

MERT

Marion County Emergency Radio Team



Marion County Sheriff's Office
Div. of Emergency Management

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

August 2022

SHARED RESOURCES (SHARES) HIGH FREQUENCY (HF) RADIO PROGRAM authorization has been **APPROVED** by the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Agency



"Station: _____"

Welcome to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Shared Resources HF Radio Program - SHARES."

MERT is extremely proud to announce the Marion County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management has received authorization to participate in the national security SHARES program.

The SHARed RESources (SHARES) High Frequency (HF) Radio program provides an additional means for users with a national security and emergency preparedness mission to communicate when Internet, landline and cellular communications are unavailable. SHARES members use HF radio resources to coordinate and transmit messages needed to perform critical functions, including those areas related to leadership, safety, maintenance of law and order, emergencies and public health.

The SHARES HF Radio Program, administered by Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS), provides **MERT** authority to use unique frequencies to communicate with other SHARES authorized stations that includes other EOC's, State, Federal & Military organizations on frequencies only authorized by the DHS. (Note: These frequencies are outside FCC licensed and authorized bands.)



SHARES authorization is a new level of support to the MCSO Division of Emergency Management in expanding **MERT's** ability to get messages and communications *PASSED nationwide.... even in high-traffic emergencies when all HAM bands are congested.*

Who is MERT?

Marion County Emergency Radio Communications Team (MERT)

General Information – MERT was established to provide communications support to governmental agencies and areas such as Shelters, Hospitals/Healthcare Facilities, Points of Distribution, CERT communities and other groups during times of disasters. They assist with moving critical voice, data and image communications between agencies and remote locations about storm conditions, resource needs, emergency response requests and incident command reports/information.

MERT Command

MERT personnel are Volunteers trained in the communication protocols established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on the Incident Command System (ICS) protocols and are administered locally by the Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) Division of Emergency Management.

All personnel report directly to Preston Bowlin, Director of the Division of Emergency Management and are fully vetted by the Sheriff's Office. The team is led by the MERT Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator who are assigned by the Director.

All the members are experienced HAM radio users having Technician, General and Amateur Extra or Advanced FCC licenses.



MERT Facilities (Primary)

A MERT communications radio room is located at the MCSO Emergency Operations Center at 692 NW 30th Ave, Ocala, FL.

For more information, visit:

<https://kg4nxo.com/>

Harlan Cook (KN4VRM)
MERT Coordinator
Marion County Sheriff's Office
Division of Emergency Management
kg4nxo@marionso.com
Cell: 210.331.3240



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