

CASE STUDY

Federal Government



U.S. Coast Guard High Volume Warehouse Operation Stays in Service

On an average day, the United States Coast Guard saves 10 lives, conducts 109 search and rescues missions, responds to 20 oil and hazardous chemical spills, and seizes nearly \$9.6 million worth of illegal drugs.

Using a nationwide team of 39,000 active duty members, 7,800 reserve members and 6,000 full-time civilian members, the Coast Guard maintains its diligent protection of the U.S. maritime domain as well as the U.S. marine transportation system.

With an expanding charter to protect operations worldwide, and the need to expand efficiently and cost effectively, the Coast Guard continues to upgrade their infrastructure to manage cost increases as well as reducing service times efficiently.

While these are an everyday part of the Coast Guard missions, there is a core infrastructure in place behind the scenes to support and enable these duties. The Coast Guard relies on its Engineering Logistic Center (ELC) to support its operations.

Transferring 36,000 line items totaling \$200 million, the Warehouse Management System (WMS) is an integral part of the Coast Guards' ELC. The warehouse system allows greater control over the inventory process by employing security mechanisms and procedures to control stocking and transportation of equipment and supplies, missing equipment or equipment located in the wrong place, saving time and increasing efficiency. WMS was designed to free Coast Guard employees from the limitations of hard-written logistics, which require printed reports and re-entry of data at a terminal.

The WMS wireless bar code readers from Symbol are used in the warehouses to provide real-time inventory updates for tracking and ordering. Bar coding has proven to increase accuracy and productivity for workers at multiple ELC warehouse sites at bases and ports around North America.

Protecting Wireless Data is a Necessity

As part of the Federal Government, Coast Guard networks are mandated to be secure. However, when storing astonishing amounts of data growing at exponential rates, the challenge is to safeguard the data from unauthorized access by protecting the wireless infrastructure at these multiple ELC sites, and doing it cost effectively.

ELC manages tens of thousands of line items valued at hundreds of millions of dollars. Errors due to obsolete equipment and security vulnerabilities can severely impact the Coast Guard's initiatives and drain its resources.

Coast Guard requirements:

- Accommodate a mixed multi-vendor environment
- Secure both legacy DOS devices and newer platforms
- Meet requirements for FIPS validation
- Easily provision and manage wireless throughout the ELC system

When government-validated wireless security that would not limit vendor or technology options was required, the Coast Guard turned to Fortress's suite of products.

Fortress Meets the Coast Guard's Wireless Security Needs for the ELC's Warehouse Management System

By selecting Fortress, the Coast Guard was able to implement FIPS-level security for their wireless networks without having to shut down a mission-critical network.

The Warehouse Management System application now runs on a secure wireless infrastructure for inventory tracking, and with protected communications for every pick, pack and ship transaction.

Provides the security needed for the ELC to process requisitions at a quicker pace with fewer errors, ultimately increasing productivity while maintaining systems efficiently.

Requirements

- Accommodate a mixed multi-vendor environment
- Secure both legacy DOS devices and newer platforms
- Meet requirements for FIPS validation
- Easily provision and manage wireless throughout the ELC system
- Provide transparent operation for users

Solutions

- Symbol DOS- based Barcode scanners
- Fortress Security Gateways
- Fortress Management and Policy Server
- Fortress Secure Clients for DOS and Windows

Results

- Fortress's overlay security model integrates with all existing technologies and equipment
- FIPS validated security in place for wireless network
- User experience remains unchanged
- High volume warehouse operation stays in service



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

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