



Mobile & Field Hospital Communications

How goTenna Pro Addresses Common Challenges During COVID-19 Response

The current frontline medical surge in the COVID-19 pandemic response stresses more than just critical hospital bed capacity and other staffing and equipment-related resources. As communities stand up temporary hospital and testing facilities, the increased activity at these sites is also putting a burden on primary communications systems used for essential functions like patient control, supply distribution, and security.

Mesh networking solutions from goTenna Pro provide a resilient and redundant communications alternative that can be easily and rapidly deployed regardless of existing centralized infrastructure. Defense, public safety, and public health organizations can address the following communications challenges at mobile and field hospital facilities with the support of goTenna Pro:

INTEROPERABILITY

With many state and local, health, volunteer, and now even defense organizations supporting COVID-19 efforts, interoperability between all partners is becoming critical, but difficult to achieve with varying communications equipment in place. Some organizations aren't able to supply standard equipment to every frontline operator, which hinders real-time coordination and situational awareness.

Solution: goTenna Pro or Pro X devices paired with native or compatible mobile apps provide easy interoperability via the commonality of a smartphone or tablet. Unlike other "smart" 2-way radios, Pro and Pro X devices require minimal training for novice and experienced users alike.

FIXED INFRASTRUCTURE

Mobile and field hospitals as well as temporary testing facilities need to be stood up quickly in locations with or without existing fixed radio, cell, WiFi, and satellite infrastructure. Given the pace of operations, these facilities likely won't include landline phones or reliable WiFi networks, which medical workers are accustomed to.

Solution: Unlike traditional 2-way radio systems, goTenna Pro and Pro X devices do not require any fixed infrastructure like base stations or repeaters. Devices can quickly switch to a standalone relay mode to extend the use of critical mobile app messaging and mapping in complex line-of-sight environments, like conference expo centers or rural areas.

COST

Mobile and field hospital equipment is typically reserved for use during major disasters and crises. Agencies may find that previously used communications equipment is outdated or in need of significant maintenance. Purchasing new communications equipment is resource-intensive, and as a result, could mean limited communications capabilities for response efforts.

Solution: goTenna Pro and Pro X devices are less expensive than traditional 2-way radio systems and pair with smartphones already in the pocket of frontline operators. Once system administrators configure appropriate frequency bands and user accounts within an online management portal, device training and setup can be conducted in minutes.

Are you hearing additional COVID-19 insights from your customers?

Please reach out to us at prosupport@gotenna.com so we can best support their communications needs during this global pandemic response.

Additional resources on global deployment of mobile and field hospitals:

- *Global*
 - Global map of US [Military Medical Facilities Map](#)
 - [Field hospitals set up around the world to help with coronavirus cases](#)
- *Europe*
 - [French military field Hospital](#) opens in Mulhouse
 - [Spain just opened a massive coronavirus field hospital](#) in convention center
 - [Ostra Sjukhuset hospital area](#) in Gothenburg, Sweden
 - [Belgrade Fair](#) in Belgrade Serbia
 - [Crema, Italy](#) where Cuba sent a medical brigade to help treat patients
 - [UK announces temporary hospital will open at ExCel Centre](#)
- *South America*
 - [Columbian military field hospital](#) opens in Bogota
 - [Panama City](#), Panama
 - [Campo de Mayo Military Base](#) in Buenos Aires, Argentina
 - [Brazil football stadiums](#) to turn into coronavirus field hospitals.
- *North America*
 - [NYT US interactive military hospitals map](#)
 - 15 military bases across the US can hold quarantined people. [See the map](#) and the [full article here](#).
 - [Three Army field hospitals](#) ordered to New York, Washington States
 - USNS Comfort (NYC) and USNS Mercy (LA)
 - NY State Governor Cuomo announced [four sites](#) identified by the Army Corps of Engineers on the Initial List of Temporary Hospitals.

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