

## WHAT TRAINING WILL I EXPERIENCE?

Upon approval of your application, the respective State Director will approve you as a temporary member and assign you a 7-character NMC MARS callsign followed by a T such as NNN0KULT that will designate you as a Tango or new member that is in the entry training period. Upon successful completion of the initial training in on the air and academic subjects, (which normally takes about 90 days) the T will be drop and you will have achieved full membership status.

## IS THERE MORE TRAINING AVAILABLE?

**YES!** There are training nets covering a multitude of subjects that all members are encouraged to participate in.

Additionally, the Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center (NAVEDTRA) have made available selected non-resident (correspondence) courses in many communications-electronics subjects. These courses are free to MARS members after completion of six months of regular membership.

## WHAT IS THE 'REGULAR' PARTICIPATION?

MARS member stations meet periodically in scheduled networks on military frequencies outside of the Amateur Radio bands. There are various types of networks and each accomplishes a specific goal. For example, administrative networks take care of the day-to-day management of the program; traffic networks exist solely to pass third party and other traffic; and emergency networks which provide communication needs during periods of emergency.

There are also technical and training nets. MARS nets operate in different modes. Although high frequency (HF) single sideband (SSB) voice is predominant, there are digital (MARS Winlink, RTTY, AMTOR, PACTOR, MT63, etc.), VHF, PACKET and even slow scan TV nets.

## WHAT KIND OF RECOGNITION IS THERE?

The Navy-Marine Corps MARS program is voluntary. Except for Chief NMC MARS, all positions are non-paid volunteers. As such the personal satisfaction by belonging and participating in a valuable service as a communications reserve ready to respond to support Navy commitments and emergencies as the result of disaster should be reward enough.

The program does however offer recognition in terms of a Navy MARS Operator Rating that ranges from NMO3 to NMO Master Chief. There are operating time, demonstrated capabilities, State and Region position terms, and academic requirements to earn these prestigious titles.

## HOW TO JOIN

To join the local Navy-Marine Corps MARS program, send a request for application forms to the appropriate NMC State MARS Director as listed below. Please provide your name, Amateur Radio callsign, address and phone number and a state official will contact you for further information and talk to you about the program.

Alaska: [NNN0GAB@navymars.org](mailto:NNN0GAB@navymars.org)

Idaho: [NNN0GAO@navymars.org](mailto:NNN0GAO@navymars.org)

Oregon: [NNN0GBP@navymars.org](mailto:NNN0GBP@navymars.org)

Washington: [NNN0GCC@navymars.org](mailto:NNN0GCC@navymars.org)

If you are interest in joining us and do not live in Region 10, let us know at one of the above email addresses and we will ensure your request is forwarded for action.

- or just visit the NMC MARS national website at <http://www.navymars.org/national/join.html>

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST!**



# Military Auxiliary Radio System

## Navy-Marine Corps MARS Program

### Region 10

- Alaska
- Idaho
- Oregon
- Washington

## WHAT IS MARS?

The **Military Auxiliary Radio System** is a Department of Defense sponsored program, established as separately managed and operated programs by the Army, Navy-Marine Corps and Air Force.

The program consists of licensed Amateur Radio operators who are interested in military communications. They contribute to the MARS mission providing auxiliary or emergency communications on a local, national and international basis as an adjunct to normal communications.

## MARS HISTORY

In November 1925, the Army Amateur Radio System (AARS) was formed by a few dedicated pioneers in the United States Army Signal Corps. This organization continued until the start of World War II when operations were suspended. The Army Amateur Radio System was authorized to resume operation in 1946 and functioned as such until 1948 when the Army and Air Force established the Military Amateur Radio System, later renamed the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS). In 1963, the Navy-Marine Corps (NMC) MARS program was launched making MARS a joint service program. In 2009 it was renamed again to the Military Auxiliary Radio System.

## MARS MISSION

The mission of MARS is to provide Department of the Navy and Department of Defense sponsored emergency communications on a local, national, and international basis as an adjunct to normal naval communications.

## MARS FUNCTIONS

The seven functions of NMC MARS are to:

(1) Foster interest and furnish a means of training members in naval communications procedures.

(2) Provide auxiliary communications to military, federal or civil disaster officials during periods of emergency.

(3) Assist in effecting normal naval communications under emergency conditions.

(4) Handle morale and quasi-official record and voice communications traffic for armed forces (active duty, retired and reserve), authorized U.S. Government civilian personnel stationed throughout the world.

(5) Provide a resource of trained radio communications personnel in support of FEMA or Department of Homeland Security missions when needed.

(6) Conduct, in conjunction with the MARS Programs of the Departments of the Army and Air Force, an appropriate Amateur Radio program as a part of the annual celebration of Armed Forces Day.

(7) Initiate efforts to improve high frequency (HF) and very high frequency (VHF) radio, computer systems, operating techniques and state-of-the-art technology through experimentation and testing.

## ELIGIBILITY TO JOIN MARS

The applicant must:

- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Be a United States citizen or resident alien.
- Possess a valid Amateur Radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission or other competent U.S. authority.
- Possess a station capable of operation on MARS HF frequencies (2.0 to 30.0 MHz). *(Note: many, but not all, of the frequencies used are near but not on the standard Amateur Radio bands. If you aren't sure if your radio is capable or can be modified to operate on the appropriate MARS frequencies for our Region, include that in your application.)*

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Join a group of dedicated fellow Amateur Radio operators participating in meaningful public service and become part of the professional military communications family.
- Add to the enjoyment of your Amateur Radio hobby through the expanded horizons of MARS.
- Become part of the NMC MARS worldwide communications systems. There are MARS stations in Japan, Korea, the Trust Territories, Hawaii, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Alaska, Germany and the continental United States.
- Increase your communications skills and capabilities.
- Gain satisfaction from being associated with a military mission and contribution to the welfare and preparedness of the nation.
- Participate in regulated, disciplined radio nets with structured lines of organization and very specific operating rules.
- Participate in the NMC MARS Excess/Surplus Equipment Program after 6 months active membership. Issue of equipment is based on availability of equipment, and possible assigned mission of individual activity. Granting of MARS membership to an individual or activity does not in itself convey an automatic right or entitlement of the recipient to receive or demand MARS property.

## PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

NMC MARS Members must agree to operate in accordance with rules and regulations governing MARS as follows:

- A minimum of 18 hours participation per calendar quarter with 12 of the 18 hours being on state or region HF networks.
- Operate on specially assigned military radio frequencies in voice, and digital modes of communication.