

# Supporting the Navy & USMC with Next-Gen Mobile Devices

INTEGRATING THE LATEST TECHNOLOGIES INTO A SECURE, RELIABLE DEVICE IS CRITICAL TO THE SUCCESS OF A MODERN MILITARY



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Murphy is responsible for managing a team of professionals who build mobility strategies for all programs and commands within the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corp. His career with Panasonic spans more than 30 years, including many sales management positions within various business units. Murphy's strong knowledge of federal acquisition regulations, combined with Panasonic's industry-leading technology solutions, helps the team meet the precise and demanding requirements of its military customers.

Technology is critical to mission success. However, hostile physical environments and specialized use cases put more stringent demands on mobile devices being used by the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corp (USMC). Robert Murphy describes the unique requirements for these programs.

## Q. What are the key requirements for Navy/USMC mobile solutions?

**A.** The most important requirement continues to be reliability in daily use and for mission-critical operations. Downtime and failures are not acceptable. However, the Navy/USMC is also beginning to focus on total cost of ownership (TCO), rather than obtaining the lowest price. A key strategy to lowering TCO is supporting different use cases with the right technology package for the job. For example, a U.S. Navy Air Systems Command Flight Line mechanic's needs and use case is different from a Network-on-the-Move Communications operator. Each of these professionals require mission-specific devices.

## Q. How are new technologies supporting the service's emerging or evolving use cases for mobile devices?

**A.** The Navy and Marines are constantly innovating, using new technologies such as next-generation networks, artificial intelligence (AI), and the Internet of Things (IoT). For example, AI will enhance what the warfighter can do. We'll use AI and instant data on tactical conditions or intelligence to support better battlefield decisions.

High-speed networking is a particular focus; flight mechanics will use it to pull up schematics or gather sensor input in real time on the tarmac beside the

aircraft. This makes 5G networks and IoT essential for real-time maintenance. A mission-critical aircraft has just a 12-15 minute maintenance window, so speed matters.

New peripheral devices will also be essential. For example, intelligent goggles for a flight mechanic will provide a hands-free environment, enabling the ability to work with both hands while being able to see the instruction manual, saving precious time.

## Q. What are some of the challenges in implementing mobile technology?

**A.** Security is perhaps the biggest challenge. This includes both cyber and physical security. An unsecured mobile device falling into the enemy's hands is a disaster. Without effective security, troops are at risk. Durability demands are also increasing. Mobile devices will experience rougher treatment as more go into active engagements.

## Q. How does Panasonic address these issues?

**A.** Panasonic's top-flight engineering team is expert in building highly reliable and secure systems. We work with key component suppliers to identify the best-in-class options. Panasonic also builds many of the internal components to eliminate consumer-grade parts that can't survive military use cases. The final step is delivering ruggedized system packaging. We don't just dress up consumer offerings with rubber corners.

Panasonic delivers many device-specific security features. For example, our mobile devices offer removable drives to protect data. We also focus on software security. With Windows 10, we can deliver stronger device security at the operating system level.

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