

Comm²

Many of you have heard about **ReadyOp**, the new ROIP system that Civil Air Patrol started rolling out in 2018. There have been lots of questions around it.

The most basic question is “What does ReadyOp do?”

ReadyOp does a lot of things, but CAP’s initial application will be to provide remote, internet-based access to all 545 CAP fixed repeaters. We will do this by putting a ReadyOp gateway base station within range of each repeater. Then, CAP members with access can use a smart phone, tablet or computer to talk over the gateway station and through the repeater. So an AOBD a couple of hundred miles away can be talking to an aircraft that would otherwise be out of range. It will take several years to build out the system but the plan is for every repeater to eventually be accessible via ReadyOp.

Another common question is, “When can my wing get ReadyOp?”

CAP/DO has provided the ReadyOp project managers in DOK a priority list to define where ReadyOp access is needed first. That will drive the first 50 or so. After that the ReadyOp manager will be working with wings in a systematic manner across the country trying to hit the most important mission areas first. Each wing can help drive those decisions determining the priority in which they need ReadyOp added. They begin working to find hosting sites for the ReadyOp gateway stations. Requirements for a gateway site are:

- Must have automatic back-up power. That means auto-start, auto-switch. Not a generator you can roll out and hook up if the lights go out.
- Must have internet access with service restoral priority. That usually means some kind of government facility. Suggestions are EOCs, police stations, hospitals, fire stations, or any readily accessible facility that has priority internet restoral. One wing was able to identify an internet service provider that met the criteria.
- Does NOT need to be behind anyone’s firewall. That makes potential hosts nervous and since ReadyOp provides its own security, it isn’t necessary to be inside your host’s firewall. We just need dirty internet.
- Must NOT be in a member’s home. Placing in members’ homes seems like a quick way to get started but it doesn’t meet the system design criteria, and we all know that “temporary” tends to become permanent. Therefore, requests to locate gateway stations in members’ homes, even temporarily, will be denied.

When you have a priority list agreed to by your Ops and commander and gateway sites that are agreed to in writing by the host, let us know and we’ll start working with you as soon as we complete the CAP/DO priority list.

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PLEASE SHARE! Pass this along to Unit Comm Officers and Wing Staff.