



Department of Defense
DIRECTIVE

ASD(C3I) (2)
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January 17, 1986
NUMBER 4650.2



ASD(C3I)

SUBJECT: Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS)

- References:
- (a) DoD Directive 4650.2, subject as above, November 24, 1972 (hereby canceled)
 - (b) Title 8, United States Code (U.S.C.), Chapter 12
 - (c) DoD 4160.21-M, "Defense Utilization and Disposal Manual," September 1982, authorized by DoD Directive 4160.21, December 5, 1980
 - (d) DoD Directive 5410.18, "Community Relations," July 3, 1974

A. REISSUANCE AND PURPOSE

This Directive reissues reference (a) to update policies, outline responsibilities and formalize the composition, mission, functions, organization and support of both the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) and Civil Amateur Radio activities within the Department of Defense.

B. APPLICABILITY

This Directive applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Military Departments, the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (OJCS), the Unified and Specified Commands, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense (IG, DoD), and the Defense Agencies (hereafter referred to collectively as "DoD Components"). The term "Military Services," as used herein, refers to the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps.

C. COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

1. MARS shall be composed of assigned and volunteer personnel as follows:

- a. Military Stations. A station under the auspices of a military command/activity, either within the Continental United States (CONUS) or overseas, operated and maintained by military and/or civilian personnel.
- b. Club Stations. Established, operated, and maintained by volunteers under the auspices of a properly constituted military and/or civilian amateur radio club. The MARS call sign for the station will be issued as an additional license to the club member serving as the club station trustee.
- c. Individual Stations. Operated and maintained by military and civilian volunteers who possess a radio station capable of operating on MARS high frequencies (HF).

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2. All applicants for individual MARS membership or MARS operating privileges at military or club stations must be at least 14 years old, citizens of the United States, or have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence under 8 U.S.C., Chapter 12 (reference (b)), and must possess a valid amateur radio operators license issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) with technician class privileges or higher. At the discretion of the individual Military Departments, volunteers holding a novice class license may be permitted to join MARS on a probationary basis for a period not to exceed 18 months. If the individual fails to upgrade operator privileges within the designated time, the membership will be terminated.

3. Unless a person is excused by the proper authority, the minimum participation requirements to retain membership in a service MARS program shall include at least, per calendar quarters, 6 hours of on-the-air operating time, and 2 hours of participating in other MARS-related activities.

4. Military Affiliate Radio Stations, whether military, club, or individual stations, may be a member of only one MARS service. Military commands/activities shall affiliate with their sponsoring service MARS, unless operating in areas where there is only one MARS service authorized.

D. POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Department of Defense to:

1. Support and encourage MARS and amateur radio activities and avoid, within the limitations imposed by military exigencies, any action that would tend to jeopardize the independent prerogatives of the individual amateur radio operator.

2. Encourage and cooperate in developing amateur and private communications activities to enhance their military and civil value.

3. Recognize the technical and operating proficiencies of the individual who has a valid amateur radio license issued by the FCC or other competent U.S. authority.

4. Maintain liaison with the FCC, major U.S. amateur radio organizations, and other volunteer emergency radio services.

E. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence) (ASD(C I)) shall provide overall policy guidance and advice to the Military Services in matters relating to the administration and operations of their MARS programs, and shall be responsible for emergency communications initiatives with appropriate Federal agencies and the civil volunteer communications community.

2. The Secretaries of the Military Departments are responsible for the proper management, administration, and operation of their MARS programs, including acquisition, storage, distribution, and accounting for equipment.

3. The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Logistics) (ASD(A&L)) shall provide overall policy guidance and advice on matters relating to the management and standardization of the MARS supply and equipment program as prescribed in DoD 4160.21-M (reference (c)).

F. PROCEDURES

1. There shall be an organized MARS entity within each of the Military Departments. (The Marine Corps entity shall function under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Navy.)

a. Each Military Department entity shall function under the direction of a "Chief, MARS," who will be appointed by the sponsoring Military Department. The "Chief, MARS," for each Military Department shall coordinate the activities of his or her organization so as to avoid duplication between departmental MARS entities.

b. The Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Defense Agencies, and appropriate Executive Agencies of the Federal Government may affiliate in a program of a Military Department.

G. MISSIONS AND FUNCTIONS

1. The mission of MARS is to provide DoD-sponsored emergency communications on a local, national, or international basis as an adjunct to normal communications.

2. The Chief, MARS, shall:

a. Provide auxiliary communications for military, civil, and/or disaster officials during periods of emergency.

b. Assist in effecting normal communications under emergency conditions.

c. Handle morale and quasi-official record and voice communications traffic for the Armed Forces and authorized U.S. Government civilian personnel stationed throughout the world.

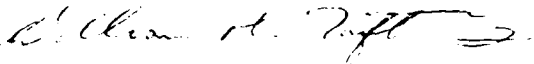
d. Establish programs to create civilian interest, recruit qualified volunteers, and furnish appropriate training in military communications equipment, techniques, and procedures.

e. Initiate efforts to attain improvement in high frequency (HF) radio operating techniques and state-of-the-art technology through experimentation and testing.

f. Conduct an appropriate amateur radio program as a part of the annual celebration of Armed Forces Day in accordance with DoD Directive 5410.18 (reference (d)).

H. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION

This Directive is effective immediately. DoD Components shall review their existing Directives, Instructions, and Regulations for conformity; make necessary changes to them; and forward two copies of each document to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence (ASD(C³I))) within 90 days.



William H. Taft, IV
Deputy Secretary of Defense

ASD (C3I)
647-7626

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ATTACHMENTS
None

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RECIPIENTS

The following pen changes to DoD Directive 4650.2, "Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS)," January 17, 1986, are authorized:

PEN CHANGES

1. Page 2, subsection C.2., line 2. After the word "military," delete "or" and add "and civilian."
2. Page 3, paragraph G.2.f., line 2. Change "accordance" to "accordance."

EFFECTIVE DATE

The above changes are effective immediately.

James L. Elmer
JAMES L. ELMER, Director
Correspondence and Directives

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