SafeMobile helps US DoDEA Guam monitor the school buses in South Korea, mainland Japan and Okinawa.

Overview

US DoDEA Guam schools serve the children of military service members and Department of Defense civilian employees in South Korea, mainland Japan and Okinawa. DoDEA implemented the Safe Schools Program in School Year 99-00 which provides a systematic approach to counter school violence, crime, and the threat of terrorism. As part of the Safe Schools Program, US DoDEA Guam needed a vehicle locator system that will be able to track the movement and location of hundreds of school buses. Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Pacific is responsible for the operation of 45 schools, and 24,000 students affiliated with 18 military installations.

Requirements

US DoDEA needed an Automated Vehicle Location system using Global Positioning System technology in South Korea, Okinawa and mainland Japan that is operable 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The AVL system had to meet the following requirements:
1) portable GPS unit with reporting capabilities every 5 minutes
2) silent duress alarm on the GPS unit
3) customized mapping system
4) send commands from base station to GPS unit
5) data storage capability

Proposed Solution

SafeMobile's technologies include application software and hardware solutions that are specifically designed and configured to track school buses transporting the children of military personnel. The SafeMobile system is founded upon established technologies in Japan and South Korea: W-CDMA which is the current wireless communication technology with the largest geographical coverage.

GPS/AVL unit with no external wires and antennas
SafeMobile GPS/AVL unit consist of an integrated W-CDMA and GSM/GPRS dual-mode FOMA M1000 smart phone with an attached Bluetooth GPS receiver with multilingual support. The AVL system is accurate to less than 15 meters of the vehicle location and is capable of updating vehicle location information every 5 minutes. The GPS/AVL unit doesn't require any external wires and antennas and can be recharged by a single charger unit.

Duress alarm button for emergency situations

The GPS/AVL unit is provided with one-button duress alarm located so it can be easily operated by the driver when emergency situations occur without causing the driver to perform any special motions which may attract the attention of a hostile party. Once the duress button is activated it provides real time tracking of the vehicle and it instantly alerts Government personnel who are monitoring the system that the vehicle is undergoing an emergency situation.

Web based dispatch and control center

SafeMobile's dispatch and control center, SafeNet™, provides real time location of all buses to a specific street in a matter of seconds on a detailed web-based color map displayed in English. The system has the capability of displaying information such as vehicle license plate or route number, motion status, speed, and location 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The map was also customized to show local landmarks and bus stops as per US DoDEA's request.

Benefits

Secure and safe transportation system

US DoDEA school bus transportation system can now provide a safe, secure and well-managed environment due to SafeMobile technology. SafeMobile's system provides a systematic approach to counter school bus violence, crime, and the threat of terrorism while emphasizing on risk reduction planning- what the personnel can do before an incident, to prevent it from happening and/ore reduce the effects of one, and how to respond to an incident. The government personnel monitoring the system is now capable of seeing if the vehicle is undergoing an emergency situation and therefore is capable of taking immediate action to eliminate any threat.

Conclusion

SafeMobile has helped US DoDEA enhance its Safe School Program by providing a safe and secure school bus transportation system. As a result of the implementation of the SafeMobile system, DoDEA students are now free to learn without having to fear for their personal safety.

About SafeMobile

SafeMobile provides mobile assets management systems and discrete data applications for critical environments around the world. SafeMobile delivers unique, highly scalable and customized mobile asset management systems that go beyond the utilization of Global Positioning System (GPS) and Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) technologies to greatly enhance fleet safety and operating efficiency.