



FOLLOW THE SOUND OF SAFETY

Honeywell E3 Series® keeps Fort Knox crisis-ready with real-time, accessible safety information

Fort Knox has served as the U.S Gold Bullion Depository since 1937 and this makes it one of the most heavily guarded places in the world. The 170-square mile facility is home to about 23,000 soldiers, family members, and civilians. The base attracts large number of visitors every day with attractions like the Patton Museum of Armor and Calvary.

“Interfacing the facility’s radio network with our E3 Series mass notification system offered big benefits. This integration provides bi-directional status and control with one-way audio live voice paging and recorded message selection and control.”

Gamewell-FCI Project Manager, Dick Aldric

Needs

- **Develop a unified mass notification system (MNS)**
Being a high security zone, Fort Knox requires a state-of-the-art MNS to alert large groups of people in times of natural calamity and national security threats, and save lives and minimize damages.
- **Replace outdated safety solutions**
Much of the fire alarm infrastructure at the base is obsolete and not serviceable. Hence, there is a need to install a mass notification system across the base that complies with the latest Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) standards.
- **Aim for cost savings**
Use standard fire alarm technology as the platform for a mass notification system, in both new and retrofit applications.
- **Comply with UFC protocols**
Adhere to the anti-terrorism standards specified by the Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC).

Honeywell



The Challenge

The severity and frequency of natural disasters and national security threats led the Department of Defense (DOD) to develop the Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) – outlining design requirements, administration, and implementation of mass notification systems (MNS) for all DOD properties. The UFC emphasizes the importance of mass notification to provide real-time information and instructions to people in a building or site for a safe and efficient evacuation. The strategic and historical importance of Fort Knox demands a fail-safe MNS that broadcasts critical information to residents in times of a security crisis. In this regard, the base authorities set out to enable the facility with a solution that efficiently meets the UFC safety standards.

The Solution

The base operators chose the Honeywell E3 Series from Gamewell-FCI as the MNS solution for Fort Knox. The Honeywell E3 Series is a comprehensive, customizable, and cost-effective fire safety system that offers assisted voice evacuation and mass notification. It can be easily configured into a distributed network with advanced voice capability. With the added benefit of broadband technology, it enables complete system integration over just two fiber optic cables.

Following the UFC recommendation, the facility operators decided to utilize the existing fire alarm infrastructure of the facility as the backbone of the MNS to ensure substantial cost savings. All new and renovated buildings were enabled with fire alarm systems that transmit signals to a central monitoring station. The building authorities leveraged this feature and configured the appropriate MNS specifications for voice evacuation systems.

By using the ultra-high frequency radio communication channel, facility operators send out local emergency alerts in case of a maintenance issue to any building's MNS or to the radio system itself. The E3 Series broadband system detects the individual relay commands and performs the required programmed functions efficiently. The MNS functions include the activation of the visual indicators, pre-recorded audio tones and voice messages, and base-wide live voice communications.

The E3 Series complies with Underwriter's Laboratories standards for fire alarm systems, mass notification, smoke control (when properly configured), and pre-action/deluge and agent releasing – bringing the MNS solution at Fort Knox up to date with parameters set by the UFC.

Benefits

The advantages of leveraging the facility's radio technology was best exemplified when a severe ice storm hit Fort Knox in January 2009. Electricity and telephone lines got buried under several inches of ice – leaving more than 20,000 residents of 3000 housing units stranded without power and connectivity for days. But the newly installed Honeywell E3 Series solution used the radio technology to send out crucial information like shelter locations and emergency numbers to keep the residents safe and alert.

Cost Effective Solution

The E3 Series complies with Underwriter's Laboratories standards for fire alarm systems, mass notification, smoke control (when properly configured), and pre-action/deluge and agent releasing – bringing the MNS solution at Fort Knox up to date with the parameters set by the UFC.

Reliable MNS

Fort Knox benefits from a cutting-edge MNS, capable of alerting large group of people when incidents occur – enhancing the life safety levels of the facility.

Compliant System

The facility's system installed across the base is serviceable and adheres to the anti-terrorism standards specified by the UFC.

Enhanced Cost Savings

By leveraging the existing fire safety solutions of the facility, the Honeywell E3 Series delivered a cost-effective solution that has empowered Fort Knox for the long run.

Uses standard fire alarm technology as the platform for a mass notification system, in both new and retrofit applications.

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