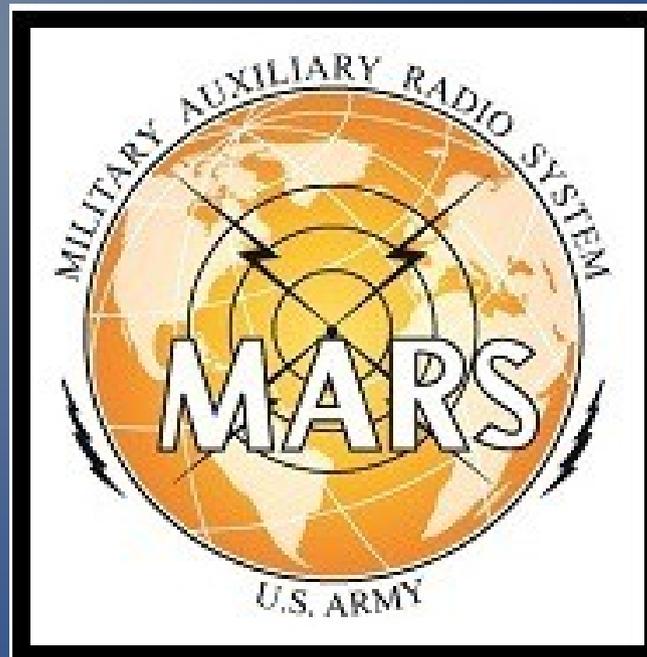


# Region 9 Army MARS Training Topics



# FUNDAMENTALS OF MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS AND CIRCUIT DISCIPLINE

**LESSON INTENT** - The intent of this lesson is to begin a discussion of the importance of radio circuit discipline.

**REFERENCES** – ACP -125(G) CH 4

## Introduction.

- The ability to maintain efficient communications under all conditions depends on an adherence to standardized operating procedures.

- It is only through a working knowledge of these procedures, followed by constant training and the application of the principles involved, that proficiency can be obtained.

- MARS procedures are derived from the military Allied Communications Publications (ACP) and Army communications procedures for standardization of operation. A good example of the importance of standardized procedures is described in a February 1999 QST article that outlined the story of amateur radio response to the Flight 111 airliner crash. The author's observation was that their efforts were greatly enhanced by virtue of their disaster-training program, which included net communications procedures based on the ACP.

- Our reference materials are sufficiently comprehensive to govern MARS operations during day-to-day and/or emergency conditions.

- Reliability, Security, and Speed are the three fundamentals of military communications.

- The relationship between reliability and speed is by nature elastic and must be balanced according to specific existing conditions.
- Even with these standardized procedures a degree of flexibility is provided to meet extraordinary situations.
- Instances may arise in which a specific operating situation is not completely covered by these instructions.
- Under these circumstances, common sense and the MARS operator's initiative and common sense must prevail.

## Circuit Discipline

- Adherence to prescribed procedures is mandatory for all members.
- All transmissions will be concise without sacrificing clarity.

## Forbidden practices:

- violation of radio silence
- transmitting in a directed net without permission
- exceeding the specific power ratings placed on individual MARS frequencies
- use of other than authorized prosigns, prowords, or operating signals
  - use of profane, indecent, or obscene language
- activation of a MARS station in an area of military operations without the military commander's authorization
- transmission of third-party traffic from an area of military operations without the appropriate military or host nation approval

## Practices to avoid:

- use of excessive transmitting power when low power will suffice
- excessive time consumed in on-the-air tuning, changing frequency, or adjusting equipment.
- transmitting at speeds beyond the capability of the operator receiving traffic
- testing or tuning on the air on other than assigned frequencies and nets

## Sample questions for discussion:

- Is there room for flexibility in how we conduct operations?
- What if you encounter something not covered by your documentation or experience?
  - When in doubt go back to the Army MARS mission statement for intent
  - Accomplish the mission!!!
- Ask for real live examples of forbidden practices...
- Ask for real live examples of practices to avoid...