



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

NOV 2 2009

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: New Category B Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Program

This memorandum establishes policy to create "Service Member Techno-Activity Centers" (Techno Centers) as a new Category B MWR program. Techno Centers will enable military MWR programs to provide state-of-the-art, high speed internet programming and other activities that young active duty troops use during their leisure time.

The definition of a Techno Center is as follows:

Service Member Techno-Activities Center: A multi-purpose facility where junior active duty personnel can socialize and participate in individual and competitive activities, which are offered for a modest fee. Fee based services may include: recreational and competitive activities using state-of-the-art platforms (arcade, audio, console, handheld, online, PC) for a variety of genres (action, adventure, role playing, simulation, sports, game tournaments strategy). It may also include state-of-the-art- sound and lighting for commercial, high tech entertainment and sporting events, WIFI access, special events, social activities, and meeting space. The fee-based nature of the activities differentiates the program from Category A programs. While targeted at junior active duty personnel, the center should be configured to accommodate diverse services and designed with sufficient flexibility to allow modifications based on changing technology, trends, interests and needs. A Techno Center may incorporate sports bars and other food and beverage elements, which are Category C activities. Slot machines are not permitted. Patronage is restricted to active duty personnel and their accompanied guests, 18 years of age and older.

Consistent with DoD Instruction (DODI) 1015.10, Category B activities have a limited ability to generate revenues. Consequently, Techno Centers are authorized appropriated funding at a minimum of 65% of its total expenditures. Nonappropriated funds shall be the funding source for Techno Center construction per paragraph EF.T1.1.2 of DoDI 1015.15. The next revision of DoDI 1015.10, "Military MWR Programs," and DoDI 1015.10, "Establishment, Management and



Control of Nonappropriated Fund Instrumentalities and Financial Management of Supporting Resources," shall include this guidance.



Gail H. McGinn

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Plans)
Performing the duties of the
Under Secretary of Defense
(Personnel and Readiness)

CC:

ASA(M&RA)

ASN(M&RA)

ASAF(M&RA)



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PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

The Honorable Ben Nelson
Chairman, Subcommittee on Personnel
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

NOV 2 2009

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter notifies members of Congress that the Department has established "Service Member Techno-Activity Centers" (Techno Centers) as a new Category B Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) program. Techno Centers will enable military MWR programs to provide state-of-the-art, high speed, recreational Internet programming and other activities that our young active duty troops use during their leisure time. Techno Centers will be multi-purpose facilities where junior active duty personnel can socialize and participate in individual and competitive activities, which are offered for a modest fee. Fee based services may include: recreational and competitive activities using state-of-the-art platforms (arcade, audio, console, handheld, online, PC) for a variety of genres (action, adventure, role playing, simulation, sports, game tournaments strategy). It may also include state-of-the-art sound and lighting for commercial, high tech entertainment and sporting events, WIFI access, special events, social activities, and meeting space. The fee-based nature of the activities differentiates the program from Category A MWR programs. Techno Centers may incorporate Category C activities such as sports bars and other food and beverage operations; slot machines are not permitted. Patronage is restricted to active duty personnel and their accompanied guests, 18 years of age and older.

Consistent with DoD policy, Category B MWR activities have a limited ability to generate revenue; appropriated funds are authorized for a minimum of 65 percent of the total expenditures. Nonappropriated funds shall fund Techno Center construction.

Thank you for your continued support of our military members and their families.

Sincerely,

Gail H. McGinn
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Plans)
Performing the Duties of the
Under Secretary of Defense
(Personnel and Readiness)

Cc:
The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham
Ranking Member





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PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

The Honorable Susan Davis
Chair, Subcommittee on Military Personnel
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

NOV 2 2009

Dear Madam Chair:

This letter notifies members of Congress that the Department has established "Service Member Techno-Activity Centers" (Techno Centers) as a new Category B Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) program. Techno Centers will enable military MWR programs to provide state-of-the-art, high speed, recreational Internet programming and other activities that our young active duty troops use during their leisure time. Techno Centers will be multi-purpose facilities where junior active duty personnel can socialize and participate in individual and competitive activities, which are offered for a modest fee. Fee based services may include: recreational and competitive activities using state-of-the-art platforms (arcade, audio, console, handheld, online, PC) for a variety of genres (action, adventure, role playing, simulation, sports, game tournaments strategy). It may also include state-of-the-art sound and lighting for commercial, high tech entertainment and sporting events, WIFI access, special events, social activities, and meeting space. The fee-based nature of the activities differentiates the program from Category A MWR programs. Techno Centers may incorporate Category C activities such as sports bars and other food and beverage operations; slot machines are not permitted. Patronage is restricted to active duty personnel and their accompanied guests, 18 years of age and older.

Consistent with DoD policy, Category B MWR activities have a limited ability to generate revenue; appropriated funds are authorized for a minimum of 65 percent of the total expenditures. Nonappropriated funds shall fund Techno Center construction.

Thank you for your continued support of our military members and their families.

Sincerely,

Gail H. McGinn
Deputy Under Secretary of the Defense (Plans)
Performing the Duties of the
Under Secretary of Defense
(Personnel and Readiness)

Cc:
The Honorable Joe Wilson
Ranking Member

