



ARMY MARS

MILITARY AFFILIATE RADIO SYSTEM



WHAT IS “ARMY MILITARY AFFILIATE RADIO SYSTEM” (ARMY MARS)?

MARS is a program established by the Department of Defense with the Department of the Army, Department of the Navy and the Department of the Air Force responsible for execution of the MARS programs for each service. Each military service provides restricted HF and VHF frequencies solely for supporting each service’s military mission.

WHAT IS THE MISSION OF ARMY MARS?

DoD Directives 4650.2 (26 Jan 98), 3025.1 (15 Jan 93) MSCA, 3025.15, 18 Feb 97 and AR 25-6, 21 Apr 86, defines the primary mission for MARS is to provide DOD–sponsored emergency communications on a local, national, and international basis as an adjunct to existing DA communications. *What does this really mean?* Army MARS members will be assigned, trained and prepared to provide essential emergency communications support via HF radio to the United States Army, and other Federal Agencies in response to natural and man-made disasters. Army MARS members support America’s “First Responders.”

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO JOIN ARMY MARS?

To become a member of Army MARS you must have:

1. Valid Amateur radio license issued by the FCC or competent US authority.
2. Must be at least 17 years of age or older. If under 18 years of age, signature of legal guardian is required.
3. United States Citizen or resident Alien.
4. Have radio equipment capable of operating on MARS frequencies.
5. Agree to operate a minimum of 12-hours per quarter with a minimum of 6-hours on HF/VHF nets.

IN WHAT TYPE OF ACTIVITIES DO *ARMY MARS* OPERATORS PARTICIPATE?

While each service supports its specific department and other agencies, here are examples of Army MARS activities:

Provide emergency communications support to United States Northern Command (NORTHCOM) and Army North (ARNORTH), Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration, Army National Guard, Army Reserve and State Emergency Operations Centers.

Use the Army MARS Winlink 2000 System (WL2K), which currently consists of 24 world-wide Radio Messaging Systems (RMS) providing Email access via Army MARS radio/internet to Military, Federal and State customers and individual MARS members.

Use of Department of Defense frequencies assigned to the US Army solely for Army MARS.

Be able to experiment and use various digital, sound card modulations such as MT-63 and Olivia, Slow Scan Television (SSTV) or Voice Over the Internet Protocol (VOIP), and Automatic Link Equipment.

If you are interested in becoming part of an exciting, essential and important service to the United States of America, send an email to: gwendolyn.bochicchio1@us.army.mil
Army MARS Membership Administrator.