



Located just three miles from deep water, Port Freeport is one of the most accessible seaports on the Gulf Coast. Its location offers efficient transportation via highway, railroad, or intercoastal waterway. And Port Freeport's flexible approach to doing business cuts through the red tape that is often associated with larger ports. Port Freeport offers unencumbered growth, with 7,500 acres of surrounding land available for development, a safety record that speaks for itself, and insurance claims far below the national average for the industry.

SUCCESS STORY:

Port Freeport

Leveraging Interoperability to Help Ensure Safety for a Seaport

The Customer

Located in South Texas, Port Freeport is ranked as the 13th-largest seaport in the United States in terms of tonnage, with operations dating back more than 100 years. Offering a 400-foot-wide and 45-foot-deep channel, the Port is one of the most accessible points off the Gulf Coast.

The Challenge

Port Freeport needed a new two-way radio interoperability system to provide seamless communications during emergencies between public safety personnel and stakeholders in the Port Freeport area. The Port's desire to upgrade its communications equipment led to a competitive request for proposal (RFP) process, funded primarily by Homeland Security grants. The interoperability initiative was part of a "waterside perimeter" project, which included radar, an automatic identification system (AIS), and video cameras. When Rick Benavidez, Port Freeport's Security Manager, saw the Raytheon JPS ACU-1000 system, he contacted BearCom for advice.





The Solution

BearCom concurred that the ACU-1000 would be the right choice for Port Freeport, as it would allow the Port to communicate with all required radio frequencies—VHF, UHF, 800 MHz, and 700 MHz—in order to send out emergency notifications for situations ranging from weather notifications to terrorist alerts to “everyday emergencies.” To further strengthen its communications abilities, Port Freeport took an extra step and reached out to the Freeport Police Department to see if that organization would agree to host the ACU-1000, which it did. The system now ties Port Freeport together with six public safety agencies, including the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as five major industrial companies in the area.

The Results

Port Freeport has been very pleased with the ACU-1000 unit, and a successful test of its capabilities performed by the Freeport Police Department during a hurricane drill confirmed the system installation by BearCom to be a success. “Port Freeport, private industry, public safety, and federal government personnel can now use their existing radio systems to communicate more effectively and efficiently, and that is of paramount importance when an emergency arises,” said Benavidez.

“Raytheon JPS and BearCom have enabled all of us to talk to each other with just the click of a mouse.”

Rick Benavidez
Security Manager
Port Freeport

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BearCom provides a broad line of high-performance wireless communications products, services, and complete mobility solutions. Founded in 1981, BearCom is America’s only nationwide dealer and integrator of wireless equipment, serves customers from 26 branch offices located throughout the U.S., has several affiliated offices around the world, and employs approximately 400 people. BearCom is headquartered in the Dallas, Texas area. For more information, visit www.BearCom.com.

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