ATAK

Cam Depot

Plug-in Version: 1.7
ATAK 5.8.0
10 November 2026



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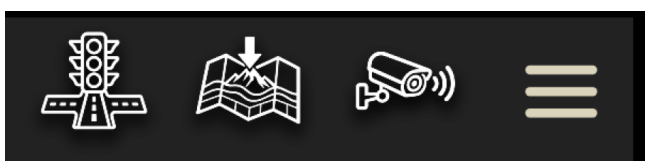
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Overview

Cam Depot puts public traffic and wildfire cameras on the ATAK map. Roughly 43,000 of them, across 55 states and provinces, from state departments of transportation, the FAA, and the wildfire lookout networks.

You pick an area, filter down to what you want, and bring it in. Tap a camera for its latest picture; where the agency publishes a stream, play it as live video inside ATAK.

Nothing here needs an account or a key. The cameras are public; Cam Depot finds them, keeps them current, and puts them where you are looking.

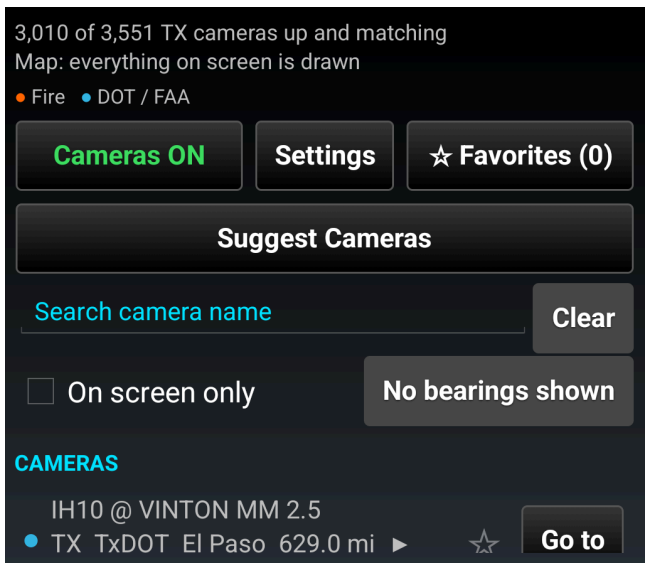


Open it from the ATAK toolbar. The icon sits with the other tools; tapping it again closes the panel, so it is one tap on and one tap off when you want the map to yourself.

The first thing it does is load the catalog, then the cameras for the state it is showing. A line at the top of the panel says so while it works.

The panel

The panel is the control. The map shows exactly what the panel selects, never the whole catalog.



The main screen is what you use in the field.

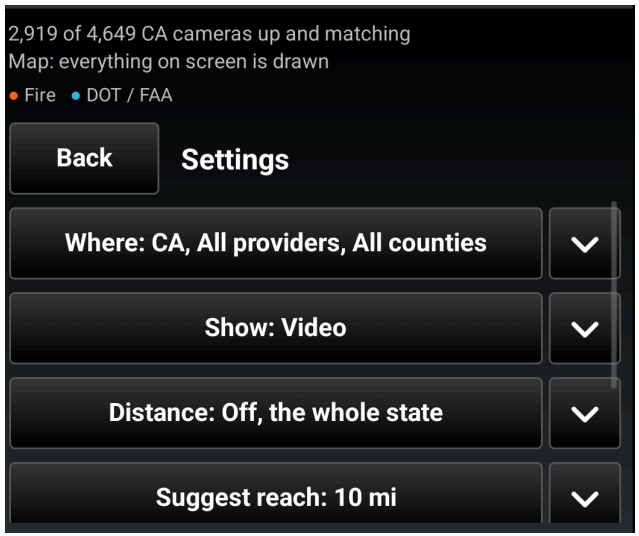
Cameras ON / OFF is the map's switch. **Settings** opens everything that is set once and left. **Favorites** pins the cameras you starred.

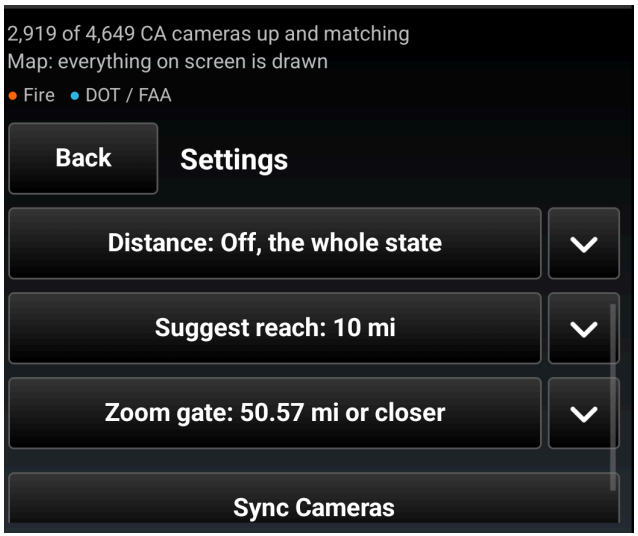
Suggest Cameras finds the cameras that cover a spot. See *Suggest Cameras*.

Search finds a camera by name, in every state at once. **On screen only** narrows the list to the map view. **Turn off N bearings** puts every bearing line away.

The status line says how many cameras are up and matching, and whether the map is drawing everything.

Settings

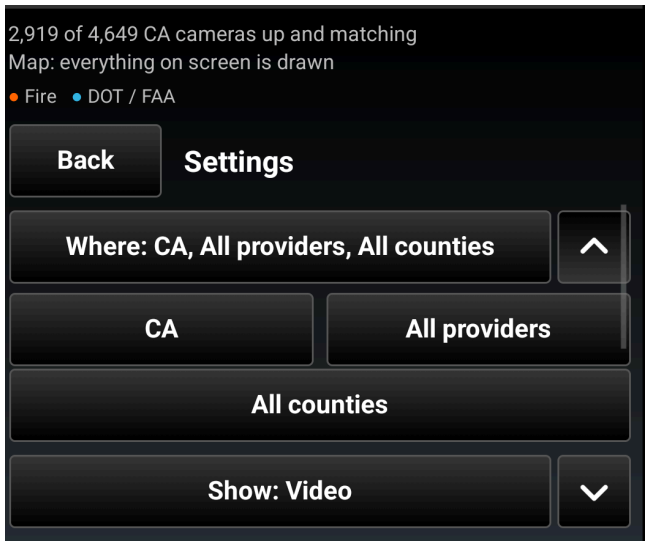




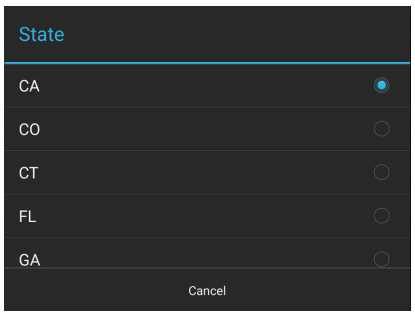
Every row reads its own value while it is closed, so the page is a summary of how the panel is set. Tap a row to open it.

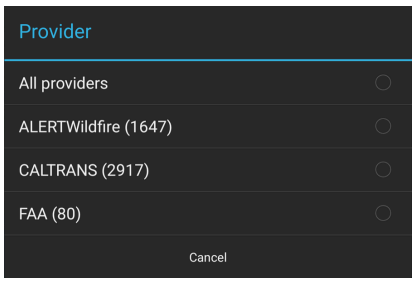
Sync Cameras, last, re-reads the catalog and reloads the state without restarting ATAK. Use it when a camera you expect is missing, or when video that worked yesterday does not connect today.

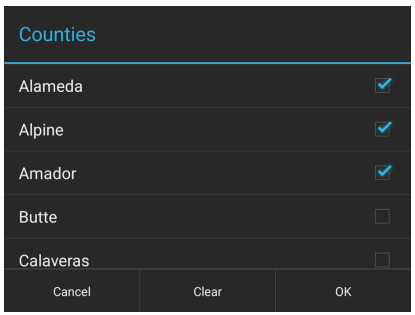
Where



State picks the state or province, 54 of them, and **Provider** narrows to one agency within it. **County** takes as many counties as the job covers.

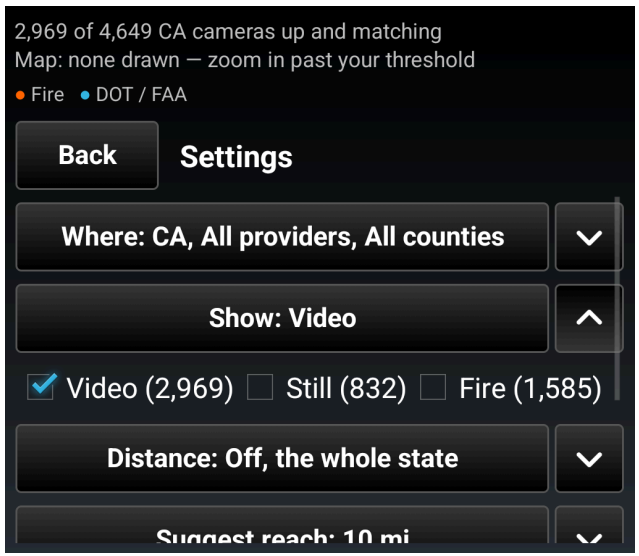


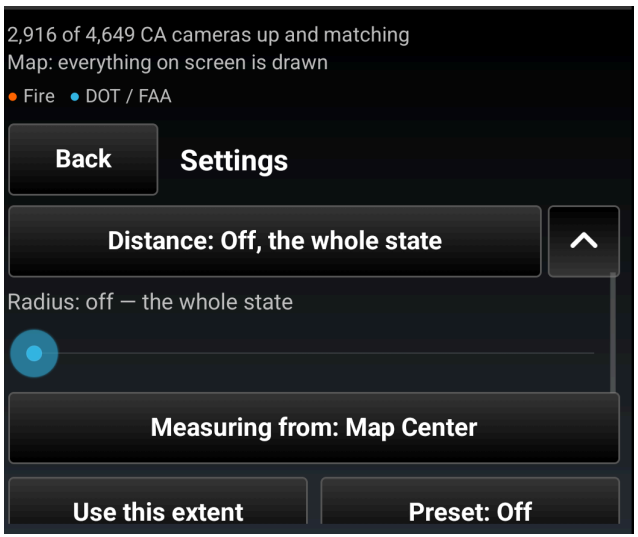




Each agency says how many cameras it has **before** you pick it. Counties come from Census boundaries, so they work on every camera in the United States.

Show, Distance

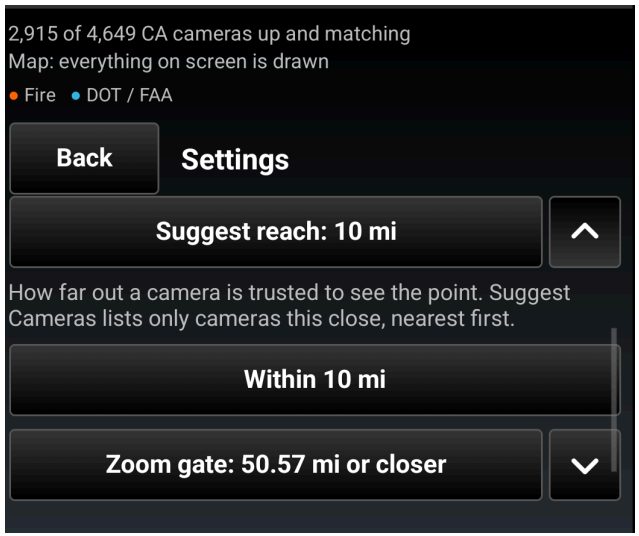


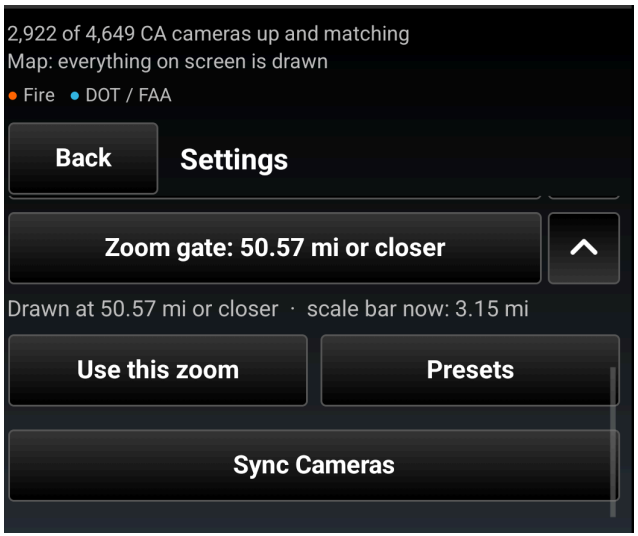


Video, **Still** and **Fire** each carry their own count. Tick more to show more; none ticked means everything.

The distance slider runs to 50 in ATAK's units. **Measuring from** rotates between your own position and the map center. **Use this extent** takes the radius from what is on screen. **Presets** names the one in force.

Suggest reach, Zoom gate



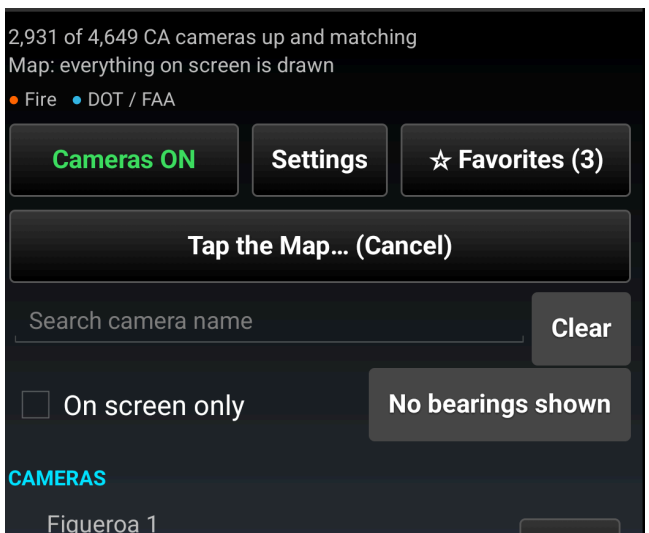


Suggest reach is how far out a camera is trusted to see a point. 10 miles to start with; the picker offers 2, 5, 10, 20 and 40 miles, or the bearing line's length.

Zoom gate: cameras draw only when you are zoomed in past a threshold you choose. **Use this zoom** makes the current view the threshold; **Presets** offers a few starting points in plain terms.

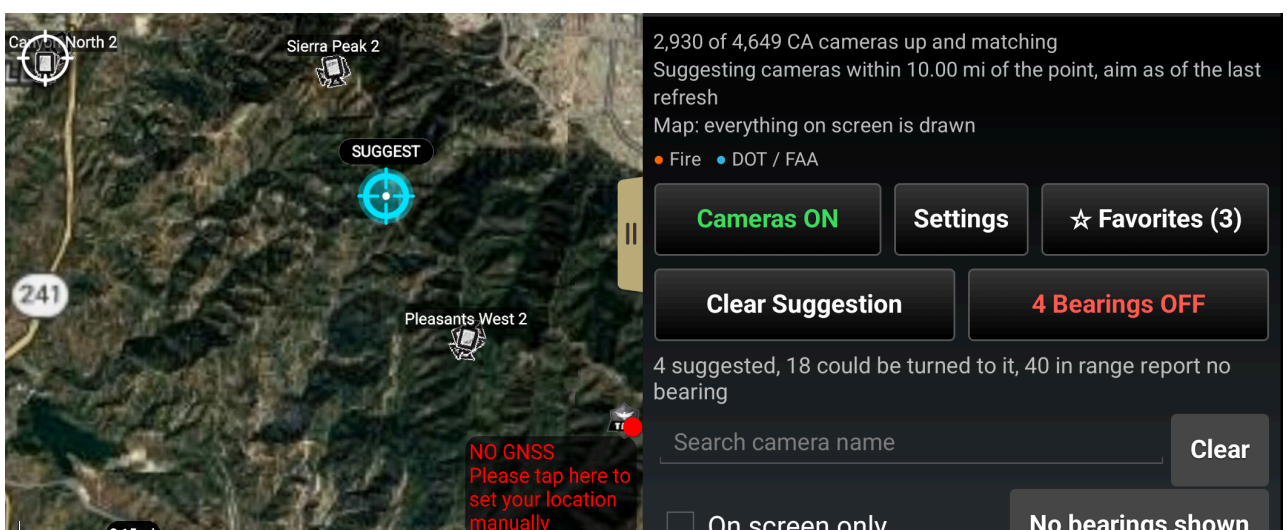
Suggest Cameras

You have a point on the map and a tower with five cameras on it. Which one is looking that way? Suggest Cameras answers it in one tap instead of turning five bearings on and off.

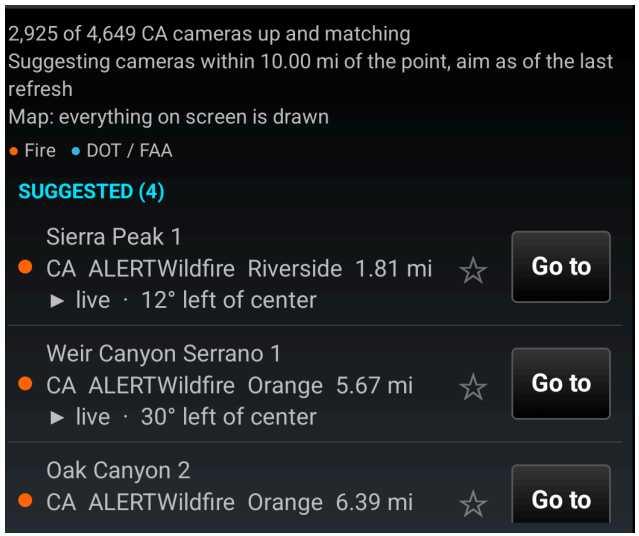


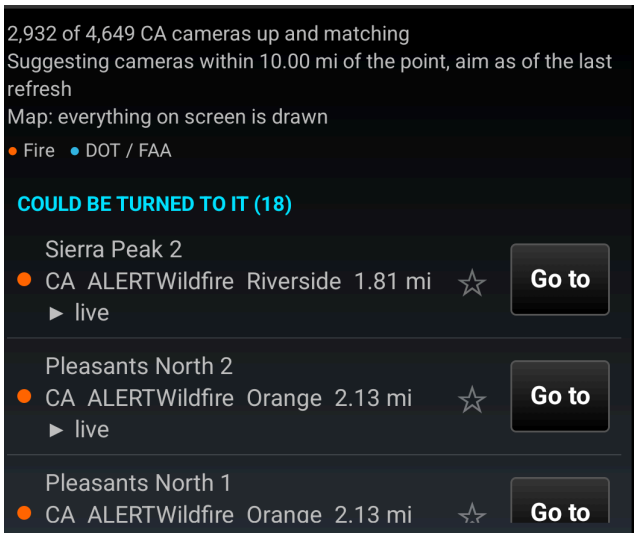
Tap **Suggest Cameras**, then tap the point on the map. A cyan marker lands where you tapped, and the list narrows to the cameras that cover it.

Clear Suggestion takes the marker off the map and gives the full list back. The point, the marker and the bearing lines all come back after restarting ATAK.



Three groups, nearest first



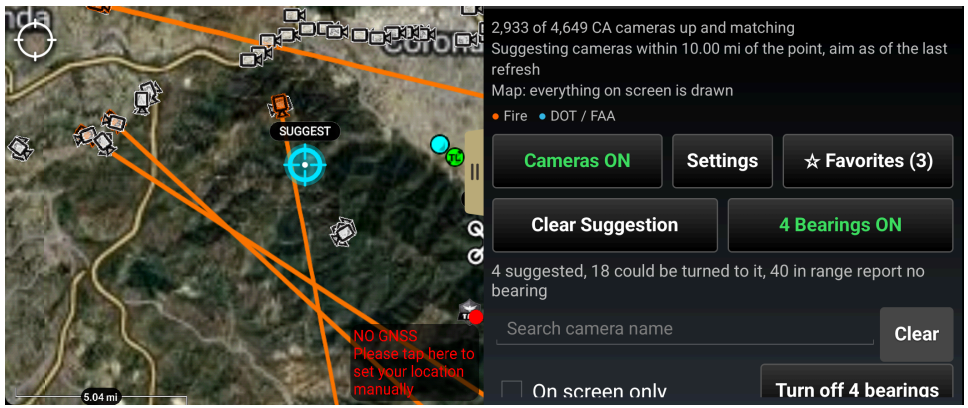


Suggested are cameras whose reported aim covers the point: inside their lens and within 30 degrees of its center. Each row says how far the camera is from the point and how far off center the point sits, so you can judge the edge cases yourself.

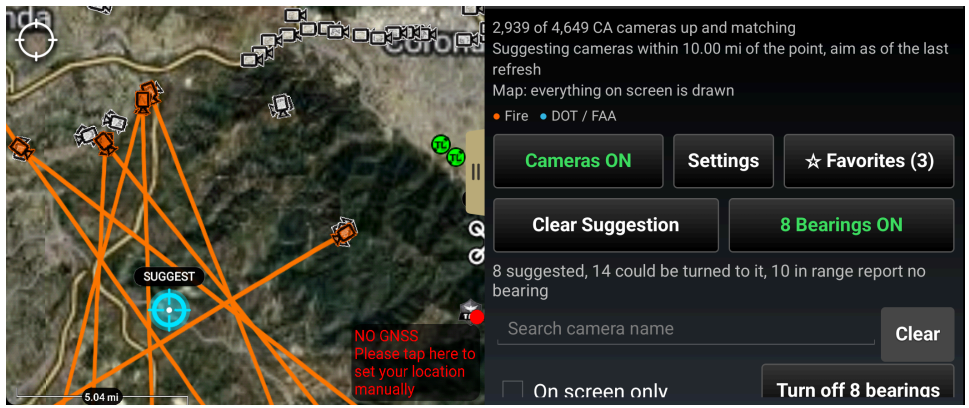
Could be turned to it are pan-tilt-zoom cameras within reach that are aimed somewhere else; someone at the agency can swing them. **No bearing reported** are cameras within reach that never say where they look, most highway cameras among them.

The map keeps every camera; only the list narrows. A camera's aim is as of the last catalog refresh. Tap a row to see its picture; that is the final word on what it sees.

Bearings in one tap, and a point you can move

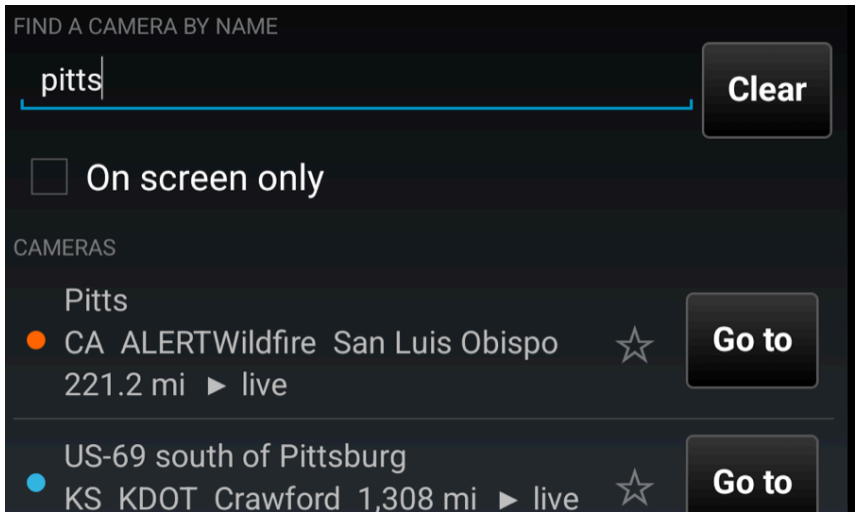


N Bearings OFF turns on the bearing line of every suggested camera at once and reads **N Bearings ON** in green. Tap it again to take them down. Lines you turned on by hand on other cameras are left alone.



Press the marker and drag it. Where it lands, the counts recompute, and if the bearings were on they move with it: off the cameras that dropped out, on to the ones that came in.

Find a camera by name



Typing in the search box searches **every state at once**, not only the one in the dropdown. Here "pitts" finds a wildfire lookout in California and a highway camera in Kansas together, 1,300 miles apart.

Camera names are the agency's own – "I-40/75 @ West Hills", "Keller Peak 1" – so a road number, a landmark or a peak name will usually find it.

Clear sits beside the box and lights up only while something is in it, so a live Clear button is the panel telling you a search is still filtering the list.

Reading a row

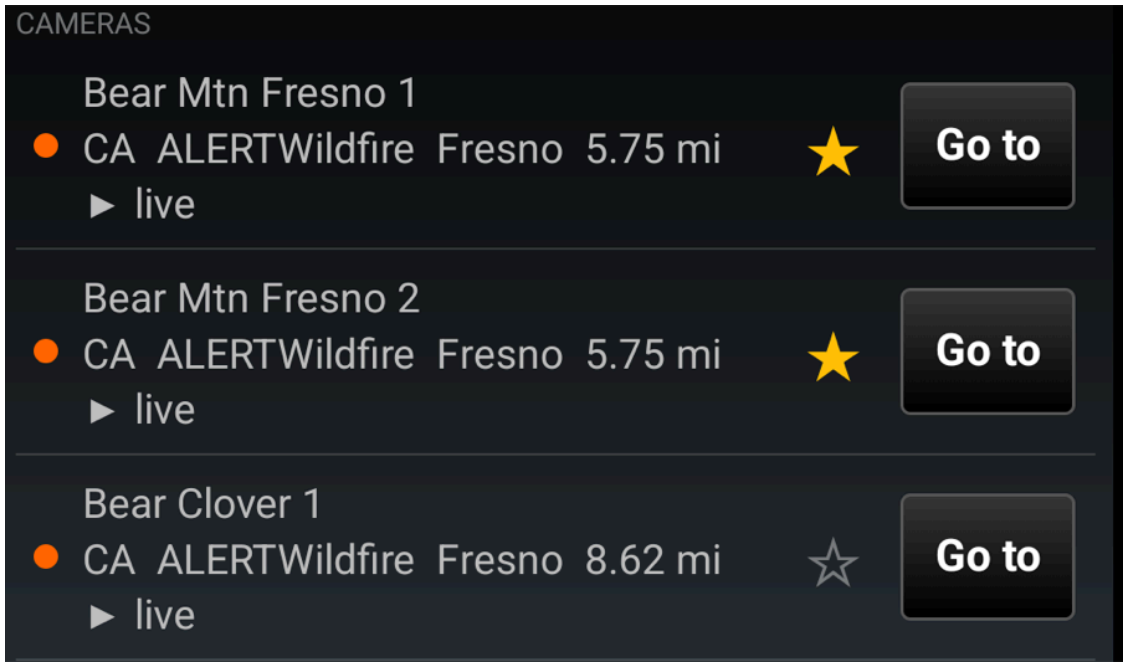
Each row is one camera. The colored dot is what kind it is – orange for a wildfire lookout, blue for a department of transportation or FAA camera – and the legend above the list says so.

Under the name: the state, the agency, the county, and how far away it is. A small ▸ **live** marks a camera that streams.

Go to moves the map to that camera and zooms in close enough to see the road it is watching. Tapping the row itself opens the camera.

Below the list the panel says how many cameras matched, how many are drawn on the map, and, if the map is not showing all of them, why. A view that is trimmed says so rather than looking complete.

Favorites



The star at the end of each row marks a camera as a favorite. Favorites are kept on the device and survive restarting ATAK.

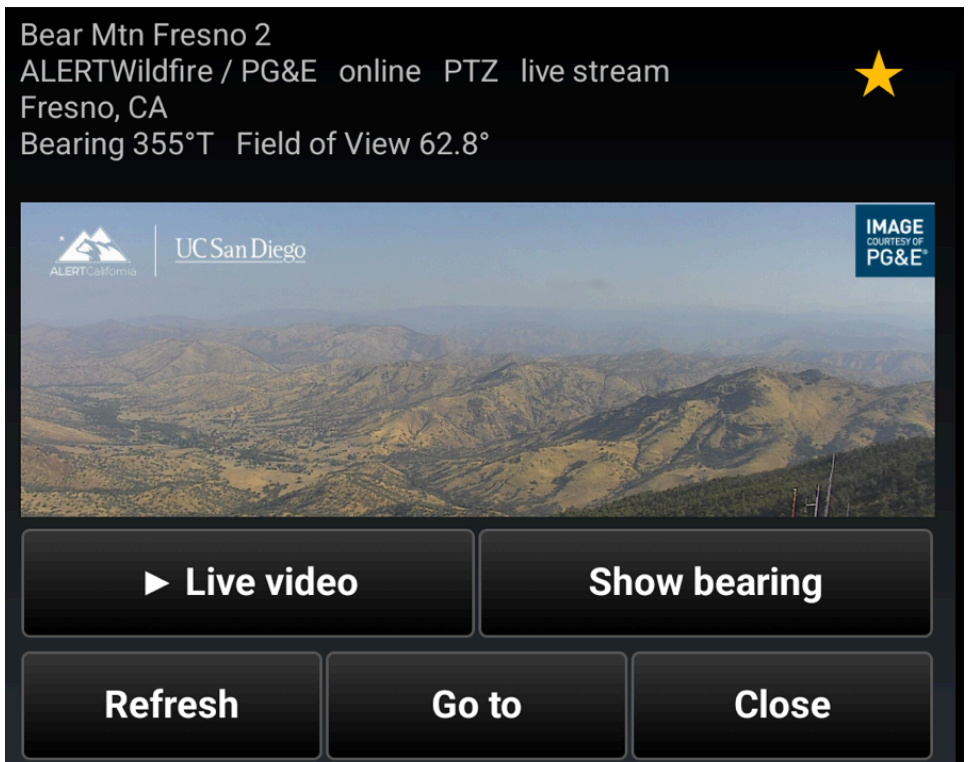
The same star appears in the camera's own pane, so you can mark one while you are looking at it.

Favorites First

Tapping **Favorites** turns the star gold and pins them in their own section, with the whole state still below. Favorites are not tied to a state: a lookout in California and a highway camera in Ontario sit in the same list.

While Favorites First is on, a favorite ignores every filter. State, county, radius and the Show boxes all pass it by, and it stays on the map whatever the panel says – which is the point: a camera you starred does not vanish because of a setting you left on an hour ago. The status line says so. Turn Favorites First off and they become ordinary cameras again, filtered like everything else.

Opening a camera



Tapping a camera, in the list or on the map, opens it in a side pane so the map stays live behind it.

The pane names the camera, then says the agency, whether it is online, whether it steers, and the county – then shows the latest picture. **Refresh** fetches a new frame; while one is on its way the pane says "Fetching the latest picture…" rather than sitting blank, because a slow agency and a broken one look identical otherwise.

Pictures are current to within about a minute on most networks. Some agencies publish on their own cycle: British Columbia refreshes its whole province every few minutes, so a picture there can be a few minutes old even when everything is working.

A few cameras publish live video and no picture at all – all of Maryland works this way. Those say so, and point you at the video button.

Live video

Where the agency publishes a stream, **Live video** plays it in ATAK's own player.

Not every camera has one. A camera that only publishes pictures says "Video (still only)" rather than offering a button that cannot work. Of the 43,000 cameras in the catalog, about 16,500 stream.

Streams are checked before they are published, so a camera that offers video was serving video when the catalog was built. Agencies do have outages; when one does, its cameras keep their video button rather than silently losing it, and they come back when the agency does.

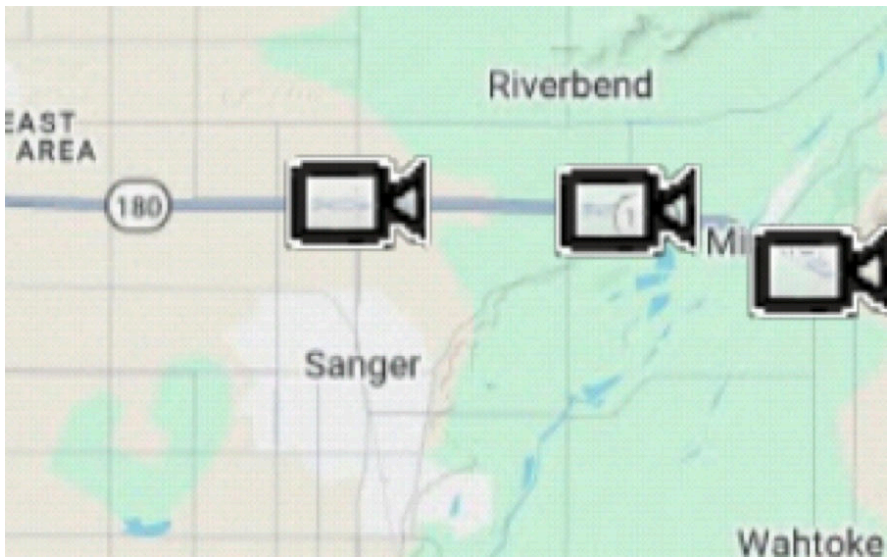


ATAK's own player, with its snapshot and record controls. The overlay across the picture is the agency's, not ours.

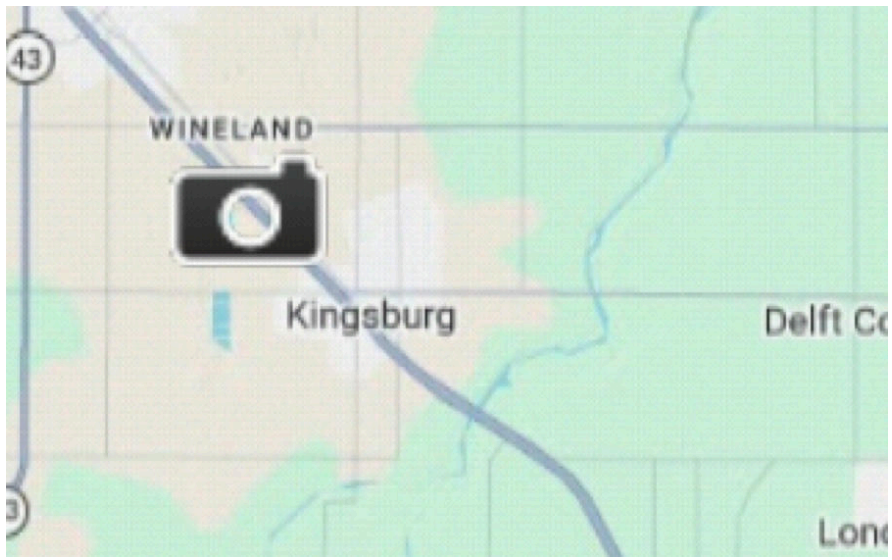
Closing the video returns you to the map. The toolbar icon reopens the panel.

Two kinds of camera on the map

The map itself says which cameras stream and which only take pictures, so you can tell before you open one.



Streams. ATAK's own camcorder.

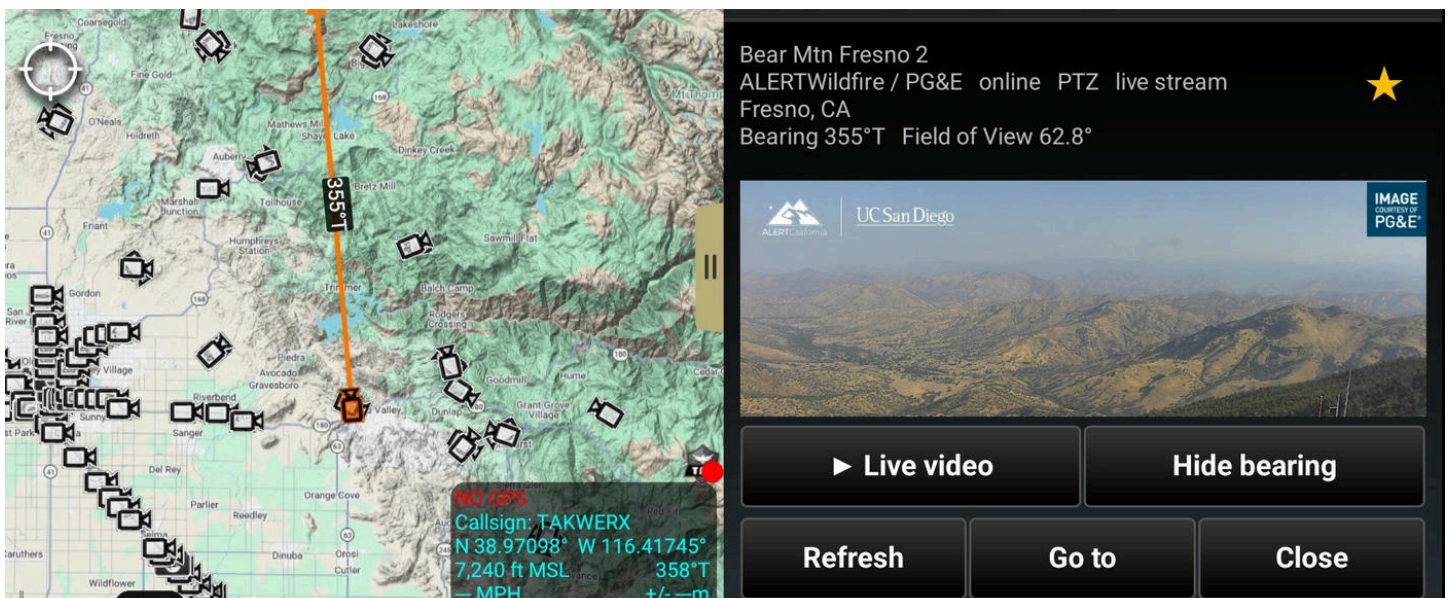


Stills only. A plain camera.

The list says the same thing a second way: a streaming camera carries a small ▸ **live** under its name, and its pane offers ▸ **Live video** where a stills camera offers **Video (still only)**.

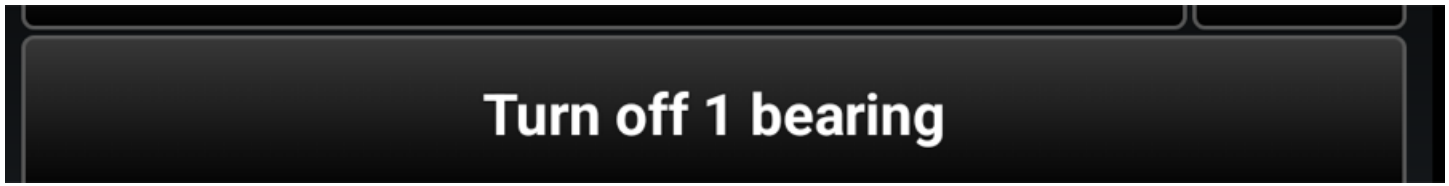
Bearings

Cameras that report which way they are pointing can draw a bearing line on the map, labeled with its azimuth. **Show bearing** turns it on, and the marker turns orange while it is on. On a steerable camera the line follows the camera as it moves, updating every few seconds.



The pane and the map give the same number: **Bearing 355°T** beside the camera's name, 355°T on the line itself.

A bearing stays on when you pan away from its camera and comes back with it, so looking at something else does not put it away.



Turn off N bearings, beside *On screen only* on the main screen, puts every line away at once. It carries the count and is greyed out when there are none. Suggest Cameras has its own switch for the suggested cameras' lines.

What the line is, and is not

The line is the **direction** the camera points. It is not how wide it sees.

A camera's pane reports both – **Bearing 355°T Field of View 62.8°** – but only the bearing is drawn. A field of view is a wedge, and sixteen hundred overlapping wedges is a map you cannot read, so Cam Depot draws the direction and leaves the width as a number. Suggest Cameras is where the width is used.

Opening a stills camera that reports a bearing shows its line automatically for as long as the picture is open, then puts it away again. That answers "what am I looking at" at the moment you are asking it.

A camera that publishes no bearing says "No bearing reported" rather than drawing a line that would be a guess.

One thing worth knowing: on the wildfire networks the bearing is ahead of the picture. The agency reports where a camera is pointing immediately and publishes its image twenty to thirty seconds later. The line is the truth; the picture is the recent past.

Drawing on the map



Past the zoom gate, the cameras draw. If more match than can be drawn legibly, the status line says how many were left off and to zoom in. It will not quietly show you part of the picture.

Cameras OFF takes every camera off the map and changes nothing else: the filters, the list and any bearings you asked for stay as they are, so ON puts back exactly what was there. The switch is remembered across restarts.

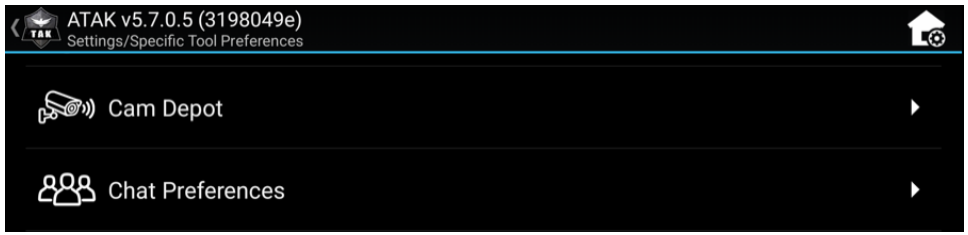
Where the cameras come from

Cam Depot does not talk to twenty agencies from your device. One service collects from them, checks what it collected, and publishes a single catalog that every device reads. That keeps a tablet off the hook for a six-megabyte download, and keeps one polite poller in front of each agency instead of hundreds.

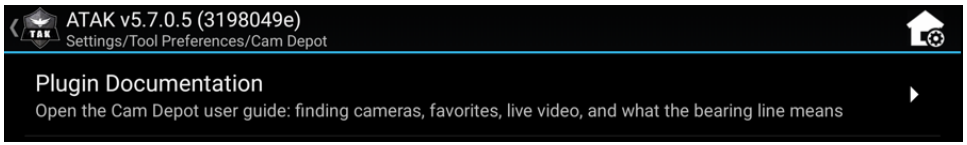
Camera pictures and video are fetched straight from the agency by your device. They do not travel through anything of ours.

The catalog covers the wildfire lookout networks, the FAA weather cameras, and the departments of transportation of most states and several Canadian provinces. Coverage grows as agencies are added.

This guide, on the device



ATAK's **Settings** → **Tool Preferences** lists Cam Depot with the other tools.



Plugin Documentation opens this guide, so it is on the device with you and needs no network.

What it needs

- **Network** – outbound HTTPS on port 443 for the catalog, and whatever port the agency serves its own pictures and video on. No inbound ports, and no TAK server involvement.
- **Nothing else** – no account, no key, no configuration. It does not read or transmit position, callsign, or any other ATAK data. Favorites and your filter settings are kept on the device.