ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY CROSSBAND TEST (9 May 2026)

The Department of Defense will host this year's Armed Forces Day (AFD) Crossband Test, scheduled for May 9, 2026. This annual event is open to all licensed amateur radio operators and will not impact any public or private communications. For more than 50 years, military and amateur stations have taken part in this event, which is an interoperability exercise between hobbyist and government radio stations.

The AFD Crossband Test is a unique opportunity to test two-way communication between military communicators and radio stations in the Amateur Radio Service (ARS), as authorized in 47 CFR 97.111. These tests provide opportunities and challenges for radio operators to demonstrate individual technical skills in a tightly controlled exercise scenario that does not impact any public or private communications.

Military stations will transmit on selected military frequencies and will announce the specific ARS frequencies monitored. All times are ZULU (Z), and all frequencies are Upper Side Band (USB) unless otherwise noted. The frequencies used for the test will not impact any public or private communications and will not stray outside the confines of the exercise.

The following stations will be making two-way radiotelephone contacts with stations in the ARS between the time periods listed on the frequencies listed in Kilohertz below.

AAC / BARROW ARMY RESERVE CENTER, KY (USB + RTTY)
09May 1100Z – 10May1100Z 4,011.0 kHz USB 5,346.5 kHz USB 6,968.5 kHz USB 13,963.5 kHz USB 17,457.5 kHz USB

AAM3D / DISA CYBERSPACE OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE, FT MEADE, MD
0800Z – 2000Z 5,112.0 kHz USB 7,431.5 kHz USB 14,484.0 kHz USB 18,639.0 kHz USB 20,920.0 kHz USB

AAM3D1 / DISA HEADQUARTERS, FT MEADE, MD
0800Z – 2000Z 5,760.0 kHz USB 7,718.5 kHz USB 14,512.5 kHz USB 18,211.0 kHz USB

AAM3D4 / DISA FIELD COMMAND CENTCOM, MACDILL AFB, FL
0800Z – 2000Z 5,763.0 kHz USB 7,498.5 kHz USB 14,463.5 kHz USB 18,254.0 kHz USB

AAN / U.S. NORTHERN COMMAND, CO
1300Z - 2100Z 6,970.5 kHz USB 14,550.5 kHz USB

AAZ / FT HUACHUCA, AZ
1500Z - 2359Z 7,645.0 kHz USB 14,438.5 kHz USB

ADB / CAMP FOSTER, OKINAWA
1500Z - 22590Z 14,487.0 kHz USB 20,994.0 kHz USB

AGA0WJ/ NAS WHIDBEY ISLAND OAK HARBOR, WA
1600Z - 2200Z 5,112.0 kHz USB 7,431.5 kHz USB 13,528.5 kHz USB
18,272.5 kHz USB
AGA5SC / SCOTT AFB, IL
1500Z - 2300Z 5,186.0 kHz USB 7,938.0 kHz USB 14,832.0 kHz USB
27,736.0 kHz USB

AGA9TR / TRAVIS AFB, CA (USB + CW)
1600Z - 2359Z 7,915.0 kHz USB 14,760.0 kHz USB 20,763.0 kHz USB
27,877.0 kHz USB

NBGC/ USS HORNET ALAMEDA, CA (USB + CW)
1400Z - 2359Z 6,912.5 kHz USB 14,375.0 kHz USB 21,886.0 kHz USB
27,860.0 kHz USB

NEMW / BATTLESHIP ALABAMA BB-60 MUSEUM SHIP, AL (USB + CW)
0000Z – 2359Z 4,043.5 kHz USB 7,882.5 kHz USB 14,441.5 kHz USB
18,211.0 kHz USB 20,997.0 kHz USB

NEPM / USS IOWA BB 61 SAN PEDRO, CA
1400Z - 2400Z 6,989.0 kHz USB 14,375.0 kHz USB 18,060.0 kHz USB
21,856.0 kHz USB 26,850.0 kHz USB

NIIW / USS MIDWAY CV-41 SAN DIEGO, CA (USB + CW + RTTY)
09May 0000Z - 10May 0400Z 4,010.0 kHz USB 5,078.5 kHz USB 7,390.5 kHz USB
14,476.0 kHz USB 18,060.0 kHz USB 20,973.5 kHz USB

NITG / SUBMARINE DRUM SS-228 MUSEUM SHIP, AL (USB + CW)
0000Z – 2359Z 4,445.0 kHz USB 7,772.5 kHz USB 13,905.5 kHz USB
18,254.0 kHz USB 20,973.5 kHz USB

NSS / US NAVAL ACADEMY ANNAPOLIS, MD (USB + CW)
09May 1300Z – 10May 0200Z 4,038.5 kHz USB 5,214.0 kHz USB 7,533.5 kHz USB
13,993.0 kHz USB

WAR / PENTAGON WASHINGTON, DC (USB + CW + RTTY)
1200Z - 2400Z 4,018.0 kHz USB 5,357.0 kHz USB 7,305.0 kHz USB
14,383.5 kHz USB 20,997.0 kHz USB

An AFD message will be transmitted utilizing the Military Standard (MIL-STD) Serial PSK waveform (M110) followed by MIL-STD Wide Shift FSK (850 Hz RTTY) as described in MIL-STD 188-110A/B. Technical information regarding these waveforms is provided at: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pYDj7kQbm-QAyY4RPtx0dOXKohjaEjq9?usp=sharing

The AFD Defense Message will also be sent at 1400Z and 2000Z on the frequencies designated below.

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|---|---|---|
| AAC: | MIL-STD-110/RTTY | 13,963.5 kHz USB |
| AAN: | MIL-STD-110 | 14,550.5 kHz USB |
| AAZ: | MIL-STD-110 | 14,438.5 kHz USB |
| AAM3D | MIL-STD-110 | 14,484.0 kHz USB |
| AAM3D1 | MIL-STD-110 | 14,512.5 kHz USB |
| AA33D4 | MIL-STD-110 | 14,463.5 kHz USB |
| ADB: | MIL-STD-110 | 20,994.0 kHz USB |
| NEPM: | CW | 14,375.0 kHz USB |
| NIIW: | MIL-STD-110/RTTY/CW | 14,476.0 kHz USB |
| WAR: | MIL-STD-110/RTTY/CW | 14,383.5 kHz USB |

For those who wish to document their contacts with a QSL card, go to https://www.usarmymars.org/events and complete the request form.