TAK Fire

A Case Study of Corona Fire
Utilizing TAK (Team Awareness Kit)

Q&A with Andreas "AJ" Johansson
Fire Captain - Paramedic
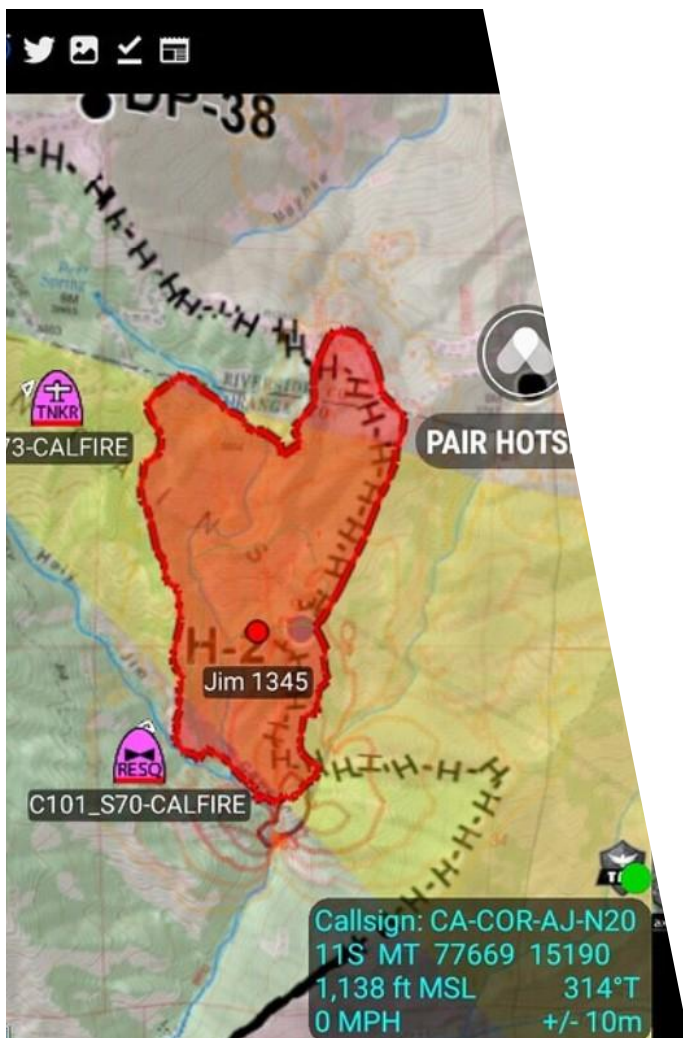Corona Fire Department

Mission Critical

Yarnell Hill Fire

› 2023 marks the 10 year anniversary of the Yarnell Hill Fire, where 19 members of the Granite Mountain Hotshots tragically lost their lives due to a lack of situational awareness and difficulties with radio communications. Between increased winds, and a lack of understanding of the crew's movements, search and rescue efforts were significantly hindered.

Had they been using TAK, HQ could have provided warnings to the crew sooner about the impending danger, and would have known their exact location to enable extraction before they were overrun by the fire. With Juggernaut.Case being an Arizona based company, manufacturing products that support such technology, the Granite Mountain story hits close to home for our team, fueling our desire to offer any support to ensure history doesn't repeat itself.

"FF resources (fire trucks, crews, dozers etc.) need to be tracked in real time, using global positioning systems. This could be done using smart phones, computer tablets and appropriate software, but it will require that standards be developed across the board by emergency responders at the Federal, State and local level." - says Rich McCrea in his June 2014, International Association of Wildland Fire article: *"The Yarnell Hill Fire: A Review of Lessons Learned"*

What is TAK?

› The Team Awareness Kit (TAK) is a map-based software application, developed by the Department of Defense, that enables tactical coordination among teams by way of position data, chat, mission planning, and shared overlays.

By providing increased situational awareness, TAK is instrumental in every day operations, special events, and disaster responses.

The Juggernaut.Case product ecosystem supports the deployment of TAK by providing rugged device protection, hands-free mounting, and power/data connectivity to ensure the success of your team's mission. Visit [The TAK Syndicate](#) website for more information.

› The following interview was conducted with Andreas "AJ" Johannson, an early adopter of TAK Software. AJ began his career in 1994 as a Wildland Firefighter for U.S. Forest Service. After becoming a certified EMT Basic and Paramedic, he worked his way up to Situation Unit Leader with CAL FIRE. Currently he is a Fire Captain - Paramedic with Corona Fire Department, along with fulfilling duties as a Mt. San Antonio College lead instructor for the Wildland Module of the Basic Fire Academy.

Q&A with AJ Johansson - Capt. Corona Fire Dept

> **When and where was Corona Fire first introduced to TAK Software?**

In 2018, during the Mendocino Complex Fire, we coordinated with US Forest Service to load a commercial Android device with TAK. We used an MQ-9 UAV overhead to bring in live video. After that, we attended multiple demos for TAK.

> **How long after that was the TAK server set up for your department?**

In August of that year, we worked with PAR Systems & Team Connect plugins to set up a demo account. By 2019 we were live and operational with full implementation.

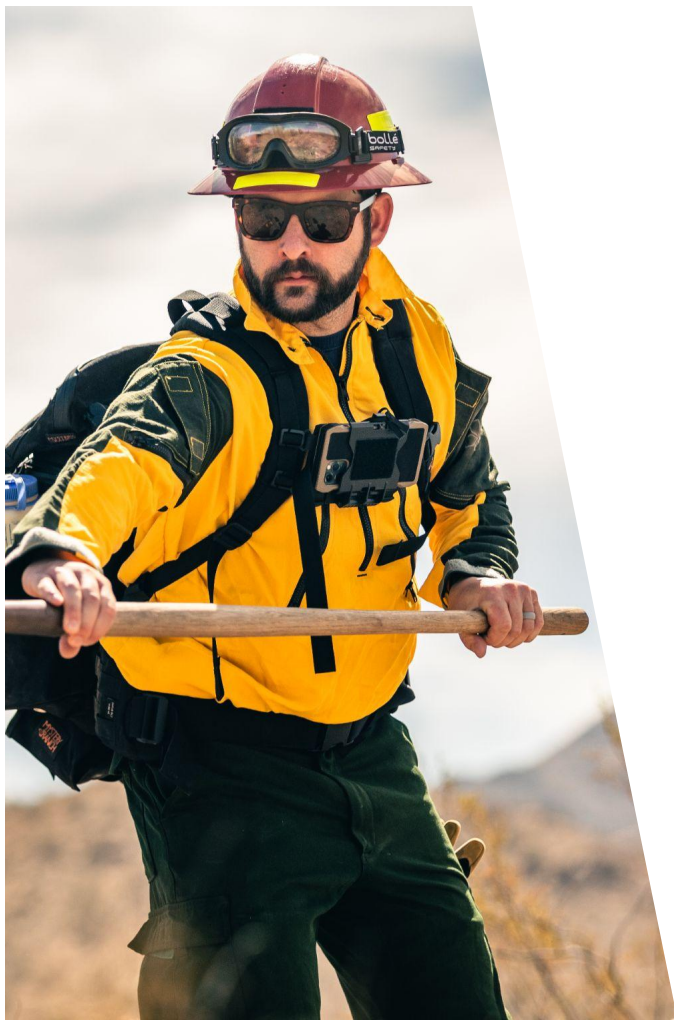> **What is the typical timeframe for training new users on the software?**

An initial in-person two-hour TAK training session is followed up by online instruction, and a Quick Reference Guide is provided for use during training exercises. The Chief is issued a tablet for better Incident Command Picture, and the rest of the team is issued Android smartphones.

> **What are a few of the most valuable TAK features for your team?**

PLI (Position Location Information) provides visibility of all team members, shared POI (Point of Interest) ensures all team members are focused on the same target location, RapidSOS places coordinates into TAK for remote area rescue, and drone feeds allow for real-time video.

What additional plug-ins do you currently use with TAK?

>

CRG (Critical Response Group) to map all the schools, GOV, (Active Shooter), Somewear-Labs, Critical Response Group, UAS Tools (the cherry on top), GIS and Hi-Res Imagery.

> **Which Juggernaut.Case products does your team use to protect, mount, and connect your smartphones that are running TAK?**

We currently use the Samsung Galaxy S10 IMPCT, HAHO Sternum.Mount, PALS Armor.Mount, Forearm.Mount, and IMPCT.Dock with the S10 adapter and USB-A Cable.

> **Why is Juggernaut.Case product ecosystem an important part of the overall integration?**

The cases provide rugged drop protection for our devices, and the variety of mounts allows for mission specificity and secure, seamless transition from vehicle to dismounted use.
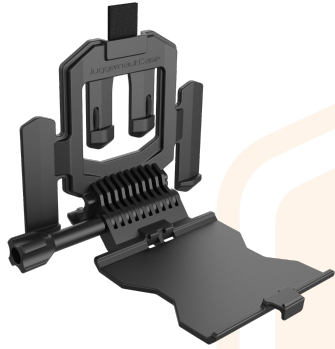
> **Is there any previous equipment or process used for navigation and team coordination that have now been replaced by the use of TAK and Juggeranut.Case products?**

TAK software in conjunction with Juggernaut.Case has allowed us to replace our old navigational apps that were designed more for outdoor recreation. It has also reduced our reliance on radios.
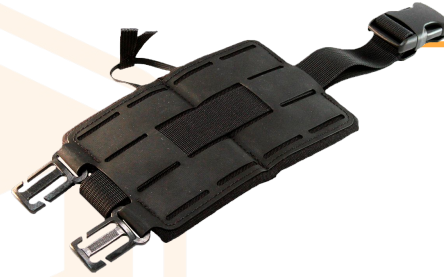
> **Can you describe a specific operation in which this integrated kit was a critical component of your team's success?**

It has been a valuable asset for Swiftwater Rescue, Remote Area Rescue, and Wildfire (Fire Area Survey).

Corona Fire Kit

PALS Armor.Mount

PALS Pack
Platform

S10 IMPCT Case

Forearm.Mount

IMPCT.Dock

Titles are linked to product pages

goTenna Tether

PALS.Mount Platform

Forearm.Mount

Vehicle.Mount

Juggernaut.Case Ecosystem

〉 PROTECT

An assortment of case models are available, from low profile, every day carry to full tactical. They all meet or exceed MIL-STD-810G and 810H drop testing and are compatible with our complete line of mounts.

〉 MOUNT

From body worn to vehicle, each mount is designed to provide secure, hands-free access to your device no matter where you're operating.

〉 CONNECT

Staying connected to your team is critical, so the ability to charge your device or pass data through a tactical hub or radio can be every bit as important as keeping the device protected. For models that are commonly deployed, we offer rugged sealed cable options that integrate with a variety of equipment.

Juggernaut.Case™

PROTECT - MOUNT - CONNECT