

MERT

Marion County Emergency Radio Team



Marion County Sheriff's Office
Division of Emergency Management

Who is MERT and What do they do for the Division of Emergency Management?

Marion County Emergency Radio Communications Team (MERT)

MERT was established in 2004 by the Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) Division of Emergency Management to provide Emergency Communications (EMCOMM) support whenever normal telecommunications resources have failed and are not available.

Direct EMCOMM support is provided to evacuation Shelters, Hospital/Healthcare Facilities, area Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) along with other local cities and regional groups during declared emergency events.

Members operate amateur radio systems and assist with moving voice, data and video communications between various local agencies and remote facilities about storm conditions, resource needs and important information reports or requests.

MERT Personnel

MERT staff are community volunteers having Federal Communications Commission (FCC) amateur radio licenses along with completing significant comprehensive training with certifications from the Dept. of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) which are administered locally by the Division of Emergency Management. Additionally, all personnel have also received full background vetting for operations at public facilities.

Personnel meet weekly to review procedures, receive ongoing training, practice radio procedures along with receiving guidance on official operational instructions. Members also conduct weekly and monthly on-air operational testing of its radio communications systems.

Where are MERT facilities located?

Its operations and primary radio communications facility is located at the MCSO EOC. MERT also has radio communications facilities throughout Marion County supporting its EMCOMM mission and duties in supporting county-wide operations.



Marion County Sheriff's Office
Division of Emergency Management
Emergency Operations Center

MERT Radio Center

The primary MERT communications radio room is located at the MCSO EOC at 692 NW 30th Ave, Ocala, FL.

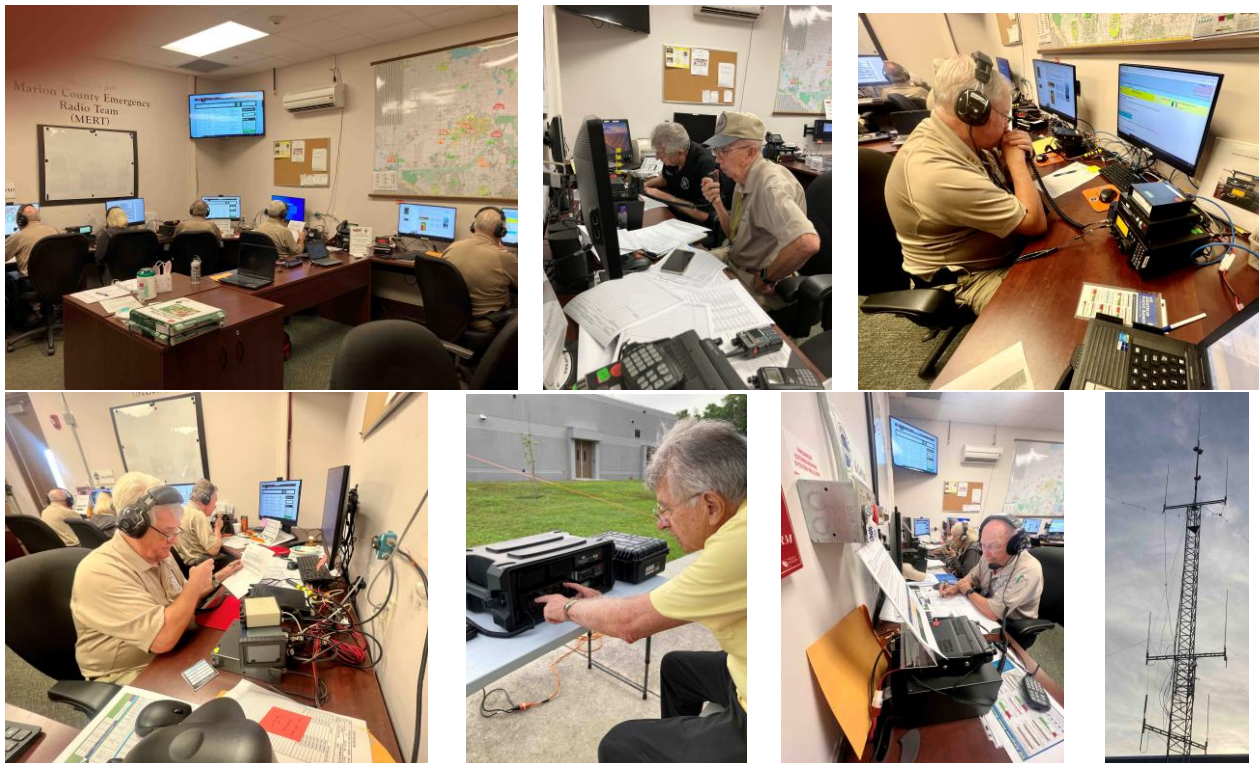
More information about the Division of Emergency Management is at:

<http://www.marionso.com/emergency-management>

Local and Global Communication Capabilities

MERT radio systems are licensed for **community, County-wide, regional, national and international voice, data and image communications**. Systems and operational procedures include having direct communications with the State of Florida EOC in Tallahassee and with multiple agencies of the U.S. Government via its SHARES license from the SHARED REsources (SHARES) High Frequency (HF) Radio Program. [Note: The SHARES HF Radio Program is the responsibility of and is administered by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) Cybersecurity Division (CSD), Dept. of Homeland Security.]

Members in Action



For more information about MERT, visit: <https://kg4nxx.com/>