

From Chief Army Mars

A Message to All Army MARS Volunteers

Effective immediately, I am Chief Army Mars (CAM). It will become official upon confirmation by MG Napper, Commanding General of the Army's Network Enterprise Command (NETCOM), and Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army Cyber Command.

I would first like to introduce myself briefly. I retired from the Army in May 2005 after serving for 31 years as a Signal officer. I served for various periods in four mechanized infantry divisions, the Defense Information Systems Agency [twice], the European Command (EUCOM)[twice,] and the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY [twice]. The later was my final military assignment where I served as the CIO to the Superintendent. Since 2007 to present I serve the Army at NETCOM, Fort Huachuca, AZ, as a Deputy G3 for Operations and Training.

I am not an amateur radio practitioner in the sense or caliber that MARS volunteers are. I was as a Novice for a short while very long ago. I did love to DX during my single years with a GRC-5a radio that I picked up at a government property disposal sale and repaired. Eventually, I didn't even have enough time for that and gave it away to a young man who was my "Little Brother" in the Big Brother Program. However, I have some perhaps interesting tidbits in my background. I was the last student trained in radio systems at Fort Monmouth, NJ before the school moved to Fort Gordon, GA. (Best instructors ever!) I was later assigned two High Power (10K Watt) Defense Communications Systems HF platoons at my first assignment in the Army at Fort Huachuca, AZ. Later while serving in the 2nd IN DIV in Korea as a company commander, I had the last HF Radio Teletype rigs in the Army that were rehabilitated coming out of Vietnam in the serial number series 0 to 600. While at EUCOM the first time, I served as a frequency engineer for Europe. So, I look forward to working with citizen soldiers of your caliber.

NETCOM is in the processes of hiring a replacement for the position formerly held by the CAM. That person will until future notice be titled "Army MARS Program Officer." The recruitment will be publically announced through USAJOBS.GOV. Interested parties can only be considered if resumes and interest are officially entered through this site. Resumes can be entered into the system well in advance. However, interest can only be indicated after the announcement is made public. We will again notify all of you as a minimum when the announcement is made. If you know of interested people not on this distribution list, please have them send name and email address to Al Melito at albert.melito.civ@mail.mil.

Army MARS will be improving during the next couple of years. Volunteers will remain an important part of MARS. We will strengthen processes and communications to meet our future challenges. We will improve governance, communications top to bottom, discipline, and an understanding of the changes happening in our Army driven by the events since 2001. Those are my first downs.

I briefed the regional directors recently in great detail about the events since 9-11 as they affect us. I will briefly mention several of the topics we covered and you will be familiar with some of them. Clearly, the creation of Department of Homeland Defense (HLD) and the resulting increased cooperation with other federal agencies is one of those seminal events. It actually increased the role of MARS and brought us some new requirements. The U.S. Strategic Command and the creation of the U. S. Cyber Command and follow on creation of the Army component command, US Army Cyber Command are another series of seminal events. These organizations have been organizing and developing rules of engagement and operation for the past many years. Never before have we had such emphasis on protecting our critical infrastructure. That translates into more stringent requirements and many of you have felt the impacts of that at many levels. One of the big pending changes for NETCOM is that our assignment may change. Under consideration is that NETCOM will now be assigned to the U.S. Army Cyber Command whereas we were once a direct reporting unit the Army's CIO/G6.

In my simple words, here is why you are so important to our national defense and security. It is because you are organized, and most important, you are already members of and located in every community in our Nation.

What does the Army bring to the fight? The Army brings resources, structure, training, leadership, frequencies, standards, and an interface into the DOD including the Army Guard and Reserve. The Army is the interface to two customer groups for you. (1) State emergency organizations and supporting federal agencies through Military Assistance to Civil Authorities when authorized, and (2) DOD contingency operations that have matured in the last many years. This latter group is not well known to most of you, but it accounts for many of the changes you have experienced.

In a few weeks, we will devote another message like this to talk about volunteer developed tools such as interconnected messaging capabilities and the events leading up to December 2011. I think it will be good to hear about it from the Hqs and the two key positions the Army has taken.

I would like to devote the rest of my time to initiatives that we have been brainstorming since January of this year.

I want to organize the regional directors into a voting Army MARS Executive Governance Board (MGEB) supported by special staff reporting through the board to the CAM. The intent is:

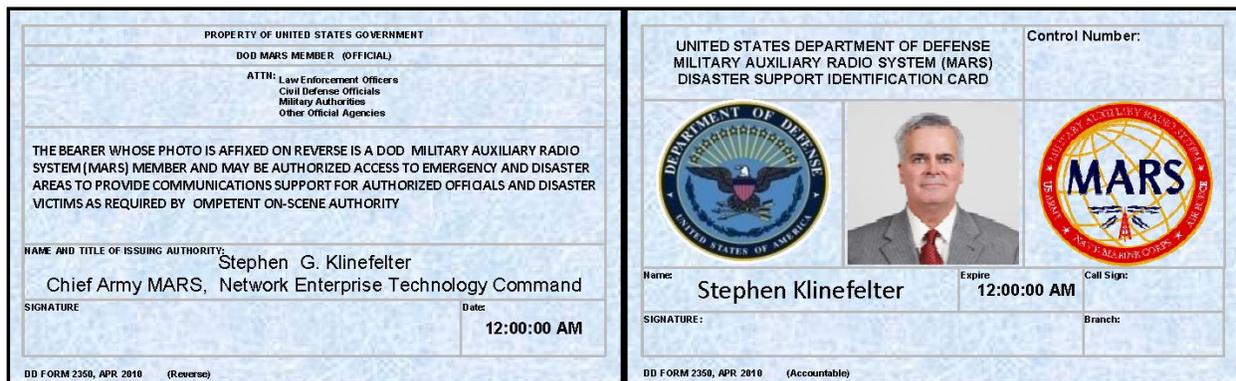
- more participative policy development,
- information sharing about the unique aspects of each region and state,
- information sharing from the federal agencies directly to the board rather than have us filter it to you,
- and finally more transparent adjudication of membership issues.

We will continue meeting you at various amateur radio events since they have great strategic and public affairs value. However, you pay your own way to get there. Therefore, not all of you can get there.

I am proposing that the MGEB meet twice a year face to face. We are seeking legal opinions and developing strategies to keep costs down. However, there is precedent from my own experience. Currently, we envision rotating from region to region until we hit them all and we pay for your attendance through invitational travel orders. We also want to invite (pay for) the State Directors from that Region. We also envision having open sessions where any volunteer could attend, listen, and ask questions. We estimate a group of 25 of us and perhaps few more from the federal agencies (not counting open forum attendance.)

Once of our first topics will be Army Regulation 25-6 and review of membership requirements.

ID cards are a done deal. We are going to issue them to members in good standing. Go ahead and have a passport photo ready using the State Department specifications. We are intensively working with the Regional and State Directors to clean up the membership database. We will start issuing shortly after. This is roughly what it will look like.



We are also working to set up a FaceBook site for Army MARS. We are working strategies for access, set up, and operating rules. DOD came to grips with this several years ago and now you have many DOD organizations setting them up. Its purpose will be to cut across our hierarchical structure and open up communications channels. It is also a great tool to celebrate our successes with the public and each other. We can honor our alumnae. It requires no special expertise. More to follow...

We have lots of work to do. I look forward to what we will accomplish together.

Respectfully,

STEPHEN KLINEFELTER
Chief, Army MARS