MWR networks—better connectivity for those who serve

Overview

The families of servicemen and women also serve this country and deserve to be supported. This includes making the necessities of life easier to handle back on base. The U.S. military recognizes this fact and devotes significant resources to Morale, Welfare and Recreational (MWR) support services.

Reliable broadband access is a prerequisite of modern living, and increasingly the onramp is wireless. Service families deserve easy, seamless connectivity as they live their lives on base, whether running errands, picking up the kids from school or going to the library. Wireless local area networks (WLANs) have made dramatic leaps in performance over the past few years, and user expectations have risen as well. What was “good enough” a few years ago now often falls short for military families on base.

Limited staff and budgets are challenges in MWR networks. Some technology also dictates the type of network configuration that must be used, limiting deployment flexibility. Many of the current MWR networks are not delivering a high-quality experience—for either base end users or IT teams.

CommScope RUCKUS® delivers far more flexibility for network implementation, from our RUCKUS access points (APs) at the edge of the network to scalable core switching/routing.

Unlike with other manufacturers, the same physical APs can be deployed without a controller, with an on-premises controller, via cloud-based controller, or via cloud service. MWR IT teams will appreciate the fact that hotels on average reduced the time spent troubleshooting connectivity issues by over 80 percent when they switched to CommScope RUCKUS solutions.

Future-proofing

When you choose CommScope RUCKUS technology, your network is future-proofed. That’s critical, because of how quickly wireless services are evolving. With the right networking technology in place, base networks can tackle important functions such as the looming internet of things (IoT) management challenge. Also, with the FCC designating new wireless spectrum to be used as part of the Citizens Band Radio Service (CBRS), new service offerings such as Private LTE will soon be available. With RUCKUS technology, a Private LTE network deploys like a Wi-Fi network, and APs like the Q710 and Q910 can be quickly adapted to also serve as CBRS APs.

RUCKUS technology provides a better experience for service families and a better experience for the MWR IT teams, all in an economical manner. The advanced technology and easy updates also position bases for the advanced services of tomorrow. Now that’s serving those who serve.
Bases can be made “smart” via wireless networks with a speed and efficiency unheard of just a few years ago. In effect, a base is like a medium-sized city. Service families would have seamless coverage anywhere they went on base. Much of the infrastructure can be quickly and economically updated with the latest wireless technology, enabling new intelligent capabilities and solutions. One such usage is public safety video surveillance.

Wireless technology can support infrared motion detection video cameras to provide remote situational awareness. The system could also be integrated into a messaging system, allowing alerts to go directly to patrolman handheld devices.

The hospitality industry is a good way to see what the MWR user experience could be like. Hospitality is a very competitive industry, one in which user reviews can make or break a property. With people typically carrying multiple devices today, connectivity is a huge part of the overall travel experience. That’s the reason 70 percent of the hospitality market—and 86 percent of the world’s luxury properties—rely on RUCKUS Networks for Wi-Fi technology.

RUCKUS APs are 25–30 percent more efficient than other leading brands, meaning fewer complex networks with fewer overall APs can serve larger areas at lower costs.