

Radio Channel Zones



Version 1.0 1 September 2023

Modern radios can have hundreds if not thousands of channels. The ASRC has adopted standard names for the zones in ASRC-owned radios, which we also strongly recommend using for personal and Group cache radios. Some frequencies appear in multiple zones, sometimes under a different name.

The default zone for ASRC-owned radios – the zone that should be showing on the radio when handed out at Base, or stored after returning to Base, is **SAR Prime Tone**.

Tone means *subaudible tone* both being sent and used for *tone squelch* (also known as receive CTCSS or *PL decode*): the radio will only hear radios that are set to emit the SAR-standard *subaudible tone*.

CSQ means *carrier squelch*: the radio will emit the SAR-standard subaudible tone, but can hear any radio transmitting on the frequency. For “why” and more about terms used here, go to <http://www.conovers.org/ftp/AppSAR-Drafts> and review the draft of the communications chapter there.

SAR Prime Tone: All of the ASRC SAR channels & direct VTAC/UTAC with tone squelch.

SAR Prime CSQ: All of the ASRC SAR channels & direct VTAC/UTAC with *carrier squelch*

(tone squelch disabled; will hear anything on this frequency). Used when there are radios on the net that are not emitting the SAR-standard subaudible tone, though this zone *emits* the SAR-standard subaudible tone.

SAR Prime DMR: All of the ASRC SAR channels digital DMR instead of analog (D instead of A); for future use.

4-SAR Others: State SAR Channels (PA, MD, VA), MRA, CAP. Use only when specifically authorized.

5-FRS GMRS MURS: Family Radio Service, General Mobile Radio Service, and Multi-Use Radio Service channels. Anyone may use FRS/MURS license free; GMRS shares frequencies with FRS and only for those with license.

6-WX + Marine: Weather channels (just for listening) and marine channels (for areas with maritime or boating operations).

7-VTAC UTAC IOP: Non-Federal Interoperability channels, including VHF Tactical (VTAC) and UHF Tactical (UTAC). May be used by FCC public safety licensees, including all ASRC Groups, when working with another agency. VCALL and UCALL frequencies are for initial contact, then move to VTAC or UTAC frequencies. UCALL and UTAC fre-

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quencies use repeaters; “-D” variants (e.g., UTAC41D) are Direct = not through repeater.

8-Medical: Medical Command, EMS and medical helicopter channels.

11-PS-Virginia: VA SAR and public safety channels.

12-PS Maryland: MD SAR and public safety channels.

13-PS West VA: WV SAR and public safety channels.

14-PS Pennnsylva: PA SAR and public safety channels. [Not enough space for all PA letters]

15-PS Ohio: OH SAR and public safety channels.

23-Lima Analog: ASRC VHF analog Business Band frequencies (for future use).

24-Lima DMR: ASRC VHF digital DMR Business Band frequencies (for future use).

25-Mike&Link An: Analog *UHF* Business Band (Mike) and Low Power (Link) channels; Link channels are for remote bases/vehicle repeaters.

26-Mike&Link DM: Digital DMR UHF Business Band (Mike) and Low Power (Link) channels; Link channels are for remote bases/vehicle repeaters.

***CodePlugInfo*:** Not to be used. Contains information for those programming the radio (the programming is called a *code plug*).

41-Mission Zone: Generic channels to be programmed on the fly at a mission. Don't use unless specifically told to.

Personal Zone: 64 channels for those who use the ASRC code plug for their personal radios but also want some personal frequencies (for example, ham frequencies for those who are hams). This will require programming software and a programming cable or a *lot* of time entering channel information.

MARG Local: Frequencies specific to MARG's usual coverage area in northern West Virginia. Local Public Safety channels: Mon (Mn), Preston (Pr), Marion (Mar), Tucker (Tu), Taylor (Tay), Tyler (Tyl), and other local channels. Will likely be adding similar zones for other ASRC Groups as we update the code plug.