

MORALE, WELFARE, AND RECREATION (MWR)

Identification of Military Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) Activities and Programs

This responds to your request for guidance regarding who is the appropriate decision authority in the Air Force to determine (in questionable cases), if a proposed activity or program qualifies as an Air Force military MWR activity or program. This guidance is especially important when the activity or program doesn't neatly "fit" into clearly established Air Force military MWR activities/programs such as: fitness, library, child development, youth, arts and crafts, auto crafts, recreation equipment checkout, outdoor recreation, clubs and slot machines, bowling, golf, aero clubs, other membership programs, etc. Under current Department of Defense (DoD) and Air Force policy, this is a responsibility of AF/A1S.

Reductions in appropriated fund (APF) support for the Air Force have produced pressure in the field to find ways to use limited nonappropriated fund (NAF) resources (including commercial sponsorship,) to support activities and programs that do not qualify as a traditional MWR activity/program. Therefore, it is essential that the Air Force maintains a "gatekeeper" who determines which proposed activities and programs qualify as MWR activities and programs and a process for getting questionable cases to the decision authority.

By way of background information, 10 U.S.C. Sec 8013, provides that the Secretary of the Air Force is responsible for "the morale and welfare of personnel." To carry out this responsibility, DoDI 1015.10, Military Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Programs, assigns responsibilities and prescribes procedures for operating and managing programs for military MWR programs. DoDI 1015.15, Establishment, Management, and Control of Nonappropriated Fund Instrumentalities and Financial Management of Supporting Resources, provides overall policy guidance for funding military MWR programs. AFI 65-106, Appropriated Fund Support of Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) and Nonappropriated Fund Instrumentalities (NAFIS), outlines the Categories of military MWR programs (A, B, & C), and provides guidance regarding the level of APF support (if any), that may be provided to support those Categories. AFI 34-201, Use of Nonappropriated Funds (NAFs), para 1.2., provides that NAFs are used for the collective benefit of military personnel, their families and authorized civilians, and to support MWR programs. AFD 34-1, Air Force Services, para 1.1.1., provides: Services will establish and operate customer-driven MWR programs as determined by periodic market research for the benefit of authorized patrons. Accordingly, current policy makes it clear that AF/A1S is responsible for establishing and operating military MWR programs in the Air Force.

Recently, several popular activities and programs that have supported albeit worthy community/charitable or other type causes have been bootstrapped at some installations into being considered to be MWR in order to garner commercial sponsorship support. These questionable activities/programs were often approved by the installation commander. Unfortunately, the decisions made resulted in a lack of uniformity for AF-wide application. Accordingly, when there is some question regarding what is and is not a valid Air Force MWR activity or program; the details of the proposed activity/program should be sent to AFPC/SV for review and recommendations and forwarded to AF/A1S for a decision. This will provide a

uniform process for establishing, funding, and operating Air Force military MWR activities and programs in this austere financial environment throughout the Air Force as required by DoD and Air Force Policy. Finally, this approach will help installations undergoing audits of Air Force MWR activities and programs as only authorized and approved activities and events will be getting APF, NAF and commercial sponsorship funding support.

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