

CASE STUDY

Camp Blanding Joint Training Center,
Florida National Guard

SOLUTION OVERVIEW

- 3 site, 3 channel VHF P25 network
- 300 Tait P25 subscribers (portables and mobiles), including intrinsically safe portables used at the ammunition supply point
- APCO P25 IP interfaced Omnitronics dispatch console sub-system
- IP interfaced Eventide digital logging recorder

BUSINESS BENEFITS

- Dependable camp-wide coverage **across 73,000 acres**
- Command and control of ground and air assets
- Secure encrypted communications



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The Customer

Camp Blanding Joint Training Center (CBJTC) is the Florida National Guard's premier training site in North-Central Florida. The 73,000-acre post provides resources to enhance joint, interagency, intergovernmental and multinational training in support of the United States, state and local communities.

The Situation

CBJTC's radio network, which supported range control, combat simulation training and base administrative operations, had been built over several years when budgets permitted. The system was unreliable, did not provide coverage over the entire training area, and had no single point of contact for repairs or service when total failures occurred. The portable and mobile radios were also not rugged enough for outdoor military operations and required replacement repeatedly.

"The Tait system is user-friendly, and remains consistent and reliable across a 73,000 acre installation"

– CPT Robert Cater

US Army, Florida National Guard | Camp Blanding Joint Training Center HHB Commander, Range Control

Response

Tait worked with the local Tait channel partner On-Site Communications and Florida National Guard staff to determine the mission requirements for their range safety, training and garrison communications. Their three sites were surveyed and existing assets were documented. An ideal end state was agreed upon by all Guard stake-holders that met all of their mission requirements. The Guard's budget did not permit all of the work to be completed in the first year, so Tait offered a series of phased implementations, one for each fiscal year to ultimately reach the ideal end state as budgets allowed.

Outcomes

Tait, together with channel partner On Site Communications, deployed one P25 channel at a time on the Camp's three RF tower sites. The Guard improved their tower connectivity by replacing 15 year old microwave radios with fiber and then hardened their tower sites. In the next phase the second year, Tait added an APCO P25 Digital Fixed Station (DFS) Ethernet connected Omnitronics dispatch command system and Eventide logging recorder. The aviation radio was connected to the console system which allowed range control to patch them directly to range control as needed.

The system is now at three VHF P25 conventional channels, providing coverage across the training area and for many miles off-base in all directions. Additional users easily join the network each year, and the system has reliably met the Guard's training mission for over five years.

TAIT INTRINSICALLY
SAFE PORTABLE RADIO



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