

# FutureFLEX<sup>®</sup>

## Application Report

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES & MILITARY BASES

**As one might expect, the key considerations for government and military LAN networks are mission-critical reliability and security. These organizations also demand state-of-the-art technology, high bandwidth and instantaneous disaster recovery, as well as the ability to make changes when required without disrupting operations. The FutureFLEX<sup>®</sup> Air-Blown Fiber<sup>®</sup> Optic Cabling System delivers on all counts, while assuring optimum flexibility to meet future needs.**



### Naval Air Systems Command Selects FutureFLEX To Link 39 Organizations In One Expandable Network

One of the first military organizations to adopt the FutureFLEX Air-Blown Fiber Optic Cabling System is the Naval Air Systems Command in Arlington, Virginia. This U.S. Navy application helped to consolidate 39 separate organizations using 19 different electronic mail systems and four network operating systems into a single, state-of-the-art, expandable network.

The Naval Air Systems Command's networks extend across 40 floors in six buildings in Arlington's Crystal City area. According to technology experts, trying to patch the disparate networks together was not a viable solution. Instead, plans were made for a new network based on optical fiber routed to the floor and Category 5 copper wire to the workstations. Traditional fiber was planned until the Command heard about FutureFLEX and discovered how this unique technology aligned with the Navy's belief in building for the future.

According to Navy officials, FutureFLEX labor and installation costs for the Crystal City project were 60 to 70 percent lower than estimates for a conventional pulled-fiber system. Subsequently, some 27,000 feet of optical fiber were blown through 7,000 feet of tube bundles, with no breakage during installation. With FutureFLEX, the Command's standard operating procedure of incorporating a 15 percent performance margin to accommodate fiber performance degradation resulting from stresses and breakage during installation, proved totally unnecessary.

The savings continue to mount because the Naval systems Air Command installation is never really complete. With FutureFLEX, continuing moves, add-ons and changes, re-routing and expansions are routinely managed by in-house Navy personnel.

