more difficult.

Conclusion

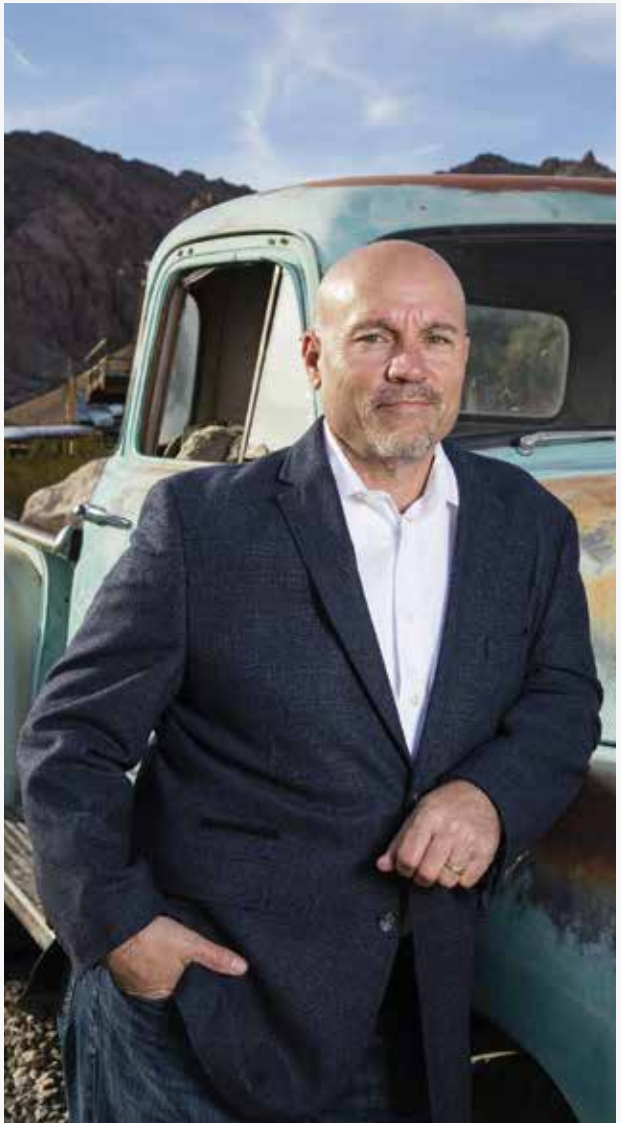
In the United States, trailers have long been synonymous with mobile security and surveillance systems. However, as demonstrated in this article, surveillance towers, such as those manufactured by TelescopicMast USA, can provide significant advantages in many scenarios.
Their smaller footprint, cost-effectiveness, and vandal-resistant features make them a compelling alternative to traditional trailers.

When your mission involves longer-term deployments without the need for rapid movement, surveillance towers should be considered equally mobile and potentially more practical than trailers for achieving your security objectives.

About the Author Gawain Guedry

Gawain Guedry, CPP®, is the Director of Sales and Operations for TelescopicMast USA, with nearly 20 years of experience delivering advanced physical security solutions. Before joining the private sector, he served with a large metropolitan police department, retiring as the section commander of a technology-based investigative unit.

His experience in managing and deploying overt and covert security technologies now informs his role in developing innovative mobile surveillance solutions for diverse industries.





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