



# ORAP

## Rural Emergency Communications Operational Rapid Assistance Package



### OVERVIEW

A technical assistance (TA) program assisting rural communities by examining communications barriers and identifying solutions that enhance existing emergency communications infrastructure to improve the delivery of rural medical care.

### WHY ORAP

The chain of survival in medicine begins with the first contact with a patient, often provided by bystanders who stop to help and call 9-1-1, which activates the formal emergency response system to provide aid. First to arrive are typically non-medical responders like law enforcement, followed by pre-hospital Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers who care for the patient on-scene and in transit. Finally, the patient is transferred to definitive care at a hospital. The purpose of ORAP is to ensure that the first three links of this critical chain of survival do not break because of poor communications.

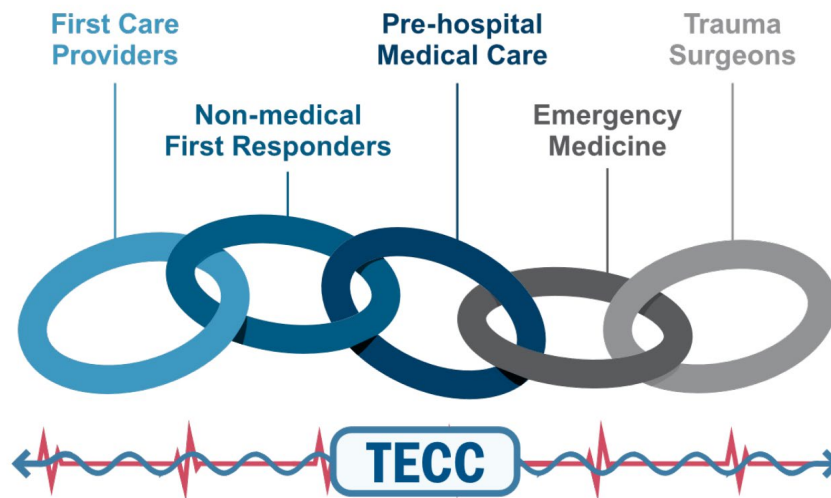


Figure 1: Committee for Tactical Emergency Casualty Care

### ORAP OBJECTIVES

- 1 Identify immediate needs associated with emergency communications for rural EMS
- 2 provide tools (e.g., plans/policies/procedures) to immediately address those needs
- 3 Train jurisdictions and communities on using those tools to address gaps
- 4 Apply and test those tools via tabletop or functional exercises

## ORAP COMPONENTS

1



### Rapid Assessment

Site visit to understand gaps and needs

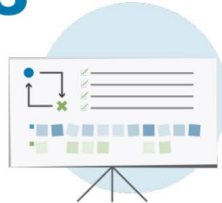
2



### Policies, Plans, Procedures

Address a specific need selected from Rapid Assessment

3



### Training

Develop training related to the policy, plan, or procedure

4



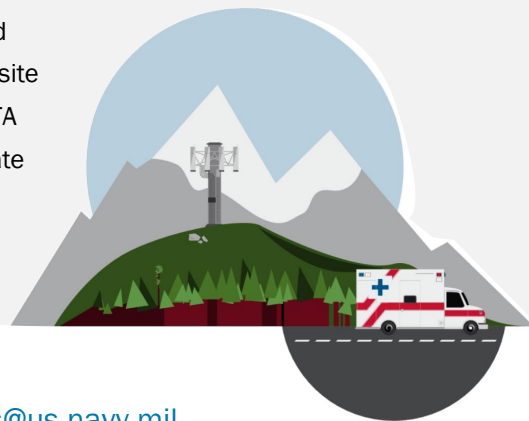
### Exercise

Test and evaluate the policy, plan, or procedure and training

ORAP is a comprehensive assistance package. It begins with a rapid assessment where the host community meets with a team of subject matter experts (SMEs) to review existing communications challenges and solutions. From the assessment, the team will identify and prioritize needs with the host community, leading to the selection of problem that can be addressed through policy and training. Then, the host community works with SMEs to complete the needed plans, policies, and procedures and deliver needed training. If the community chooses, they can finalize their ORAP with a tabletop exercise or small drill. In the end, the community receives all products created for them to continue building interoperability.

## APPLY FOR ORAP

ORAP is designed for county and local public safety agencies in rural communities. The program is offered by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP). ICTAP serves all 56 states and territories, as well as 574 tribal nations, and provides direct support to emergency responders and government officials through the development and delivery of training, tools, and onsite assistance to advance public safety interoperable communications capabilities. All TA requests are directed to the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator who will coordinate with ICTAP to prioritize ORAP projects in their states or territories.



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