



# Official Presentation of United States Air Force MARS

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**For Further Information or Comments: [hqccc.afmars@us.af.mil](mailto:hqccc.afmars@us.af.mil)**

# USAF MARS HEADQUARTERS LEADERSHIP



**David Antry**  
Chief, USAF MARS



**Mark Allen**  
Deputy Chief, USAF MARS



# ABOUT US



**MISSION** – To provide contingency radio communications on behalf of the Department of Defense in support of the national security mission whenever, however, and wherever required.

**VISION** - To support the Department of Defense by providing first-rate, on-demand, communications services that rival more complex and expensive systems when they are unavailable. This will be done in peacetime, wartime, or times of crisis.

**VALUES** – USAF MARS embraces the Air Force Core Values of Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence in All We Do.



# REMEMBERING OUR LEGACY

Senator Barry Goldwater

K7UGA (Amateur Radio Service)  
AFA7UGA (USAF MARS)

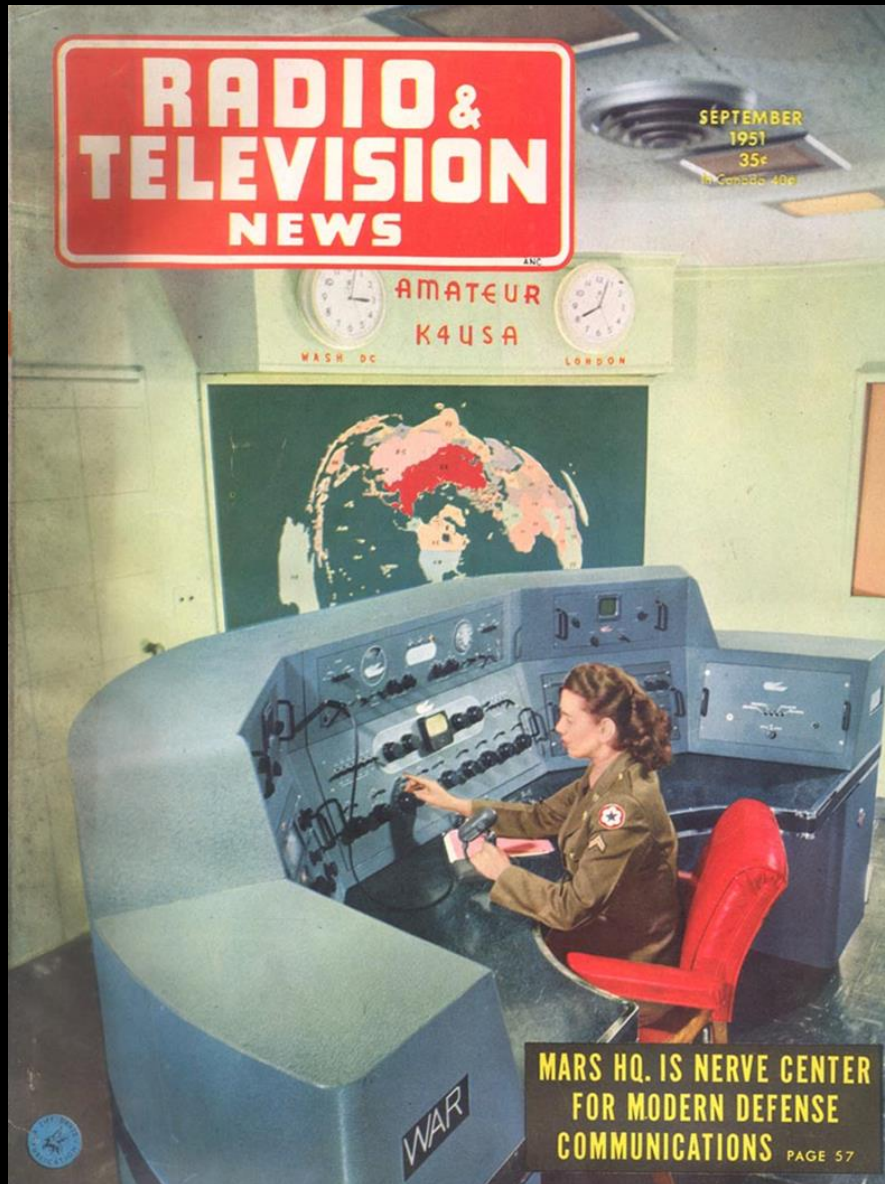
USAF MARS Operator,  
Proponent and Ambassador



USAF MARS, Unauthorized Modification Strictly Prohibited

# OUR HISTORY

## PENTAGON MARS STATION ON THE COVER OF RADIO & TELEVISION NEWS IN 1951



# OUR HISTORY

## CONT'D



W6IAB – Camp Pendleton, CA



# OUR HISTORY

## CONT'D



Tan Son Nhut Airbase  
Vietnam, circa 1967



# USAF MARS PRESENT DAY



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# IMPLEMENTING DIRECTIVE

DoD Instruction 4650.02 (20-Dec-2021): MARS 1.2. POLICY



## IMPLEMENTING DIRECTIVE CONT'D

a. MARS capability provides high frequency (HF) radio communications support to DoD through the use of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) licensed, volunteer radio operators, as directed by the Services and coordinated within the DoD.

b. MARS provides:

- (1) Infrastructure-independent, HF radio communications support as requested by DoD.
- (2) HF radio communications support to civil authorities as directed by, or coordinated with, the United States Northern Command and United States Indo-Pacific Command, and in accordance with DoDD 5111.13 and DoDD 3025.18.
- (3) Global HF radio communications to support Combatant Commands' Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Operations.
- (4) Radio interface to telephone communications as a backup to the HF Global Communications System for DoD air crews, ground forces, and sea forces providing support for emergency situations, conducting official business, and morale calls.
- (5) The Services' primary interface with amateur radio operators and coordination with the amateur radio community in the United States.
- (6) Support to the Defense mission critical infrastructure in accordance with DoD Instruction (DoDI) 3020.45.
- (7) Support to DoD contingency communications in accordance with Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction 3410.03.



# IMPLEMENTING DIRECTIVE CONT'D



# USAF MARS OPERATORS ARE MULTIDISCIPLINED

PROVIDING HIGH FREQUENCY (HF) COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT TO THE DoD AND CIVIL AUTHORITIES



# CAPABILITIES

- Information collection and dissemination on State, County and local government levels via RACES, ARES and Amateur Radio Operators.
- Information collection and dissemination on Federal, critical infrastructure and other entities via DHS SHARES.
- HF Phone Patch network that can be utilized by all HF equipped aircraft, vessels, vehicles, and other elements.

# CAPABILITIES

## CONT'D

### TRANSPORT MEDIA:

- HF (HIGH FREQUENCY)

### MODE CAPABILITIES:

- M110A (SECURE DATA)
- SSB (VOICE)
- OTHER APPROVED MODES



# RESOURCES



- Global force of +/- 750 USAF MARS stations.
- Diverse backgrounds and skill sets.
- Ability to operate interactively with civilian and government operations based on mission requirements.
- Hundreds of geographically dispersed operating positions.



# RESOURCES

## CONT'D



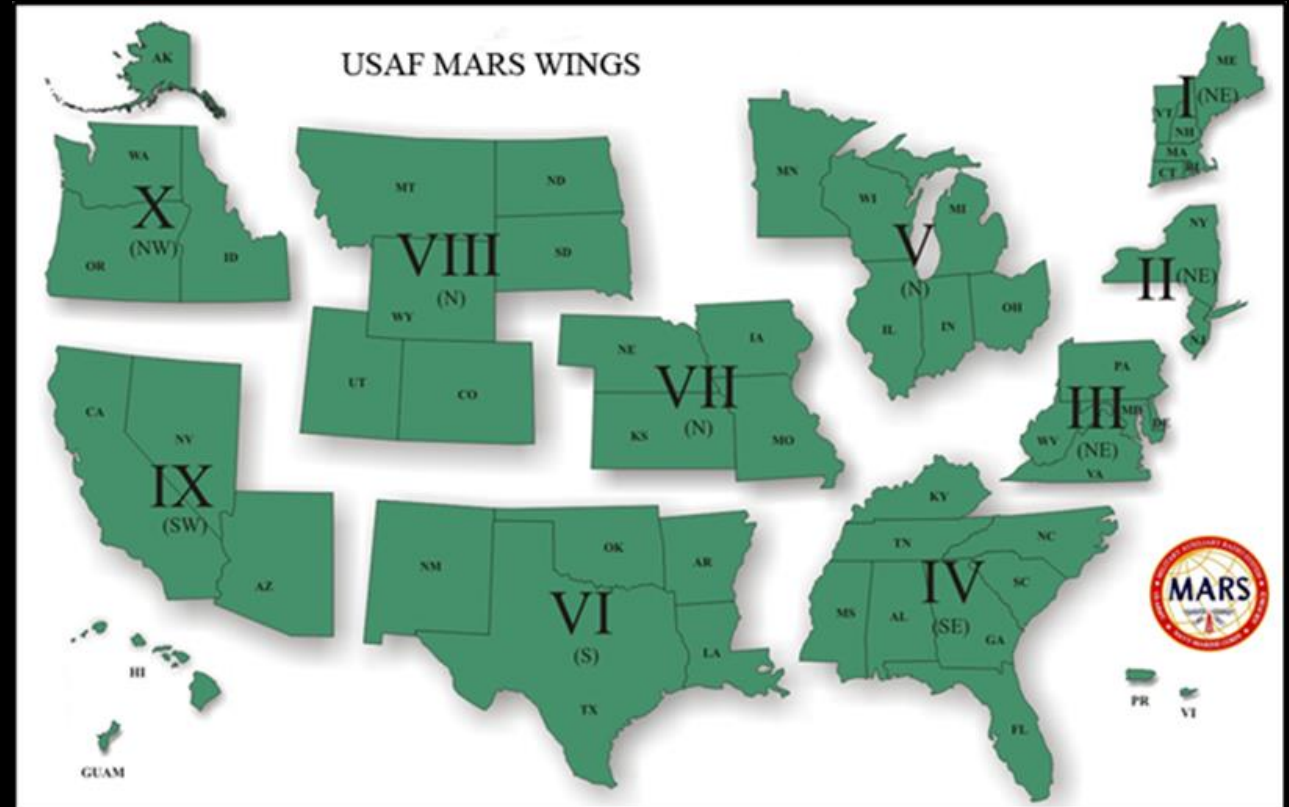
- Communications Wings
- TRANSGLOBAL COMM GROUP
- MARSRADIO
- MSN (Military Support Network)
- Scott Air Force Base - HQ
- MARS Pentagon Station
- Travis Air Force Base, CA – USAF MARS Base Support Team (BST)
- Hancock Field Air National Guard, NY – USAF MARS Base Support Team (BST)
- Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard, NY – USAF MARS Base Support Team (BST)
- Schriever Space Force Base – USAF MARS Base Support Team (BST)

# RESOURCES CONT'D

## WINGS

USAF MARS has ten (10) Communications Wings similar to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regions.

Operations run 365 days a year with each Wing standing up two (2) nets per day with digital and voice capabilities.



# RESOURCES CONT'D

# WINGS





# RESOURCES CONT'D

# MARSRADIO



Provides HF radio-telephone service to aircraft from all branches of the Military and the Department of Homeland Security.

The net is authorized 24/7/365 and staffed by specially trained joint service MARS personnel.

MARSRADIO averages 200 patches a month with more than 60 percent involving official business in support of operational activities.

FOR INFORMATION:

[www.marsradioglobal.us](http://www.marsradioglobal.us)



# RESOURCES CONT'D

## MSN

Provides training, mission and emergency communications support for the Department of Defense (DoD). The net is authorized 24/7/365 and staffed by specially trained joint service MARS personnel.

Operations include but are not limited to on-the-air training support, exercise assistance, emergency communications support, radio checks, message delivery, contingency radio communications and "Reach Back" communications support.

Units from all branches of the Military and the DoD are encouraged to participate in nets. MSN (Military Support Network) is available to assist with specific HF communications needs.





## RESOURCES CONT'D

# PENTAGON

The Pentagon MARS station operates under multiple call signs including: AGA3DC (Air Force), AAN3PNT (Army), WAR (Department of Defense), and K4AF (Amateur Radio Service).

The station supports multiple mission functions including but not limited to communications exercises with DoD airborne assets, message handling and delivery to the National Military Command Center.

FOR INFORMATION:

<http://www.k4af.org>



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# RESOURCES CONT'D

## TRANSGLOBAL COMM GROUP

### 21ST TRANSGLOBAL Communications Squadron

- Dedicated to providing a global voice message network. Any element may utilize the network to send and receive messages.

### 22ND TRANSGLOBAL Communications Squadron

- Dedicated to providing a global digital message network utilizing machines that are available 24/7 at geographically dispersed operating positions and do not require operator intervention. Any capable element may utilize the network to send and receive digital messages.

# RESOURCES CONT'D

## BASE SUPPORT TEAMS (BSTs)



Schriever  
Space Force Base, CO



Hancock Field  
Air National Guard, NY



Travis  
Air Force Base, CA



Francis S. Gabreski  
Air National Guard, NY





MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
BE A PART OF USAF MARS





# ACTIVITIES AND TRAINING

## Activities:

- Wing Communications Nets (daily)
- Wing Administrative Nets (weekly)
- USAF MARS Exercises (quarterly)
- Joint Service MARS Exercises (quarterly)
- TRANSGLOBAL COMM GROUP (daily)
- MARS RADIO (authorized 24/7/365)
- MSN (authorized 24/7/365)



# ACTIVITIES AND TRAINING CONT'D

## Onboarding / Initial Training:

- Interviews
- Station Verification
- Application Processing
- Online Cyber and PII Training
- Six Month Training Timeframe
- Self Study and Guided Training
- Open Reference Written Exam
- Competency Demonstration





# FOR INFORMATION OR TO JOIN:

Call: +1 (888) 778-6277

Email: [hqccc.afmars@us.af.mil](mailto:hqccc.afmars@us.af.mil)

<https://community.apan.org/wg/afmars>



# BASIC QUALIFICATIONS

- US Citizen or lawful alien?
- Are you 18 years of age or older?
- Dedicate 48+ hours per year of on-air time?
- Digital capable such as FLDIGI and WINLINK?
- Do you have a Windows 10 or better computer?
- Dedicate time to complete training in 6 months?
- Operating position has internet service for training?
- Are you willing to complete the application process?
- Do you have a valid FCC Amateur Radio Service license?
- Station capable of providing a minimum output of 100W?
- Station can operate outside of amateur bands bet. 2-30 MHZ?

