

# CASE STUDY

## U.S. Army Front Line Mobile Communications Solution



### Fortress Provides Secure, Tactical Wireless LAN Modules to Support Deployed Troops Worldwide

#### Solution Provides Connectivity from Soldiers on the Battlefield to their Logistics Networks

The U.S. Army's Combat Service Support Automated Information System Interface (CAISI) is a tactical Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) deployment that provides commercial and tactical network connections for supply chain logistic coordination. CAISI enables secure communications between soldiers on the front lines to warehouses and command facilities located around the world. The goal of the program is to significantly decrease the time required to get soldiers the supplies they need to stay equipped on the battlefield.

One of the primary challenges for the Army was providing simultaneous network access and backhaul over several miles. This is an area where the Fortress wireless networking solution was able to provide substantial value. Before deploying any wireless networking technology in mission critical environments such as a battlefield, the solution must meet Army security policies, including Department of Defense Directive 8100.2.

The Fortress solution provides critical 'last-mile' connectivity between combat service support computers and their logistics base networks, while in a deployed location. Fortress also provides strong FIPS 140-2 validated security for Sensitive but Unclassified (SBU) networks, and maintains the ability to upgrade to NSA Suite B Cryptography if there is a need for a higher level of security.

Fortress has extensive experience working in the military wireless networking environment and is well-equipped to meet the requirements associated with this challenging market. In addition to having protected over 11,000 access points for a previous contract with CAISI, Fortress will now provide a potential quantity of more than 28,000 modules over the course of five years.

#### Bringing Secure Wireless Connectivity Anywhere

The Fortress ES520 Wireless Bridge is the heart of the CAISI solution. It allows organizations to quickly establish networking and communications in environments with no available infrastructure. With a dual radio design that allows for simultaneous wireless backhaul and wireless access, the ES520 offers high assurance FIPS 140-2 validated security as well as industry leading radio range.

Combining these services along with an eight port Ethernet switch in a small and rugged form factor enables the ES520 to provide on-demand secure voice, video and data communications. Whether for rapidly deployable kits, vehicle area networks, emergency response or situational awareness, the Fortress ES520 is the proven choice to meet the most challenging deployable networking requirements.

Deploying secure wireless technologies enables the Army to operate more nimbly and efficiently by providing access to real-time information anywhere it is needed - while at the same time ensuring the protection of the network. Fortress is proud of both the confidence that the U.S. Army has in its ability to support the CAISI program as well as the opportunity to serve our nation's troops.

#### Challenges

- Provide strong security that meets DoD policy
- Support high-bandwidth multimedia applications
- Accommodate a mix of network equipment and applications
- Provide transparent operation for users

#### Solution

- Fortress ES520 Secure Wireless Bridges
- Fortress Secure Clients

#### Results

- Strong, FIPS 140-2 validated security for wireless network
- All applications are supported
- Transparent operation for users
- Solution meets Army and DoD policy



For more information about Fortress:  
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