

Big Fun on a Small Budget

Podcast Transcript

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When you pop online, there's probably no shortage of selfies and check-ins from your friends who are seeing the world, singing along in the front row of a concert or showing off their athletic skills.

You might feel jealous when you look at those pictures — wondering how your friends can afford to have so much fun while you're at home babysitting your budget.

You don't have to live vicariously through your friends' thrilling status updates anymore. With Morale, Welfare and Recreation, you can afford to get out there, too.

Try something you've never done before — pack your bags for a getaway, ride roller coasters until you're dizzy, conquer the great outdoors or pick up a new sport. Morale, Welfare and Recreation can connect you with all of these options and more at a fraction of regular retail prices.

Visit your installation's Information, Tickets and Travel office for tax-free, discounted tickets to sporting events, museums, theme parks, aquariums, zoos, historic sites and more.

Some Information, Tickets and Travel offices also have travel specialists that can help you coordinate travel to your favorite destinations. They usually know where you can get the best deals and exclusive discounts for military members for lodging, all-inclusive vacation packages, cruises and more.

And don't forget to check out the exclusive military resort facilities like the Hale Koa Hotel in Hawaii, Shades of Green Resort in Florida, Dragon Hill Lodge in Korea, and Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Germany. With luxury and locations like that, it's no wonder they fill up fast, so be prepared to book your reservations early.

If you love traditional camping, Morale, Welfare and Recreation has all the gear you need and campsites — both primitive and with amenities. They even have options if you prefer a more comfortable camping experience through camper and RV rentals, as well as RV campgrounds across the country. And, if you really want to “glamp” it up, try one of their recreational lodging facilities — nothing says glamorous camping like a cottage on the beach or a cabin nestled in the woods by a lake. Not sure where the closest Morale, Welfare and Recreation campground is? Browse the Best Kept Secrets directory for low-cost campgrounds available only to service members and their families. You can find the directory on Military OneSource's Morale, Welfare and Recreation page under Camping.

But it's not all about overnight adventures — your installation's Morale, Welfare and Recreation department has plenty to keep you occupied for just a few hours at a time. Most installations have a place to catch a recently released flick. Recreation centers generally show new-to-video

and classic movies at no cost, and, if you catch a showing at an installation movie theater, your movie, popcorn and drink could cost less than a commercial theater movie ticket.

Strike up some fun at the bowling center. Play a couple of games, or join a league — and, if you have some little ones, ask the staff to break out the bumpers. Prefer to tee it up? Morale, Welfare and Recreation golf courses are some of the best you'll find in some beautiful locations at a reasonable price. Most are run by PGA professionals and offer lessons if you're just taking up the sport or want to refine your swing.

If you need a hobby, you're covered. Many installations have auto skills centers where you can work on your own car, whether out of necessity or just for fun. Some have other kinds of hobby shops, too, that offer outlets like woodcraft, ceramics, painting, yarn arts and more.

Do you long to be on the water? Check out Morale, Welfare and Recreation's boat rental programs. You could be out on a canoe, kayak or even a stand-up paddleboard in no time.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation can help you throw your next party, too. Use installation facilities and catering to keep your party budget under control without sacrificing quality. And if you want to do it yourself, most installations have a recreation rental operation where you can rent tables, chairs, bounce houses, snow cone machines and more for a lot less than the cost you'd find outside the gates.

It's time to fill up your fun calendar without emptying your wallet. Inquire locally for fun opportunities on your installation. Get off the sidelines and start maximizing fun with Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

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For more information, visit Military OneSource at <http://www.militaryonesource.mil>, an official Department of Defense website.