



## MEAL, READY-TO-EAT, INDIVIDUAL™ (MRE™) | DoD CFD

Nutritional intake can have a great impact on a Warfighter's performance. The MRE™ is the standard military ration developed to support the individual Warfighter in all the Armed Forces (Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps).

### WHY IS IT NEEDED?:

The MRE™ replaced the C Ration in the early 1980s — and since then, it has been continuously updated. However, feedback from Operation Desert Shield/Storm suggested that Warfighters would consume more if their preferences were taken into consideration. Since 1993 improvements have focused on replacing components based on Warfighter input to make the ration more acceptable and to expand variety.

### KEY FEATURES:

- The MRE™ must maintain high quality for a minimum of three years at 80° F and six months at 100° F.
- The ration must be highly acceptable to Warfighters.
- The MRE™ must meet the Office of the Surgeon General's nutritional requirements.
- The packaging must meet stringent durability requirements — to include airdrop survival, rough handling and temperature extremes.

Since 1993, over 217 new items have been Warfighter recommended, Warfighter tested, Warfighter approved™. Also during that time, four vegetarian meals have been introduced and 61 of the least acceptable items have been replaced. The number of menus have increased, incrementally, from twelve to twenty-four.

### BENEFITS:

**Warfighter Acceptance...**Positive feedback from Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom and field tests indicate that Warfighters are giving the MRE™ high approval rates — and the more acceptable an item, the greater the likelihood it will be consumed.

**Greater Variety...**Changes in the menu help reduce monotony, meet varying Warfighter tastes, and keep pace with the latest advances in nutrition, packaging and food processing technologies.

### POINT OF CONTACT:

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MRE™ CASES



MRE™ MEAL BAG AND COMPONENTS



MRE™ PACKAGING