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Icom Portable Radios Support Our Troops at War



Photo Courtesy of U.S. Army. Photographer: Petty Officer 1st Class Bart A. Bauer.

The U.S. Army continues to deploy Icom America's F43GS 86 rugged and secure portable two-way radios in the Middle East.

The lifeblood of any mission in the foreign theater is accurate and dependable communications. In Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. Army relies

on Icom America to ensure its soldiers can securely communicate in one of the world's harshest environments.

Throughout the Middle East, soldiers are using Icom's F43GS 86 portable UHF radios for inter-squad communications while on patrol, in transit via convoy or establishing checkpoints. They are also heavily utilized at forward operating bases (FOBs) for logistics, VIP tours, perimeter security and other tasks. Icom radios have proven so effective for critical two-way communications that the U.S. Army has deployed more than 35,000 Icom portables, mobiles, base stations and repeaters since August 2004.

What makes the F43GS 86 portable radio ideal for tactical military operations? Not only is it exceptionally rugged, meeting MIL-STD 810 specs for high and low temperature, shock, vibration and blowing dust, but it is also very easy

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Now Accepting Orders for F70/F80 FIPS 140-2 Level 1 AES Encryption! Upgrade Opens More Government Markets



Icom has created new sales opportunities for dealers by offering FIPS capable versions of the F70DS/DT & F80DS/DT radios. Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 140-2 is a standard that describes the US Federal government requirements that products should meet for sensitive material. The standard also defines the security requirements that must be satisfied by a cryptographic module used in radios. Many federal government agencies also require their radios to operate in 380-450Mhz. The new F80DS/DT radios will operate on these frequencies. Dealers

can sell the F80DS/DT radios to a customer who needs FIPS or who just needs a P25 or high end analog radio operating in the 380-430Mhz frequencies.

Current F70DS 01 & F70DT 11 radios can be upgraded to the FIPS capable version at an added cost. These models will need to return to Icom for the upgrade. The new FIPS capable versions will sell at the current F70DS/F80DS pricing. These radios will only be available on a special order basis and may take 90-120 days until delivery depending on order date. Order now for January delivery!

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Icom Portable Radios Support Our Troops at War



Photo courtesy U.S. Army, Photographer: Pfc. William Servinski II

to use and features a small form factor, which is critical for soldiers who are constantly on the move.

“We love the Icom radios,” said CPT Matthew T. Kirby, 172nd Stryker Brigade. “We used them in Al Anbar (Iraq), which is perhaps the dustiest part of the country, and never had any reliability issues.”

MSG Jerome Jones of the 25th Infantry Division, 4th Brigade Combat Team agreed: “The Icom radios have been very

dependable,” he said. “Their size, user friendliness and reliability have made them very popular with the soldiers.”

The U.S. Army’s F43GS 86 radios are equipped with Type III encryption by Transcrypt International, a critical feature for tactical operations. With four watts of power, the radios provide soldiers ample range in both urban and open desert environments. And when equipped with the extended-life 2,000 mAh rechargeable battery pack, the radios will operate up to 16 hours on a single charge. “We are currently getting about two solid days per charge from the battery during normal operating conditions,” Jones said.

The F43GS 86 radios have laid the groundwork for other Icom equipment deployed by the military. Soldiers in the Middle East are currently using the Icom F420 55 mobile radios with encryption

in their vehicles as well as the F420 55B base stations. These radios provide even more power than the F43GS 86 portables, offering users extended range for distant command and control operations. The Army also utilizes about a dozen Icom FR4000 repeaters in theater, which effectively doubles soldiers’ coverage area when they use either the F420 55 or F43GS 86 radios.

“We continue to receive positive feedback on the equipment from the soldiers,” said Ted Koblick, Icom’s U.S. Army Account Manager. “Icom’s customer service, technical support and repair departments report that more than 99 percent of their overall customer feedback is positive.”

The U.S. Army ordered approximately 950 Icom F43GS 86 units as recently as April 2006. “Overall, the feedback from our soldiers is very positive,” Jones concluded. “Icom provides a sturdy, dependable radio system. Many thanks to the company for all their help in getting the radios to us and for providing quality follow-up service.”

Icom Installs First P25 System in Puerto Rico

Puerto Rican emergency responders desperately needed a new communications system. Their older single-channel analog system operated on disparate frequencies and didn’t allow for interoperability among different agencies. If a large incident arose, it would not be able to support a large number of users.

Government officials turned to Icom America Systems (IAS) for help. IAS designed and built a new three-channel P25 radio system. User groups include the police, sheriff, public works department, and other municipal groups.

Installed in July, it is the first P25 system in Puerto Rico, covering several hundred square miles, including San Juan and several nearby towns.

The installation of the new P25 system aroused considerable excitement among Puerto Rican government agencies. Even the governor came to view the new system. “There was a lot on the line,” says IAS’s Scott Bigger, who traveled to San Juan to assist in the installation and final optimization of the system.

During the planning stages several additional top-level agencies expressed interest in joining the P25 system. But they delayed making a decision until after the initial rollout so that they could first evaluate the system’s performance.

So far, all feedback has been positive, says Dick Varbero, Icom America Systems Coordinator. “And now the local fire department is seriously considering switching to the P25 system.”

Whereas the old system was comprised of a patchwork quilt of frequencies, the new system operates on a common frequency, allowing for interoperable communications among local and regional public safety organizations.



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Icom Installs First P25 System in Puerto Rico

Two of the three channels are P25. The police and emergency management agencies use the two P25 channels. Public works uses the third, conventional analog channel.

The stand-alone, single-site system employs two of Icom's new DRB-25 digital-analog repeaters and one FR3000 analog repeater. Nearly 100 Icom portable and mobile radios are currently in use. The system offers backward compatibility and interoperability with other compliant systems. This flexibility means that agencies can continue to add additional P25 equipment as funding allows.

Before shipment, IAS assembled, tuned, aligned, and tested the turnkey system at its Bellevue, Wash., headquarters. It was then delivered to Puerto Rico for installation and final optimization. This method keeps costs low and makes set up at the site quicker and easier for technicians.

Technicians worked efficiently to complete the installation process in three days. They installed the system on the first day; the second day they tested the site. On the final day, technicians optimized the system.

IAS's Bigger also trained technicians from

the local Puerto Rican firm on how to program and service the new equipment.

Another advantage of having highly skilled Icom system technicians on site is the ability to quickly diagnosis and resolve any problems that may arise during the installation process. In this case, the TX and RX antenna mounting configuration required a reduction of the output power and additional RX notch filtering.

"We offer the benefit of having experienced technicians on site so we can overcome any site challenges quickly," says IAS's Varbero. "

New F3021 Series: The Next Best Step in Business and Industry Radio

Greater flexibility and advanced operational control

Icom has again set the standard in B&I communications with the new F3021/F4021 series of portable VHF/UHF radios. This equipment meets the needs of users who require more than a basic two-way radio, but still demand affordability. The advanced F3021/F4021 series features additional channels and channel banks; alphanumeric display for quick visual confirmation of programmed channel selection; keypad and up/down programmable buttons; longer battery life; and dual priority scan. These features place more control over critical two-way communications in the hands of demanding B&I users.

"When you need more than a basic radio, the F3021/F4021 series is your next best step," explains Chris Lougee, Vice President of Icom America's Land Mobile Division. "In addition to more channels, these radios offer users more visual information to organize, operate and monitor the status of their radios. With more effective scanning and response, these radios translate into a better value-to-price performance ratio than others in its class."

Built on an aluminum die-cast chassis and a newly designed frame that is contoured for easy grip, lightweight and more compact, the radios fit comfortably in the palm of your hand. While offering a smaller footprint, Icom refused to sacrifice the durability and functionality that are a hallmark of its radios; the F3021/4021 series is very rugged, meeting IP54 requirements for dust protection and rain resistance.

Icom ensured its customers will get the most from their investment in the F3021/F4021 series by incorporating an advanced feature set including built-in 2-tone, 5-tone, CTCSS and DCS signaling for group communication and selective calling. The radios also boast a wide frequency range (including 70 MHz broadband coverage), additional scanning options and a longer battery life with the Li-ion chemistry.

Up/down channel selections and large programmable buttons have "button pitch" (audible response) to allow blind-touch operation for simple operation, even while wearing gloves.



And the alphanumeric LCD displays eight characters and 14 segments, which makes a variety of information—including channel, zone, tone code, battery life, signal strength and RX/TX—easily recognizable. "All of these features can be combined to accomplish more complex communications applications than are offered in a simple two-way radio," Lougee says. "Enterprises can now unleash the true power of two-way radio and customize communications systems to accomplish their individual priorities with the F3021/F4021 series."

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Available on CD
Request Your Copy TODAY
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GSA news



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Icom America is proud to have provided over 33,000 Military Bundle 2-way radios for the U.S. Army.



Dear Mr. Nakaoka:

On behalf of our great Soldiers and the United States Army, thank you for your efforts in addressing our immediate need to provide secure handheld radios to our forces....Your strong support of our efforts is beyond what I can express.....Please accept my personal thanks for all you have done in the name of freedom.

Steven W. Boutelle
Lieutenant General, GS
Chief Information Officer/G-6

F43GS



Icom in the Field

CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

For People Who Make Smart Choices

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