Outreach to Active-Duty, National Guard and Reserve Service Members

# Background

Expansion of the military Morale, Welfare and Recreation benefit to active-duty, National Guard and reserve service members who do not have access to installation programs is a Department of Defense priority. The goal is to promote a healthy lifestyle and create a sense of community for military members who do not have the infrastructure support an installation offers by providing community outreach initiatives, access to digital resources and more.

# Program highlights

## YMCA memberships

* The Department of Defense has contracted with the Armed Services Young Men’s Christian Association until March 2017 to offer memberships at local, participating YMCAs to families of deployed National Guard and reserve personnel, active-duty service members assigned to independent duty locations, relocated spouses of deployed active-duty service members and wounded warriors assigned to community-based warrior transition units.
* The YMCA and other commercial fitness memberships are offered to eligible Title 10 active-duty service members assigned to geographically separated units.
* Respite child care is included at no cost for eligible families of deployed Guard and reserve personnel and independent duty families. Up to 16 hours of respite care is currently offered per month, per child at participating YMCAs.

## Digital library resources

* Service members often do not have brick-and-mortar library resources on hand for learning and entertainment. The Morale, Welfare and Recreation Digital Library provides those resources while members are in transit or deployed.
* Print, electronic and downloadable library resources are available online 24/7.
* The digital library provides lifelong learning, references, career resources and recreation for all ages and interests.
* All resources, including audio and eBooks, are offered at no cost to service members.
* Tutor.com, an online tutoring service, is also available through the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Digital Library.
* Resources are available 24/7 anywhere in the world where there is internet access.

# Eligibility

Unlimited use of Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs and services is authorized to active-duty service members (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard) and their families, reserves (Individual Ready Reserve, National Guard, reservists in training) and their families, cadets of service academies and U.S. Merchant Marine and their families, active-duty commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, retirees from active duty and reserves and their families, honorably-discharged veterans with 100 percent disability and involuntarily-separated service members under the Transition Assistance Management Program and their families, Medal of Honor recipients and their families, Department of Defense and Coast Guard civilians stationed outside the United States and their families, unremarried surviving spouses and orphans of personnel who died on active duty or in retired status, and unremarried former spouses who were married to the service member for 20 years during active duty.

Based on local demand and capacity, installation commanders may grant eligibility to Department of Defense civilians and families stationed inside the United States, Department of Defense contract personnel, other federal employees, guests and members of the general public and other categories.

# Availability

Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs are available worldwide on military installations and online.

# Additional information

Military OneSource: <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/on-and-off-base-living/recreation-and-travel>