



The Feedline

MARS Gets New Name as it Fine Tunes Mission

From ARRLWeb

On Wednesday, December 23, the Department of Defense (DoD) issued an *Instruction* concerning MARS, effective immediately. This *Instruction* gives the three MARS services — Army, Air Force and Navy/Marine Corps — a new focus on homeland security and a new name: Military *Auxiliary* Radio System. The *Instruction* is the [first major revision to MARS since January 26, 1988](#) — as such, the first revision since the 9/11 attacks and Hurricane Katrina, two major events that changed the way Amateur Radio dealt with emergency communications.

The DoD defines a “military auxiliary” as “an organized body of volunteers prepared to supplement the uniformed services or any designated civilian authorities by provision of specialized autonomous services when called upon or when situations warrant,” and gives the Civil Air Patrol and Coast Guard Auxiliary as examples of auxiliaries.

In the past, MARS had focused primarily on emergency communications and health and welfare support. The DoD’s *Instruction* now directs the three MARS services to provide “contingency radio communications” to support US gov-

ernment operations, DoD components and “civil authorities at all levels,” providing for national security and emergency preparedness events. MARS units will still continue to provide health and welfare communications support “to military members, civilian employees and contractors of DoD Components, and civil agency employees and contractors, when in remote or isolated areas, in contingencies or whenever appropriate.” MARS must also be capable of operation in “radio only” modes — without landlines or the Internet — and sustainable on emergency power (when public utility power has failed); some MARS stations must be transportable for timely deployment.

The *Instruction*, however, does not mention which of the three MARS services will take the lead when responding to events. According to sources, this has been seen as a critical issue in conforming to the National Incident Management System (NIMS) that calls for “unity of command.” As now constituted, the three separate MARS services are supposed do “interoperate,” but command-wise, each operates independently. Some MARS members had urged clarification on this issue to avoid confusion during an emergency, sources said. **Continued on page 3**

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Upcoming Programs

Dr. Alan Cohen, KA9GRY, will present a program on **bio-terrorism and Amateur Radio** at the **January 11** meeting of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club.

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Repeaters (K4CO): 147.255+ and 444.350+ Edgewood (PL 123.0), 147.375+ Walton, 146.895+ Highland Heights. The 147.255 repeater is a linked Echolink node, accessible via N4IJS-R.

NKARC Net: Tuesdays, 8:30 PM on the 147.255 repeater

VE Testing: Testing sessions are held by appointment only on the 2nd Monday of each month, prior to the NKARC membership meeting. Testing begins at 6:00 pm. To make an appointment, contact Lyle Hamilton at ab8sh@arrl.net or tel. 513-315-4032

NKARC Web Site: <http://www.k4co.org>

NKARC Membership Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Hilltop Church of Christ, 5300 Taylor Mill Rd (Ky. 16), Taylor Mill, KY. Visitors are always welcome!

The Feedline is published monthly by and for the members of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club. It is distributed via direct email to current NKARC members. **If you are a member but are not receiving your copy, please notify the Feedline editor.** Permission is hereby granted to any non-profit amateur radio group to quote or reprint from this publication provided appropriate source credit is given. Submissions for the February

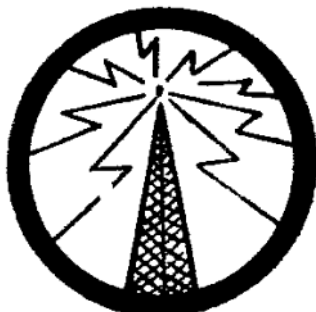
Feedline must be received no later than January 30. Submissions, address or call changes and circulation problems may be sent to the Feedline editor:

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Top of the Tower

Hello to All

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We're beginning a new year, a new decade actually. Historically the New Year is a time to reflect on the past, and plan for the future. As a club we should do the same. We had a good 2009; we celebrated our 50th anniversary as a club. I'm hoping we have a great 2010!



as well as fundraising ideas. It's important that we strengthen our funds for the upcoming year. We want to go on strong for another 50 years.

My thanks to all the members for what you do to keep us going. A special thanks for the donations of the gift cards for our award ceremony. That was truly above and beyond the call and I want you to know how very much you are appreciated.

We should all be thinking of ways to boost the club's membership. Any ideas will be welcomed,

73,
Dann Fox

"MARS", cont'd from Cover

The Secretaries of the Army, Air Force and Navy are to encourage participation in MARS, the *Instruction* states, saying this may be accomplished "by establishing and funding an active MARS program within each Military Department, which shall then assign a MARS-licensed staff representative to manage operations, readiness, planning, procedural and technical development, documentation, standards, training, equipment, program and membership administration, and other matters necessary for mission accomplishment."

The Secretaries are also tasked with bringing new personnel into their MARS services. The *Instruction* calls on them to establish programs "to promote civilian interest, recruit qualified volunteers, sponsor them for basic background checks and furnish them suitable training in contingency support communications."

The *Instruction* also dictates that MARS leaders will now report to three DoD officials; before this revision, they only reported to one person. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland

Continued on Page 6

December NKARC Net Report

DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME (MINS)	TRAFFIC
12/1/09	KB4VKS (Mike)	9	24	0
12/8/09	AJ4DK (Don)	12	36	0
12/15/09	N4IJS (Robert)	9	20	0
12/22/09	KG4SBG (Dennis)	9	22	0
12/29/09	N4IJS (Robert)	11	21	0
TOTALS:		50	123	0

NKARC/KD7ARET Christmas Dinner



Mark's Mutterings

Leaving my Comfort Zone

I confess it: I'm an HF bigot. My particular prejudice is that if you can't bend the signal over the horizon, it's just not worth getting excited about!

Until now, I have also confined my operating to the two traditional HF modes, CW and SSB. I once went as far as hooking up my rig to a PC and monitoring a few PSK31 QSOs, but that's as far as I went.

A year and a half ago, I acquired my Elecraft K3 transceiver. One of its selling points is that it provide full isolation on the audio line in/out jacks. This means that no additional interface is required between the rig and the PC when operating digital modes.

During the recent Christmas holi-

days, I found myself with plenty of time on my hands and decided to take the full PSK31 plunge. I downloaded [WinWarbler](#), part of the [DXLab](#) suite of applications. A pair of audio cables linked the K3 to my laptop, as well as an RS232 cable for rig control.

It was mid-afternoon, so I tuned the K3 to 14.070 on 20 meters, and set it to USB. I cranked open the audio bandwidth of the K3 to its maximum, so that I could hear most of the PSK signals between 14.070 and 14.074 MHz. This is the primary area of PSK31 activity on the 20m band. One of the features of WinWarbler is that it can decode up to 47 PSK transmissions *simultaneously!* It displays the details of these transmissions in a separate "Stations Heard" window. Within just a

couple of minutes, the window was filled with all of the transmissions that you see in the screenshot below. I was mesmerized by the scrolling of the text in the right-hand column. It's an eavesdropper's paradise!

It wasn't until the following day that I worked up the nerve to answer a CQ. I spent some of this time adjusting my audio output to ensure that I did not overdrive my transmitter. One of the great advantages of [PSK31](#) is that a typical transmission occupies less than 100 Hz of bandwidth, but this is only true if you do not overdrive your transmitter. An overdriven signal sticks out like a sore thumb on the waterfall display. I also set up several macros, so that (for example) I only had to click a button to respond to a

* call	frequency	qual	strength	age	#	with	data
E1XKAT	14071.653	60	45	000	01	CQ	DE VA3YB VA3YB pse K s
K7RFW	14072.530	79	50	000	02	CQ	r LoTW 20 M
AJ7AEY	14070.892	25	18	000	01	CQ	CQ CQ de rX G4DBX CQ CQ % LDBX p4DBat
W0JNI	14071.216	81	50	000	02	CQ	G de W0JNI W0JNI kiAti n aa
EA3HTN	14070.785	70	30	000	01	DG5PI	;Happy ew Year!! 2010 ood DX!!! WWW QRZ COM bye bye btu DG5PI DG5PI de EA3HAN EA3HAN sk ei'd
W1/EA7	14070.986	50	33	000	01	QRZ	Essel tion VT Essex Jction VT 10 miles East freq urlT Los a 34KL FN34KL Chittenden co
K0TAZ	14071.732	79	58	000	03	CQ	9 599 9 name is bob bob QTH is phillipsburg ks em 09ir
W1/E740F	14070.986	76	48	000	04	QRZ	Essel tion VT Essex Jction VT 10 miles East freq urlT Los a 34KL FN34KL Chittenden co
AE4DR	14071.984	83	48	000	13	N3XL	tead Florida USA County Miami Dade Miami Dade Locator EL95s1 EL95s1 BTU William N3XL de AE
NQ7I	14071.128	89	62	000	10	WT6X	two more short QSOs I would like to work you on PSK63 and PSK125 I need Tour state AZ on those mo
F5TII	14072.818	84	54	000	17	CQ	CQ CQ CQ de F5TII F5TII F5TII CQ CQ CQ de F5TII F5TII F5TII pse K;
KQ7W	14072.491	89	58	000	11	CQ	
NOVVH	14071.581	26	11	000	03	K5ZG	de NOVVH HUD I HA'cBN HAVING TROUBLE aeYSELF ON THIS END I HAVE ABT 50 PERCENT CPv HERE IN AZ
EA1VH	14071.653	59	49	000	03	CQ	DE VA3YB VA3YB pse K s
EA3HAN	14070.785	84	54	000	13	DG5PI	;Happy ew Year!! 2010 ood DX!!! WWW QRZ COM bye bye btu DG5PI DG5PI de EA3HAN EA3HAN sk ei'd
FSATI	14072.817	77	48	001	01	QRZ?	CQ CQ CQ de F5TII F5TII F5TII CQ CQ CQ de F5TII F5TII F5TII pse K;
SBR	14071.655	31	43	001	01	CQ	DE VA3YB VA3YB pse K s
EALAUD	14070.563	62	54	001	02	R4VLF	
F4EZD	14071.426	75	29	001	05	ON4FL	Please NO eQSL !! tMore infos at QRZ COM I hope to see you soon on my waterfall and now b
W0EAT	14072.669	83	55	001	03	QB4HZG	
W6GUVW	14071.128	81	53	002	02	CQ	two more short QSOs I would like to work you on PSK63 and PSK125 I need Tour state AZ on those mo
EA7HNQ	14072.230	73	49	003	03	CQ	CE t Cde QHNQ Es7HNQ CQ CQ hst eEA7HNQ eoA7HNQ eOSE K e
W10ER	14072.556	46	46	003	02	4XW	r LoTW 20 M
KU1H	14072.941	65	44	003	03	N9AAA	QSL inforp
KF6VAN	14071.011	79	47	004	02	W00AJG	East freq urlT Los a 34KL FN34KL Chittenden co
W6VZV	14071.885	91	66	004	02	W00AJG	and th o I have to do some work Very ni hooking up with you and hope the traveling doesn't get
EA7CQ	14072.006	91	64	005	04	EA7HZZ	tead Florida USA County Miami Dade Miami Dade Locator EL95s1 EL95s1 BTU William N3XL de AE
KC6NYJ	14071.201	85	52	006	07	CQ	G de W0JNI W0JNI kiAti n aa

CQ.

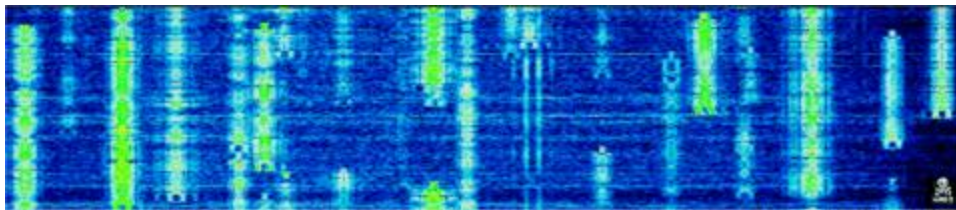
My first QSO was with F4EZD, Jean-Pierre, near Avignon in the south of France. This was followed in quick succession by QSOs with hams in Utah and Florida. Heck, this was like shooting fish in a barrel!

Because PSK31 is so efficient, it is ideal for low-power operation and for hams in apartments or condos who are restricted to using compromise antennas. It's not too unusual to find your PSK software decoding signals that do not even show up in the waterfall display!

So what's not to like about PSK31? Well, I personally find that it can be bit too impersonal, especially when the person on the other end makes excessive use of "canned" text files. Of course, CW and SSB QSOs can also suffer from the "cookie-cutter" syndrome, but at least there you are listening to a distinctive human voice or "fist", not some computer-generated warble. Still, PSK31 has enough going for it that I intend to add it to my slim catalog of "AI4BJ-approved HF modes".

73,

Mark AI4BJ



A typical PSK31 waterfall tuning display. Two dozen PSK signals can fill the spectrum used by a single SSB signal!

"MARS", cont'd from Page 3

Security and Americas Security Affairs now has primary responsibility for the MARS Defense Support of Civil Authorities mission. In addition, MARS leaders will report to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration/DoD Chief Information Officer and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Material Readiness. In the 1998 charter, oversight of MARS was assigned to a single top official, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence.

This revision — which was years in the making — keeps the Navy/Marine Corps MARS intact; until now, members of this MARS service were concerned that their part of MARS might be terminated by Navy commanders.

The *Instruction* also gives some new perks to

MARS members. Active duty military personnel who are affiliated with MARS may be able to earn Reserve points based on service in MARS and, in cases of permanent change of station, qualify for weight exemption for transportation of MARS communications equipment. All members may be considered for benefits associated with DoD civilian service, such as access to DoD morale, welfare and recreation Category C recreational facilities and access to DoD credit unions.

Membership in any of the three MARS services is open to qualified active duty, Guard and Reserve personnel, as well as those in civilian agencies who report to civil authorities or their supporting organizations (including nongovernmental organizations) and private US citizens who meet age, education and other criteria — such as an FCC-issued Amateur Radio license — imposed by a DoD Component MARS office.

Weaver's Words

Jim Weaver, K8JE
Great Lakes Division Director, ARRL
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ARRL Seeking EmComm Manager

The ARRL is accepting applications for the open position of Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Manager. The job is based at ARRL HQ in Newington, CT. The successful applicant will represent the League with government and non-government emergency and disaster response organizations and partners for planning, continuity and operational purposes.

Requirements for the position include holding a General Class or higher amateur license, having a minimum of 5 years experience in ARES(r) or equivalent and hold a Bachelor-level or higher degree. For further requirements and a description of the EPR Manager position, go to

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/12/22/11261/?nc=1>. Interested amateurs should follow the instructions on the Internet notice to apply.

Tech Class Question Pool Updated

Unless you plan to take the Technician class license examination before July 1, 2010, don't use study guides based on the question pool that became effective July 1, 2006. The 2006 pool will be replaced by a 2010 question pool effective July 2010. The 2006 pool and study materials used for it are useable for Technician exams to be given as late as Jun 30, 2010.

Beginning July 1, 2010 Tech exams will be based upon the 2010 question pool. This pool will be

available to the public in early January. People wishing to obtain a printed copy of the pool or a study manual based on it should watch for announcements in ham publications or on the web. Of course, www.arrl.org and ARRL bulletins will be a good source of information on these.

How to get News Published and Broadcast

We often hear it said that people do not know what Amateur Radio is and what amateur operators do. As often as not, this is true. The question this situation poses is "how can we amateurs overcome this situation."



The answer to the question is "publicity" or "public relations (PR)." We need to have local amateurs tell the story of modern Amateur Radio to the public and to officials. We need to get "press" and "broadcast" coverage for what we do.

How can we get this coverage? Who can get this coverage for us? The answer to these questions is, "us." This is a task that principally needs to be performed by us in the field. We are in the best position to know what is going on in local Amateur Radio circles and who is doing it. Unless the situation is big enough to gain the interest of regional or national news media, no one can do the task better than someone where the activity is being held.

As is true of so many things in life, getting good PR requires a little knowledge — a little. Most local print and broadcast media want to include local residents in their stories. It is local people who read and hear the stories. Local people want to know what is going on in their area. Local people buy the newspapers and the goods advertised in them and over the broadcast media.

It is up to us, though, to prepare the news we give to the media in a manner that increases their likelihood of using it. As time goes by, it is becoming increasingly important that we know what the media want. Doing this is not difficult. Even so, it requires that we learn how to “market” the Amateur Radio stories we want to tell.

ARRL PR manager Allen Pitts, W1GGP has developed a self-teaching course to show us how to get publicity for ham radio activities. This is the new ARRL PR-101 course. Following the information contained in this course, any reasonably literate amateur can learn how to get good press for Amateur Radio.

ARRL’s PR-101 course is designed to train Public Information Officers and others in promoting Amateur Radio and ARRL through the new media. Some Section Managers have been so impressed with the course that they are requiring their Public Information Officer appointees to take it.

To learn how best to obtain good press coverage for ham radio go to <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=0133> to read about PR-101.

2011 Great Lakes Division Convention

The Great Lakes Division Cabinet has begun to think ahead to a 2011 Division Convention. We would like to hear from groups or clubs that may be interested in sponsoring this event. The Division Cabinet is composed of the Division Legislative Action Chair (NB4K), the three Section Managers (KY4Z, KY; WA8EFK, MI; KI8GW, OH), the Vice Director (KI4LA) and me.

At this time, we are looking for a sponsor for a convention that may be a stand-alone convention (not associated with an existing hamfest) or a con-

vention associated with an existing hamfest. The Cabinet is also open to suggestions that may include keeping the convention at a fixed location and date.

Please contact me (k8je@arrl.org) for further information if you are interested in discussing sponsoring the convention.

Congratulations

To Bonnie Viele, N8MCX who was elected to her fifth term on the Hubbard, OH city council. Husband Jerry, W8JV is one proud guy.



Board of Directors to Meet

The Annual Meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors will be held January 15 and 16. The meeting will be held in Windsor, CT which, as is true of Newington, is a suburb of Hartford. Major committee meetings will be held at ARRL HQ on January 14.

If there are topics you would like me to discuss while in Connecticut, please let me know. Send your thought to me at k8je@arrl.org.

The GLD in Print

Joel Thurtell, K8PSV and the Ohio Michigan Indiana Kentucky (OMIK) ARA shared part of p. 93, in the December issue of QST. Joel's book “Up the Rouge!” was published by Wayne State University press. It describes his canoe trip up the Rouge River.

The OMIK Scholarship Fund presented a \$1,000 check to Caitlin Grey of Wadsworth, OH. The OMIK radio club was founded at Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, OH in 1952 by students from

the four states. Incidentally, many members of the Tuskegee Airmen of WW 2 fame became members of OMIK.

On p. 24, Verle Willingham, K8VW of Fenton, MI reported the demise of the Firebird ARC. This was a GM employee Amateur Radio club that had a run of 48 years.

Chris Castle, KI4BOQ, of West Van Lear, KY received ink on p. 83 for being named to the All-State Choir as previously mentioned in Words.

Jetstream USA ads: Did you know Jetstream is a Great Lakes Division (Southwestern Ohio) company? Any guesses as to which retail business owns Jetstream?

An oops. Matt Severin, mentioned last month, is N8MS and is from Eau Claire, MI -- not K8MS from Traverse City. Thanks to Bill Wheeler, W8JBA for correcting the error.

Happy New Year

On behalf of ARRL and myself, I wish each of you a very Happy and Prosperous New Year. May 2010 prove to be the best year ever for you.

Tentative Travel & Hamfest Schedule

Hamfests in the following list have received ARRL sanctioning as of press time. These and other events for which a Great Lakes Division representative is scheduled to attend are identified with the representative's name.

5 Jan: Coshocton Co. 50th Anniv. presentation - Jim

8 Jan: Dayton ARA, presentation - Jim

11 Jan: Director Teleconference -- Jim

12 Jan: GLD Cabinet Telecon -- Gary, SMS, NB4K, Jim

14 Jan: A&F Committee, Newington, CT - Jim

15-16 Jan: Board of Directors, Windsor, CT - Gary, Jim

17 Jan: Hazel Park Hamfest, Hazel Park, MI

17 Jan: Sunday Creek Hamfest, Nelsonville, OH

31 Jan: TUSCO Hamfest, Strasburg, OH

6 Feb: HARA Swap & Shop, Negaunee, MI

7 Feb: NOARS Winter Hamfest, Lorain, OH

11 Feb: SW Ohio DXA presentation - Jim

13 Feb: Cherryland Hamfest, Traverse City, MI

14 Feb: Midwinter Hamfest, Mansfield, OH - Jim

21 Feb: Livonia Swap n Shop, Livonia, MI

6 Mar: Mammoth Cave Hamfest, Cave City, KY - Jim

20 Mar: Michigan Crossroads Hamfest, Marshall, MI -- Jim

3 Apr: ARGYL Hamfest, Lowell, MI

3 Apr: Lincoln Trail Hamfest, Elizabethtown, KY

17 Apr: Milford Swap & Shop, Highland, MI

18 Apr: Cuyahoga Falls Hamfest, Cuyahoga Falls, OH

25 Apr: Athens Hamfest, Athens, OH

14-16 May: Hamvention(r), Dayton, OH - Gary, Jim

19 Jun: Milford Hamfest, Milford, OH

20 Jun: Monroe Hamfest, Monroe, MI -- Jim

8 Jul: Mahoning Valley ARA, presentation -- Jim

16-17 Jul: Board of Directors, Windsor, CT -- Gary, Jim

25 Jul: Portage Hamfair, Randolph, OH

22 Aug: Cambridge Hamfest, Cambridge, OH

11 Sep: Grtr Louisville 'fest, Shepherdsville, KY -- Jim

18 Sep: Central KY ARS Hamfest, Richmond, KY

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