

# CASE STUDY

## Federal Government



### Texas National Guard Leverages Fortress Technologies' Secure Wireless for Emergency Response Next Generation "Rapid Response Communications Kits" Help Save Lives

"Rapid Response Communications Kits" are mobile systems that enable secure wireless communications during emergency response situations. These kits allow organizations such as the Texas National Guard to quickly establish voice, video and data communications in environments that have no available infrastructure. Fortress has developed a next generation "Rapid Response Communications Kit" for the Texas National Guard which integrates secure Wi-Fi for local access with secure WiMAX for reach-back.

The massive size and distributed resources of the state of Texas present a number of challenges in communicating during emergency situations. The Texas National Guard required the ability to quickly, efficiently and securely coordinate with various entities across the state during any major incident. These mobile 'Rapid Response Communications Kits' provide the ability to share critical information, saving time and ultimately lives.

Combining Fortress' wireless and security products and Nortel Government Solutions' WiMAX technologies in a ruggedized PacStar case, the "Rapid Response Communications Kits" offer the ability to transmit and receive email, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and video feeds securely between Guard members at the scene of an incident and other organizations statewide. The "Rapid Response Communications Kits" significantly streamline the response to, and management of, a disaster situation by immediately opening lines of communications between multiple agencies - such as the American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), state/local/county agencies, and other first responders.

During emergency incidents, the Army National Guard must maintain order while ensuring every step is taken to protect the lives and property of the individuals affected. Given its large border on the Gulf of Mexico and vast flatlands, Texas is a hot spot for hurricanes, tornadoes and other natural disasters. Its National Guard unit must be prepared with the most reliable and efficient response technologies available today. Fortress is proud to work with the Texas National Guard on developing and implementing this mobile communications system.

"Rapid Response Communications Kits" have been used successfully by the Texas National Guard for a number of disasters including Hurricane Rita, to provide faster, more reliable incident control. Fortress is also working with Army National Guard units in Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana and South Carolina on "Rapid Response Communications Kits" for use in their deployable networking environments.



#### Challenges

- Establish communications in environments with no available infrastructure
- Provide strong FIPS validated security
- Accommodate a mixed multi-vendor environment
- Support voice video and data

#### Solution

- Ruggedized Pac Star Cases
- Fortress Security Gateways
- 24 Port Ethernet Switch
- Backup UPS
- Dell PowerEdge Server
- Nortel WiMAX gear

#### Results

- Fortress's overlay security model integrates with all technologies and equipment
- FIPS validated security in place for wireless links and access
- All applications are supported
- Texas National Guard able to provide faster, more reliable incident control



For more information about the Fortress product suite for Federal Government:

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