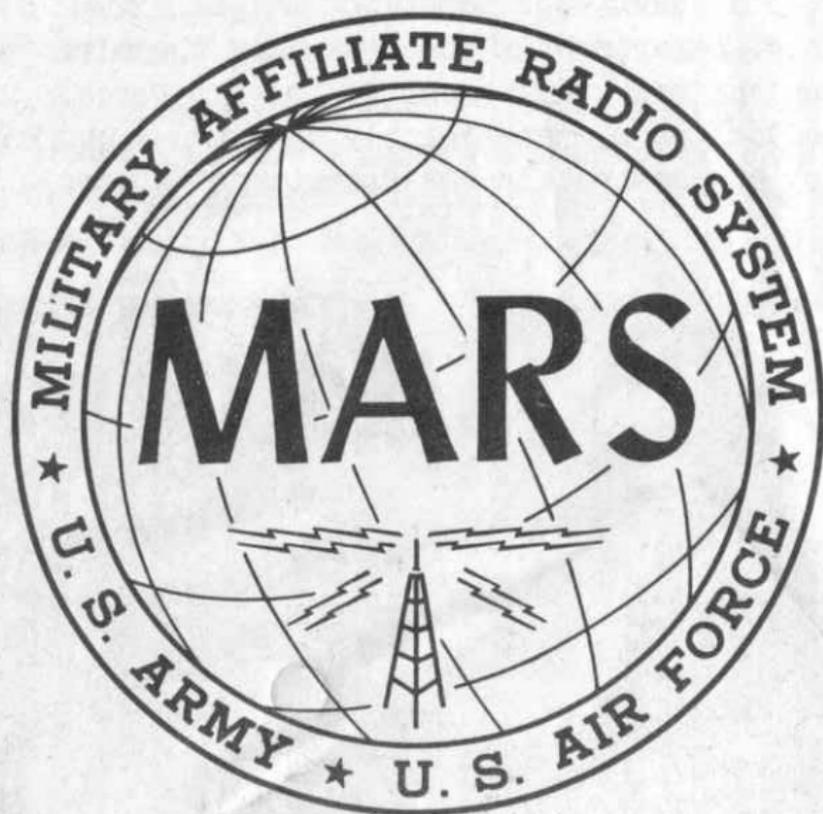


*MARS*



MILITARY AFFILIATE  
RADIO SYSTEM

# WHAT MARS IS

The Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) is an organization of and for United States amateur radio operators who are interested in military radio communication.

The MARS program is a joint Army and Air Force operation under jurisdiction of the Chief Signal Officer, Department of the Army, and the Director of Communications, Department of the Air Force. These jurisdictions operate jointly for determination of policy but separately for operational control.



# FACTS ABOUT MARS

America is a land of hobbies. And none is more fascinating or performs a more valuable service than the hobby of amateur radio.

The Amateur:

- is a trained communicator and has a federal license to prove it.
- is an experimenter. From his initiative and resourcefulness come the means of putting more and more stations in the limited spectrum space allocated for amateur radio operation by international agreements.
- is important in military preparedness. During World War II thousands of skilled amateurs contributed their knowledge to the development, production and operation of radio and electronic devices as part of the national war effort.
- furnishes vital assistance in disaster relief. Amateurs have participated in every major disaster in the United States in recent years. Keeping portable and mobile transmitting and receiving equipment, including emergency power generating equipment, ready to roll at a moment's notice, is part of the amateur's job.

The Military Affiliate Radio System was created within the Department of Defense to coordinate the efforts of this vital segment of the U. S. population. The system is purely voluntary. Only those amateurs who are interested in military radio communication are invited into the program. The system is headed by two chiefs - - - one for the Army and one for the Air Force. Army MARS follows channels of command prescribed for the Signal Corps.

MARS Training is based upon the three essential elements of military radio: SPEED OF SERVICE; RELIABILITY OF SERVICE; ACCURACY.

Week after week throughout the year, MARS members use their privately owned and licensed equipment - operating usually from their own homes - for on-the-air training and instruction. They receive no pay for MARS drills, but volunteer their time and equipment from patriotic motives and an honest zeal to render public service.

The Army offers guidance in shaping this reservoir of skilled manpower toward the end goal of preparedness. Should disaster strike, either through an act of nature, sabotage, or overt aggression from a foreign power, our military planners can have - thru MARS - access to operators, advisors, inspectors and instructors necessary to build, maintain and operate an expanded communication system.

