

USAF MARS

Our mission. Our challenge.

In addition to providing high frequency (HF) radio contingency communications support to the Department of Defense, MARS operators support other elements of the U.S. government. For example, we actively participate in the National Communications System Shared Resources (SHARES) HF Radio Program, which promotes interoperability among more than 100 federal, state and private sector entities in support of national security & emergency preparedness. U.S. Air Force MARS members are experienced radio operators who communicate on military frequencies using both voice and digital modes. We voluntarily devote our time and resources to ensure that the Defense Department has reliable contingency communications capability if needed, regardless of circumstance. AFMARS operators also provide support to individual military installations as well as the National Command Authority.

AFMARS primary operational requirement is to establish AFMARS communication nets, configured to support a broad spectrum of potential applications over a wide range of territorial and organizational entities. Wing HF Nets, the Military Support Net, TRANSGLOBAL HF nets are the backbone of the AFMARS HF communication network.

Our work is challenging and highly rewarding, every day.

USAF MARS is an Auxiliary Unit of
Hq Air Combat Command
Cyberspace Capabilities Center

AFMARS is organized, mirroring USAF organizations, as 10 Wings. Within the collective Wings are 50+ Groups, each composed of a state, territory or territorial island group.

1st AFMARS Communications Wing
CT - MA - ME - NH - RI - VT

2nd AFMARS Communications Wing
NJ - NY

3rd AFMARS Communications Wing
DE, MD & DC - PA - VA - WV

4th AFMARS Communications Wing
AL - FL - GA - KY - MS - NC - SC - TN - PR & VI

5th AFMARS Communications Wing
IL - IN - MI - MN - OH - WI

6th AFMARS Communications Wing
AR - LA - NM - OK - TX

7th AFMARS Communications Wing
IA - KS - MO - NE

8th AFMARS Communications Wing
CO - MT - ND - SD - WY - UT

9th AFMARS Communications Wing
AZ - CA - NV - HI - Guam & Pacific Islands

10th AFMARS Communications Wing
AK - ID - OR - WA

Email to join@afmars-mil.us
All queries answered same day

Call 888-778-6277
Recordings about AFMARS
and membership application

AFMARS Form 100-1 Effective March 2023
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AIR FORCE MARS

Your
United
States
Air Force
Military
Auxiliary
Radio
System

Providing Contingency Radio Communications as
directed by the United States Department of Defense



USAF AIR COMBAT COMMAND

QUALIFY AND APPLY

You: Are a US Citizen or Resident Alien, 18 years or older, holding a current FCC Amateur Radio License.

Your radio station: Has an HF radio and antenna covering 1.8-30 Mhz USB, minimum 100 Watts PEP RF output which can be made to operate outside Amateur Radio bands, and is capable of operating voice and digital modes on upper sideband as specified by HQ AFMARS. AFMARS-issued software requires a Windows 10 computer and a digital-capable radio or add-on digital converter.

Apply: Individual Volunteer Members are FCC-licensed amateur radio operators who are approved for MARS membership by HQ, AFMARS through a formal vetting and training process which starts with your completed application and a copy of your FCC license emailed to our AFMARS Recruiting team.

To request your application, email us at join@afmars-mil.us or call 888-778-6277 for information

PRIMARY ASSIGNMENT

Your primary assignment can be one of Group, Wing or National AFMARS HF daily nets. After becoming fully qualified, some members may be assigned to the 11th AFMARS MARS RADIO Squadron, the 12th AFMARS Military Support Network Squadron, one of the TransGlobal networks or a Base Support Team as their primary assignment. You will operate a minimum of 12 hours per calendar quarter in your primary assignment and participate in at least one COMEX joint Army-Air Force MARS exercise each year.

YOUR TRAINING

You will receive personalized training, to be administered by your Wing Training Officer, during which you will learn:

- AFMARS network operations and message composition & handling
- Digital protocols
- Net Control Operations
- Communication Security and Protection of Personal Information
- Data encryption/decryption, and
- Take an open-book final test
- You must complete all training tasks within 6 months of the date of your membership approval

AFMARS IS DIGITAL

The current Air Force approved data mode is: M110A.

Air Force MARS message traffic travels via : HF Radio USB and ALE HF Radio

WE ARE PREPARED

Our service to Air Force MARS is challenging. We are motivated to participate each week by checking into nets, creating & sending practice or exercise message traffic while maintaining our required training and operational proficiency. This is the service we provide to DoD. We recruit, train and organize to meet the challenge every day. It takes about one to two hours each week, on average, to maintain our membership commitment. We look forward to signing on to our daily wing nets, which convene morning and evening, every day. We receive and originate message traffic and sometimes relay messages when propagation limitations require it. All transmissions are encrypted to assure data security. That routine practice makes operating during a formal exercise or a real incident responsive, precise, and efficient. We train each and every day so that when it counts, AFMARS can assure accurate & timely communications in any contingency or crisis.



SERIOUS RADIO FOR SERIOUS HAMS

WE ARE MASTERS OF THE HF DOMAIN