

USER GUIDE

Amateur Radio Signal Corps
https://hamradiocorps.org

CONTENTS

BASICS

- What ARSC is
- Getting started
- Command center

OPERATING

- Going on air
- Logging contacts
- Verified exchanges
- The map

PROGRESS

- Missions
- Ribbons
- Ranks and promotion
- Specialty pins

COMMUNITY

- Recruiting
- Your privacy and your data
- Questions, problems and ideas

BASICS

WHAT ARSC IS

The Amateur Radio Signal Corps is a game played on real amateur radio. You make contacts on the air, log them, and the Corps turns them into missions, ribbons, specialty pins and rank. It is open to licensed operators and independent of any military or veterans organization.

ARSC never replaces your logbook or your license. It keeps score of what you do on the air, and it asks for no more about you than it needs to.

Join the Corps: `https://hamradiocorps.org/join`

BASICS

GETTING STARTED

Joining takes a few minutes and is free.

1. Choose Join the Corps and sign up with your email address and a password, or ask for an emailed sign-in link.
2. Open the confirmation email and follow its link. Your account is not active until you do.
3. Enter your callsign, confirm you are at least 13 years old, and accept the policies. If someone invited you, leave the box that credits them ticked.
4. Fill in your grid square and region on the Account page. Missions that depend on where you are use it.
5. Work through First steps on the Account page. It is a short checklist for logging your first contact.

- Your callsign is a claim, not proof. If someone else claims yours, ask for a review from the Account page and a moderator will look into it.
- Sign-in problems: use the password reset link on the sign-in page.

Sign in: `https://hamradiocorps.org/sign-in` · Account: `https://hamradiocorps.org/account`

BASICS

COMMAND CENTER

The Command Information Center (CIC) is the home screen for signed-in members. It shows your operator card (rank, whether you are on air, progress to your next promotion), the current mission, the map, space weather and your recent contacts.

With no mission running, the Missions card points you to the briefs. While one is running, it shows the live brief and the time left, and a banner across the top of every page keeps the countdown in view.

Open the command center: `https://hamradiocorps.org/cic`

OPERATING

GOING ON AIR

The On air switch on your operator card tells other members you are operating, and where. Signing in never does this by itself. You are only shown when you choose to be.

- When you switch on you can give a frequency and mode, so others can find you. You also choose the grid you are operating from, which may differ from home.
- Your on-air status ends by itself after a short while. Switch it on again if you are still calling.
- Visitors who are not members see only rough, delayed counts by area, never callsigns.

OPERATING

LOGGING CONTACTS

Every contact you log counts toward your standing Intel Ops. Contacts made on the air can also count toward missions, pins and promotion.

1. Open the Logbook and choose to add a contact.
2. Enter the callsign. ARSC looks up the station and fills in grid and state when it can, but only into empty fields.
3. Enter the date and time in UTC, band, mode and any report, then save. The form stays open so you can add the next one.

- A contact over an internet link such as EchoLink or IRLP is logged and counts toward Intel Ops, but not toward missions or the 50 on-air contacts for Corporal.
- Without a connection, drafts are kept on your device and sent when you are back online. You can also export your log as ADIF.
- You can import an ADIF file, or connect your QRZ logbook on the Account page. QRZ sync is one way: contacts come from QRZ into ARSC, never the other way.
- From a pin on the map for a POTA or DX station, Log a contact opens the form already filled in.
- You can correct or remove a contact later. Credit follows the correction.

Open the Logbook: `https://hamradiocorps.org/log`

OPERATING

VERIFIED EXCHANGES

When both stations are ARSC members, you can swap Signal Corps codes instead of signal reports. Each of you reads your code from the Log a Contact form and says it over the air with your callsign. Enter the code you hear and, if it matches, the contact is marked as a verified exchange and goes into both logs.

A code is four characters, a letter, a digit, a letter and a digit, such as H1R1. It changes every UTC day and is different for each pair of stations and each direction. Say the letters with the phonetic alphabet. You can type it as H1R1 or as words.

- A wrong code never loses the contact. It stays in your log unverified.
- Some missions give a bonus star for verified contacts, and one, Countersign, requires them. Pins can ask for them too.
- The codes carry no message. They only show that the speaker is an ARSC member who was told your callsign.

How the codes work: `https://hamradiocorps.org/signal-corps-codes`

PROGRESS

MISSIONS

A mission is a short operating challenge with a time limit, such as working five stations on 2 m, or making contacts only in the small hours. Each has a brief that states its rules, and a ribbon for completing it.

1. Read the briefs and open the one you want.
2. Accept it. You can run one mission at a time, and the clock starts when you accept.
3. Operate and log as normal. Contacts that fit the mission are counted for you automatically, and each contact counts toward one mission only.
4. When the last requirement is met the mission completes, a congratulations notice appears and the ribbon is added to your service record.

- The Count my fitting contacts button picks up any fitting contact you logged late.
- Stand down and start over drops the current run if you change your mind.
- Net Control is a leader mission. You choose the frequency and mode, then run a net of five stations that stays up for 45 minutes.
- Contacts that earned credit for an expired mission still count toward Intel Ops.

Mission briefs: `https://hamradiocorps.org/missions` · Suggest a mission: `https://hamradiocorps.org/suggest-mission`

PROGRESS

RIBBONS

Ribbons record what you have done. You earn one by completing a mission or reaching a milestone, and the best are shown on your service record. A star on a mission ribbon means enough of its contacts were verified exchanges. Recruiter ribbons gain gold stars and an E as your recruits grow.

All ribbons: `https://hamradiocorps.org/ribbons`

PROGRESS

RANKS AND PROMOTION

There are ten ranks, from Private to General. Enlisted ranks come first, then the officer track. Contacts alone do not carry you far: higher ranks also ask for missions, junior and senior leader missions, specialty pins and, for the highest, a role in running the Corps.

You are never promoted automatically and never demoted. When you meet the requirements for the next rank you are marked Promotable. Open the promotion letter to accept, or put it off for 30 days.

- The first step, Corporal, asks for 50 on-air contacts and one individual mission.
- The officer track is opt-in. A switch on the Account page controls whether officer ranks are offered to you.
- The Ranks page lists what every rank asks for, and your own progress.

Ranks: `https://hamradiocorps.org/ranks` · Promotion: `https://hamradiocorps.org/promotion`

PROGRESS

SPECIALTY PINS

A pin marks a qualified commitment to one field, such as CW, phone, digital modes, satellites or running nets. A mission is a race. A pin is a career track, with no time limit apart from a minimum number of days.

1. Open the Pins page and open a pin to see its tasks.
2. Choose Begin qualification. You can have two under way at once.
3. Keep operating. Only contacts you log after you begin count, and they can count toward a mission too.
4. When every task and the minimum span are met, the pin is awarded and appears on your service record.

- You can withdraw a qualification at any time without penalty.
- Some pins ask for a few verified exchanges with other members.

Specialty pins: `https://hamradiocorps.org/pins`

COMMUNITY

RECRUITING

Every member has a personal link. Someone who joins through it and goes on to earn their first promotion, to Corporal, counts as your recruit.

- Ten recruits earn the Recruiter ribbon, which also counts as one junior-leader mission toward Sergeant.
- Fifty, 100 and 150 recruits add one, two and three gold stars. Five hundred adds the E.
- A leaderboard starts over each calendar quarter, in UTC. Top recruiters in each time zone and nationally are recognized.

Recruiting: `https://hamradiocorps.org/recruiting`

OPERATING

THE MAP

The map shows live ARSC members who are on air, spots from Parks on the Air and from DX clusters, and your own recent contacts. The filters apply to every layer.

- Recent contacts are your newest 15 from the last 30 days. During a mission the layer shows the contacts counted toward it instead.
- Your contact pins sit at the centre of the grid square you entered, not at a street address.
- A spot or a member pin is only a hint that someone is there. It is not proof a contact was made.

Open the map: `https://hamradiocorps.org/map`

COMMUNITY

YOUR PRIVACY AND YOUR DATA

Your profile is visible to other members by default and is not public. You choose what it shows. No precise home location is ever shown, and a grid on your profile is optional.

- The Account page controls who can see your profile, your grid, and whether you appear on the map.
- You can download everything ARSC holds about you from the Account page.
- You can close your account. It is deleted after 30 days, and you can undo it during that time.
- Lookups of other operators return only what is public, and are cached for a short while.

Account: `https://hamradiocorps.org/account` · Privacy policy: `https://hamradiocorps.org/policies/privacy`

COMMUNITY

QUESTIONS, PROBLEMS AND IDEAS

ARSC is a pilot and you are among its first operators. If something is confusing, broken or missing, say so. It is the most useful thing you can do.

Tell us how ARSC is working: `https://hamradiocorps.org/feedback` · Suggest a mission: `https://hamradiocorps.org/suggest-mission` · Code of conduct: `https://hamradiocorps.org/policies/conduct`