

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

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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-ofthe-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 FOR: Gail H. McGinn, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Plans)

FROM: Tonney T. Thomas, DUSD (MCKEP) Lang & FRE June

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

- The memorandum at Tab A classifies "Service Member Techno-Activity Centers"
 (Techno Centers) as a new Calegory B MWR activity and the letters for your signature at Tab B advise Congress.
- The Army requested this classification because of its new "Warrior Zones" which provide fee-based, state-of-the-art, high speed, competitive recreation Internet programming and other activities that young troops want (Information Paper at TAB C). It's a cross between the "free" single Service Member Recreation Centers and Category Crevenue generators (Tab D). The new "Techno Centers" charge modest fies but are not expected to generate profits.
- There was extensive dialogue amongst the Services regarding what to mame the Techno Centers and the need to avoid any "gaming" connotation. All the Services agreed to use the term "Techno Center" for policy determination only. In practice, the Services will use a more user friendly name (e.g., the Army's Warrior Zones). The Services support Techno Centers as a new program, provided there is no encroachment on the existing Category A Recreation Centers (Military Persunnet).
- As a Category B MWR activity, a Techno Center is authorized to receive appropriated funds, at a minimum of 65 percent of total expenditures (Tab E). Nonappropriated funds will fund new construction of Techno Centers (Tab E)

RECOMINENDATION: Sign the memorgadum at I ab A and letters at Jab B.

COORDINATION: Tab G

ATTACHMENTS:

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PREPARED BY: Pam Crospi, MWR Policy. (203-588-0871)



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

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

Friel HM. Gen

Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness)

Cc:

The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham Ranking Member





OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

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.

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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

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(Personnel and Readiness)

Cc:

The Honorable Joe Wilson Ranking Member

