

Mission and Services

Air Force MARS provides high frequency radio communications support to DoD using Federal Communications Commission (FCC) licensed, volunteer Radio Operators.

High Frequency (HF) radio is used as an infrastructure independent means of communications which makes MARS a perfect fit for Amateur Radio Operators looking to take their hobby to the next level!

Air Force MARS provides HF radio communications support to civil authorities as directed by, or coordinated with, the United States Northern Command and United States Indo-Pacific Command.

In support of civil authorities, participation in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Shared Resources (SHARES) HF Radio Program provides interoperability among Federal, State, and private sector entities.

Other services include but are not limited to:

- Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.
- Phone patch services for air, ground and sea forces.
- Primary DoD interface with Amateur Radio Operators.
- Support to DoD mission critical infrastructure.
- Support to DoD Contingency Communications.



Contact Info:

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Visit on the web:

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



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U. S. Air Force MARS
Military Auxiliary Radio System

An Auxiliary Unit of
Air Combat Command
Cyberspace Capabilities Center



Qualifications

Minimum requirements to apply (yes to all):

- 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 100 W or greater?
- Station can operate outside of amateur bands bet. 2-30 MHZ?



Onboarding / Initial Training:

Prospective members will be evaluated by Air Force MARS Headquarters (HQ) through a formal vetting and training process.

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

Personalized training is administered by the Wing Training Officer and covers everything required to be an effective communicator in Air Force MARS with the right motivation and determination.

Service in Air Force MARS is both challenging and an honor. Participation in weekly nets is expected where members will act as Net Control Stations, Alternate Net Control Stations, complete Requests for Information (RI's), consolidate RI's and other duties. Once initial onboarding and training has been completed, members can generally fulfill duties with one to two hours each week on average.

Primary Assignment

Air Force MARS is a remote force of radio operators that utilize their own stations in support of the DoD MARS mission. Duties are performed without the need to travel to a military base for operating or training. Service is voluntary without compensation and individuals may resign at any time.

Organization consists of Wings, Special Operations Groups and Base Support Teams. Within the 10 Wings there are 50+ Groups. Trainees start their journey with a primary assignment to a Group under their Wing based on location.

Wings

- 1st Wing: CT-MA-ME-NH-RI-VT
- 2nd Wing: NJ-NY
- 3rd Wing: DE-MD-PA-VA-WV & District of Columbia
- 4th Wing: AL-FL-GA-KY-MS-NC-SC-TN & Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands
- 5th Wing: IL-IN-MI-MN-OH-WI
- 6th Wing: AR-LA-NM-OK-TX
- 7th Wing: IA-KS-MO-NE
- 8th Wing: CO-MT-ND-SD-WY-UT
- 9th Wing: AZ-CA-NV-HI & Guam, Pacific Islands
- 10th Wing: AK-ID-OR-WA

**To fly, fight, and win -
airpower anytime, anywhere.**