



DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
2100 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2100

POLICY

NOV 19 2018

MEMORANDUM TO ALL MILITARY AUXILIARY RADIO SYSTEM (MARS) MEMBERS

As we approach Thanksgiving and the 2018 end-of-year holiday season, I want to convey my sincerest appreciation and thanks to all members of the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) for your extraordinary efforts to support the Department of Defense (DoD) and our service personnel in uniform stationed at home and abroad.

MARS provides a critical contingency communications capability to DoD and to our civil agency partners in the event of natural or man-made disasters. The dedication of MARS members to this mission is outstanding and is reflected in the active participation of Army and Air Force MARS stations in daily high-frequency (HF) traffic handling networks; regular training exercises; and quarterly DoD communications exercises that demonstrate the resiliency of HF as a reliable means of voice and digital communications. In addition, MARS operators provide real-time communications links to military aircraft on a daily basis and participate in the Department of Homeland Security SHARED RESources (SHARES) network, interoperating with civil agencies in support of national security and emergency preparedness requirements.

Looking ahead, I anticipate a growing recognition of the important role MARS plays in assuring critical national connectivity in times of emergency. This is a testament to the value of your individual and collective efforts.

As a long-time MARS member myself, I applaud you for the service you provide every day on a volunteer basis in support of our national security. I regret that my current duties preclude me from actively participating in your endeavors, but I remain grateful for your dedication to the MARS mission and your continuing efforts to serve those who serve us.

All the best for a joyous and peaceful holiday season.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Trachtenberg", is positioned above the printed name.

David J. Trachtenberg

