



DATAPATH | Case Study

DATAPATH DEPLOYS COMMUNICATIONS LIFELINE IN THE WAKE OF HURRICANE KATRINA

U.S. Army Uses Portable DataPath Satellite Earth Terminals to Establish Immediate Communications in Support of Hurricane Relief Efforts

On August 29, 2005, Mother Nature conspired to unleash Hurricane Katrina upon the residents of America's Gulf Coast. With sustained winds of more than 155 mph, Katrina laid waste to entire counties and parishes. Considered one of the most destructive U.S.-based natural disasters in a generation, the hurricane also destroyed essential power and telephone lines, decimating the region's communications infrastructure.

In the wake of the disaster, the Department of Defense U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) launched a coordinated delivery of supplies and technical assistance to augment relief efforts. USNORTHCOM created the Joint Task Force-Katrina (JTF-Katrina) to act as the military's on-scene representative supporting the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) relief efforts.

JTF-Katrina drafted the Army Communications Electronics Life Cycle Management Command's Special Projects and Homeland Security Office to provide immediate communications support.

Solution at a Glance: JTF-Katrina

Challenge	With the communications infrastructure completely destroyed after Hurricane Katrina, the U.S. Army, coordinating with JTF-Katrina, needed to restore communications for military and civilian first responders.
Solution	DataPath quickly deployed DataPath 2000s and 3000s and 14 engineers to establish a portable communications network.
Impact	The DataPath communications network restored critical communications and enabled rescue and recovery parties to communicate and coordinate to save lives.

“Hurricane Katrina confronted us with a challenge more akin to a war zone than anything else,” said Jeremy Brady, operations manager with the Special Projects and Homeland Security Office. “Tasked to provide communications where none existed, we went on the offensive to assist citizens in need.”

DataPath Equipment Brings Connectivity

JTF-Katrina was deployed to provide communications to the region via DataPath earth terminals, named Satellite Communications Transportable Terminals (STTs) by the U.S. Army. STTs use commercial satellites to provide field operatives with reliable Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), videoconferencing capabilities and access to the military’s communications networks.

The task force utilized 10 DataPath ET 3000 Portables™ as STTs to provide hub and spoke networking capabilities, enabling connections among remote locations through central hubs in Georgia and California. Designed for reliable field operations, the rugged, compact DataPath 3000s provided relief workers with the ability to establish network connectivity quickly in areas with destroyed infrastructure. The terminals provided 24 ethernet ports



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per unit for VoIP, data, wireless and cellular telephone restoration capability. The task force also deployed six DataPath ET 2000 Portable™ fly-away earth terminals to provide phone and Internet connectivity to first responders. Simple to deploy and operate, these DataPath portable terminals can be set up and operating within 30 minutes.

DataPath’s Flexible Communications Empower Military and Civilian Operations

By mid-September, JTF-Katrina had established a comprehensive, satellite-based wide-area-network solution, bringing connectivity to both military and civilian first responder communities. Approximately 20 percent of the connectivity supported military users, while 80 percent empowered civilian operations.

On the civilian front, the task force sustained public-sector telephone operations by providing support to a commercial cellular tower. The task force also supported the Naval Support Activity in the Algiers neighborhood of New Orleans and a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital unit at the New Orleans Convention



Mission Impact: Facilitating Emergency Communications, Saving Lives

USNORTHCOM created JTF-Katrina to empower first responders to save lives and to facilitate communications among those parties rebuilding the region. By this measure, the task force achieved success.

“No two ways about it, the communications provided by the STTs saved lives,” Brady said. “The power to effectively communicate and coordinate operations cannot be overstated. Throughout our deployment to Mississippi and Louisiana, we relied on the STT-powered mobile communications infrastructure to support rescue and recovery operations.”

Center. The deployment lasted 30 days, ending when utility companies brought conventional telephone and power capabilities back online.

DataPath supported JTF-Katrina every step of the way by providing 14 operations and maintenance engineers on site. The DataPath team delivered, set up and maintained the earth terminals for the task force.

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DataPath ET 3000 Portable™

About DataPath

Founded in 1996, DataPath designs and delivers satellite and wireless communications networks around the world. The company is known for rapidly delivering reliable, mobile communications that operate in even the most extreme conditions to support customers that include the U.S. Army, the U.S. Marine Corps and emergency first responders. Headquartered in Duluth, Ga., DataPath maintains offices in Fort Monmouth, N.J., Nashua, N.H., San Diego, Calif. and Tampa, Fla. For more information, visit www.datapath.com or call 866-855-3800.



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