2026 ARMED FORCES DAY MRE CONTEST

EARLY SET UP: Friday, May 15, 2026—between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

DAY OF EVENT SET UP: 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 A.M. Saturday, May 16, 2026.

ALL MRE TEAMS MUST BE SET UP AND SIGNED IN NO LATER THAN 9:00 A.M.

Sign-in will be in the Medal of Honor Aircraft Pavilion. The opening ceremony starts at 9:30 a.m., and teams will be introduced during the opening ceremony.

MRE CONTEST WILL START AT 11:00 a.m.

If you arrive after 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, there is a $5.00 parking fee.

ARMED FORCES DAY
2026 MRE RULES

MREs, or Meals Ready to Eat, are the main operational food ration for the United States Armed Forces. It originated from the c-rations and k-rations from World War II. This contest will challenge a team of up to 4 cooks to use their culinary experience and creativity to work together and prepare a meal.

EVENT TIMING

- YOU CANNOT OPEN THE PAPER BAG CONTAINING YOUR MREs UNTIL IT IS TIME TO START COOKING!
- Teams will be given 15 minutes to get their MRE Paper Bags, Review instructions and ask questions
- AT THE START OF COOKING TIME, you can open your paper bags - then each Team will have a **TOTAL of 45 minutes** to complete the best Entrée they can combining ingredients from their MREs
- Event start will be staggered by 15 minutes - 2 different groups; Teams will be assigned to a group prior to event

NUMBER OF TEAM/KIND OF TEAMS

1. Up to 4 people per team
   * Teams can have more people than that, but only 4 people at a time cooking
   * Each team WILL ONLY BE PRESENTING ONE ENTRÉE
2. Space:
   * 15 ft each team – will be marked off prior to contest
   * MAX 10 X 10 ft tent – Each team supplies their own tent

TEAMS will be on asphalt – so be prepared in case you need to anchor your tent

3. SOMETHING TO COOK ON! This could be a grill, griddle, camper stove – anything you'd like, as long as it can fit under the tent. (Power is not provided, so be prepared with a generator if you need power!)

SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

- To be supplied by each team:

  1. Can bring:
     * Cookware: anything that will fit under the tent – small generators only
     * Basic Pantry items that each team can bring: **THESE ARE THE ONLY FOOD/PANTY ITEMS ALLOWED – any additional items found will be removed. All cook stations will be inspected prior to start to ensure fairness to all competitors**

       1 # Butter
       1 # Flour
       1 qt cream
       1 qt stock
       Fresh herbs
       Small bag of spices/seasonings
       2 lemons
       1 fresh pepper of choice

  2. ***Each Team Must Bring***:
     * Own tent and table
     * Small 1st Aid Kit
     * Fire Extinguisher (must not be expired)

- To be supplied by SAVC:
  1. 3 SURPRISE MREs per team – *You get what you get and don't pitch a fit!*
  2. Presentation plate for entrée
  3. Tasting plates with covers for presentation of entrée

SEE YOU ALL THERE – CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE RESULTS!