

Fort Drum Compatibility | Issue: Radio Frequency

Fort Drum, like all military installations, has access to a specific range of the frequency spectrum for use in communications. Civilian use of these frequencies may create interference.

Why It Happens

Radio frequency spectrum is the entire range of electromagnetic frequencies used for communications and other transmissions, which includes communication channels for radio, cellular phones, and television. As mobile usage increases, the demand for more bandwidth on the limited radio frequency spectrum grows.

In particular, the portion of the spectrum that extends from 1,000 to 2,000 MHz called “L-band” has signals that are generally easy to process and do not require expensive equipment due to their lower frequencies. Since they have less disruption due to weather issues in the atmosphere, L-band is currently used by weather satellites, GPS satellites, aircraft surveillance systems, mobile operators, and a multitude of other users.

The military's use of frequency spectrum allows for safe operations and the effective training without interference. The military's radio frequency spectrum needs for testing, evaluation, and training are constantly increasing, while the spectrum available for military use is decreasing.

Potential conflicts can arise between private industry and government interests, especially since the spectrum is a finite resource so at times users must share bands within the spectrum.

What You Can Do

Future development in the region around Fort Drum has the potential to impact both the military's and civilians' use of the radio frequency spectrum.

If your community has a proposed project that may use a portion of the spectrum, consult with the Development Authority's Director of Regional Development, Michelle Capone, to mitigate any interference by calling (315) 661-3200 or emailing mcapone@danc.org.



For more information on this compatibility issue or to see other compatibility issues, please visit

www.fortdrumcompatibility.org

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