



OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
CIVIL AIR PATROL  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY  
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA 36112-6332

14 December 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL REGION AND WING COMMANDERS

FROM: HQ CAP/CC

SUBJECT: Narrowband Transition Deadline

1. The end of December marks the formal end of Civil Air Patrol's narrowband transition. After this date, none of our VHF-FM radio systems may transmit in wideband mode. This has been called the largest single project ever undertaken by CAP since World War II and I wish to convey my thanks to you and your members for their outstanding efforts in support of this important upgrade of our VHF-FM communications system. Wings that have completed, or are nearing completion of the narrowband transition, have told us their communication capabilities have significantly improved so all of your hard work is paying off.
2. Effective 1 January 2010, all VHF-FM operation on Air Force channels/frequencies assigned to CAP must be narrowband. Wideband transmissions on our "new" frequencies are prohibited and we will no longer have any authority to use our "old" frequency/channel assignments. This deadline has been directed by the Air Force in order to meet a National Telecommunications and Information Administration mandate.
3. I am aware that there are some existing wideband repeater sites across the country where it has not yet been possible to upgrade the site to narrowband operation.
  - a. These wideband repeaters must cease operation not later than midnight on 31 December. If these repeaters cannot be physically turned off (for example, because the site is inaccessible due to snow), special care must be taken to ensure that they are not operated, even by accident.
  - b. Regions/wings that have not been able to install all their allocated repeaters by the 31 December deadline must continue to make this their top priority in 2010 because we cannot afford to have this impact our capability to perform Air Force missions.
  - c. I strongly encourage you to develop interim plans for use of our narrowband tactical ground and airmobile repeaters in these areas, as well as HF-ALE radios. These systems can serve as stopgap measures for mission accomplishment until you are able to bring the replacement narrowband fixed repeaters online.
  - d. Remember that if you need assistance in fielding tactical repeaters or other communications resources for missions, your neighboring wings can and will support you. You can contact the National Operations Center anytime to request additional resources and assistance.

4. I am also aware that in several locations, wings continue to seek replacement repeater sites for locations that were approved in the 2004 timeframe, but have since “fallen through” and are not actually available today. I encourage you to continue working to secure viable locations for repeater sites you require for mission accomplishment.

5. In conclusion, congratulations to all the regions/wings that have completed, or are close to completing, the narrowband transition. It has taken a tremendous effort by many people to get where we are today. We still have a ways to go in some places so keep on working hard to install those remaining repeaters. I also encourage you to recognize those members in your region/wing who contributed the most toward the successful completion of the narrowband transition. Thank you for all your efforts on behalf of our great organization.



AMY S. COURTER  
Major General, CAP  
National Commander

cc:

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