

## Security Concerns Prompt Entry Precautions



*Ben Bowstring, Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School's assistant security coordinator, uses his computer screen to monitor activity at the Minnesota school.*



*Oneida Tribal Security Department Officer Travis Antone shows the interior entryway to the Oneida Nation Elementary School in Wisconsin. The school is adding an electric swipe card/key pad security system and camera to this doorway and is moving a security office to a room adjacent to this entryway.*



*Remote-controlled entry at St. Stephens Indian School in Wyoming helps monitor coming and going at the new high school.*

*Keypads for doorways and security cameras added.*

The 2012 Newtown, Conn., elementary school shooting has elevated efforts across Indian Country to ensure student and staff security in BIE-funded schools and dormitories.

John Parmeter, Safety and Security Officer at Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School in Minnesota, said BIE school officials have intensified security training, emergency preparedness and security equipment, due to the Connecticut tragedy. Several schools in the Midwest Region are using OFMC Minor Improvement & Repair funds to address security improvements, such as the security camera at the "Bug" school security gate and tighter controls at the interior entry of the Oneida Nation Elementary School in Wisconsin.

Much progress had been made over the past few years through the Safe and Secure Schools Initiative, especially with OFMC enclosing schools with six-foot-high fencing and security gates. Now, the updated OFMC School Facilities Design Handbook will give examples of increased entryway security provisions for replacement schools, MI&R and FI&R projects.