

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
MILITARY AFFILIATE RADIO SYSTEM
FORT HUACHUCA, ARIZONA 85613-5000

FREE FATHER'S DAY MESSAGES FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

Families of servicemembers deployed away from home are invited to send personal greetings on the occasion of Father's Day June 15. Volunteer Amateur Radio operators will deliver the messages, known to the armed forces since the Vietnam era as "MARSgrams", at no charge to senders.

The MARSgram is a year-round service of the Army Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS), the Defense Department-sponsored organization of volunteer "Hams" whose primary mission is providing emergency communications in times of crisis.

Captain Jeffrey Hammer of the Indiana National Guard, the Army MARS representative in Iraq, is looking for a lot of holiday messages. "I am 100 per cent set up to deal with them," he said.

To send a MARSgram, access <http://www.mymars.org> on the Internet. The message you enter there will be transmitted automatically. Or contact the Army MARS member listed below.

MARSgrams must be held to 80 words, but there is no limit on the number of messages that may be sent. Text must be in English and complete postal address is required. If available, the addressee's telephone number may speed delivery. Full instructions appear at www.mymars.org.

Serving the United States military since the 1920s, Army MARS is dedicated to ensuring that army units and civil disaster response organizations have reliable auxiliary communications. To learn more about the mission of the 2,700 volunteers in Army MARS, visit www.netcom.army.mil/mars.

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