



FACILITIES SHOWCASE
• MILITARY •

New Facilities Rise Up to Meet Challenge



New fitness center at USAG
Weissbaden, Germany.



Recreation

As armed forces continue high operational tempo in the War on Terror, support facilities and programs are vitally important to the physical and mental well-being of servicemembers and their families.

“Sustaining morale and readiness during deployed operations (Afghanistan, Southwest Asia, and Balkans) is the essence of MWR programs,” noted Myers.

He pointed out that servicemembers have access to a “full spectrum of MWR activities” that were created to support deployed forces.

“Recreation activities include cardiovascular and weight equipment, sports and recreation equipment, paperback and Playaways (self contained audio books), newspapers, magazines, board games, large screen televisions, DVD/CD players, up-to-date electronic games, first-run movies, a rest and recuperation program, and continuing education support,” Myers explained. “MWR recreation kits are sized to fit the needs of the deployed unit. Larger, more established locations (and ships) have full fitness centers, libraries, movie theaters, tactical field exchanges, MWR Internet cafes, etc. Professional recreational specialists also deploy to implement recreation programs and special events.”

Myers noted that the Army has 26 MWR civilian specialists in theater, Navy has 36 civilian fitness/recreation specialists working onboard ships with a goal of 54, and Air Force deploys active duty personnel to provide food service, fitness and recreation support. Marines deployed to Afghanistan also serve as the resident experts in all aspects of quality of life support, including MWR and exchange programs.

“We know commanders and troops appreciate this support as it provides needed release from combat stress and, oftentimes, boredom,” he said. “For example, we continually receive rave reviews about the 127,000 Playaways shipped to troops deployed to remote, austere combat areas. Comments such as ‘they go like hotcakes –send more’ to ‘they help my troops calm down so they are able to get a full night’s rest now’ let us know we are making a difference in their quality of life.”