



The Marine Forces Reserve Uses Networkfleet® to Reduce Speeding and Increase Safety

Summary

The Marine Forces Reserve takes its mission to serve the community very seriously. The organization uses the Networkfleet fleet management system to reduce speeding and maintain its reputation for high standards while improving the safety of its drivers and those around them. At the same time, Networkfleet has helped to reduce repair costs and lower fuel expenses.

Problem

The Marine Forces Reserve is the headquarters command for approximately 100,000 Reserve Marines and 187 Reserve Training Centers located throughout the United States. The mission of Marine Forces Reserve is to augment and reinforce active Marine forces and provide service to the community.

At Marine Forces Reserve centers, on-site personnel use government vehicles for a variety of administrative tasks. Consequently, the organization needed a way to ensure that these vehicles are being used safely and for the specific purposes that they are intended.

“We wanted to get a better handle on how the vehicles were being used and how fast they were going,” said Jeffrey J. Peters, Director of Safety for the Marine Forces Reserve. “Also, it’s Marine Corps policy that these vehicles are only to be used for their mission, to support the reserve unit and the administrative staff there.”

Solution

The Marine Force Reserve looked at several solutions and selected Networkfleet’s GPS fleet tracking system because it provides precise information in real-time. They installed Networkfleet in approximately 415 vehicles at 184 locations.

“We looked at other solutions, but it was important for us to be able to monitor speed and usage in real-time,” said Peters. “This gives us the ability to address issues quickly, before they escalate into larger problems.”

Networkfleet connects directly to the engine’s on-board computer and monitors speed, idle time, emissions, and diagnostic trouble codes. In addition, the system provides GPS tracking functionality, giving Peters the ability to view vehicle location on satellite, hybrid, and street maps. Peters can also schedule real-time alerts for vehicles that exceed user-defined thresholds, such as speed, geofence, and odd-hours violations.

“When we first started using Networkfleet, I set up an email alert for a specific speed,” said Peters. “In the first week, 62 vehicles exceeded 90 miles per hour (mph). The email alert identified the specific vehicle, the location, and how fast it was moving.”

Results

Since installing Networkfleet, the number of vehicles exceeding 90 mph each week has dropped from 62 to less than three. Reservists are driving more responsibly, resulting in fewer accidents. This has lowered overall repair costs by 15 to 20 percent.

To monitor vehicle utilization, the Marine Forces Reserves also tracks vehicle use at odd hours to determine unauthorized usage. Peters tracks hours in six time zones, from Hawaii to Puerto Rico. Vehicles are generally to be used between 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. only, unless there is a special event. Peters also monitors vehicle location using geofences to lower fuel expenses.

“We lease the vehicles from the Government Services Administration (GSA) and pay for mileage, so we use the geofence feature to restrict vehicles to a specified distance from their home reserve centers. If they travel outside the geofence, we are notified. This has helped us control mileage and reduce fuel costs,” said Peters.

When an employee was accused of speeding and causing an accident, the Marine Forces Reserves used Networkfleet to verify the exact speed and exonerate the driver. They have also used Networkfleet to provide location and directions when reservists serve as color guards for funerals in rural areas.

“Our main purpose is safety and to reinforce the high standards of the Marine Corps. If you are driving a government vehicle, you need to maintain the vehicle in a safe and appropriate manner,” said Peters. “Networkfleet helps us do that.”

For more information on Networkfleet visit networkfleet.com or call 866.869.1353.