

# U.S. AIR FORCE MILITARY AUXILIARY RADIO SYSTEM



Northeast Area Public Information Officer / AFE3PI  
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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
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### **MARS TO EXHIBIT CAPABILITIES AT 2011 NATIONAL GUARD DOMESTIC OPERATIONS EVENT**

WASHINGTON, D.C., January 17, 2011 – In response to an invitation from Brigadier General David L. Harris, Director of Domestic Operations and Force Development for the National Guard Bureau (NGB), members of the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) will participate in the National Guard Bureau's 2011 Domestic Operations (DOMOPs) exhibition from 18-20 January at the Gaylord Hotel at National Harbor, just outside Washington, D.C. This is the first time MARS has been invited to exhibit its communications capabilities to the entire domestic operations community that will be present at the event and reinforces the link between MARS and domestic emergency response organizations.

The invitation grew out of an Air Force MARS outreach initiative to General Craig R. McKinley, Chief of the National Guard Bureau highlighting the role MARS plays in providing contingency radio communications support to U.S. government operations. In particular, a combined MARS team of radio specialists is assisting the 174th Fighter Wing of the NY Air National Guard with communications training and equipment, including operations and maintenance of the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) system.

In a letter to Air Force MARS, BG Harris declared MARS assistance with the JISCC to be "very beneficial" to the Guard and noted that MARS capabilities represent "an important communications capability for the NGB...during domestic operations." He stated that the work of the MARS team at the 174<sup>th</sup> FW "has proven to be a valuable asset to both military and civilian authorities" in New York State.

A large turnout is expected at the annual DOMOPs conference and exhibition, allowing MARS – consistent with its expanded mission – to showcase its contingency communications capabilities to the widest possible audience of domestic operations professionals.

### **ABOUT THE MILITARY AUXILIARY RADIO SYSTEM (MARS)**

The Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) is a Department of Defense sponsored program, established as separately managed and operated programs by the Army, Navy-Marine Corps and Air Force. MARS members are volunteer licensed civilian amateur radio operators who serve as an organized military auxiliary and provide contingency radio communications support to the Department of Defense and to civil authorities at all levels. MARS operators assist in effecting normal communications under emergency conditions, or when conventional means of communications are unavailable, or are likely to become unavailable. They also provide health, morale and welfare radio communications support to members of the Armed Forces, civilian employees and contractors of the Department of Defense, as well as to civil agency employees and contractors, when in remote and isolated areas, in contingencies or whenever appropriate.

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