

### **TOTM FAOS (Frequently Asked Questions)**

**Q:** Is the TOTM a MRE? Can it be used in lieu of a MRE?

**A:** The TOTM is not a MRE. While the TOTM does employ MRE components, there are several important distinctions between the two. The TOTM does not meet all of the military specifications of the MRE (such as extended shelf-life). The TOTM is not to be used in lieu of a MRE unless ARNG policy states that the usage of the MRE is optional and not mandatory (example: during IDT). The TOTM is intended for usage during IDT and travel days to and from AT (Annual Training) as an alternative to commercial meal products. Usage of the MRE is mandatory during AT for the ARNG.

**Q:** What is the best source for TOTM information?

**A:** The best source for TOTM information is our website. The direct link to the TOTM webpage is <http://www.dscp.dla.mil/subs/rations/meals/totm.htm>. The webpage information is the most “up-to-date” source and supercedes all hardcopy print information.

**Q:** Do the prices on the website reflect the final cost of the product to the ARNG?

**A:** Yes. The prices on the website include the surcharge and are the final cost to the ordering activity.

**Q:** Can individual ARNG units order the TOTM from DSCP directly?

**A:** No. All individual units must filter their requests through their state level United States Property and Fiscal Officer (USPFO) Activity. This is similar to how the MRE is ordered by the ARNG.

**Q:** Can individual ARNG units or the USPFO order TOTM directly from the manufacturer?

**A:** No. The TOTM is a government product (not to be confused with commercial products of a similar nature) and ARNG orders for it must be placed to DSCP by the State USPFO Activity.

**Q:** Can the ordering Activity choose which vendor and corresponding set of menus they desire?

**A:** Yes. Each of the three vendors has their own LSN ordering number and set of menus. It is the option of the customer to choose which set of menus that they want.

**Q:** What information is required from the ordering State USPFO when ordering the TOTM?

**A:** The required information is as follows: LSN, quantity, requisition number (to include USPFO DODAAC), signal code, fund code, and required delivery date.

**Q:** If the TOTM exceeds its shelf life, can it be inspected to determine if it is still acceptable for consumption (similar to Army Veterinary Inspections done with the MRE)?

**A:** No. The TOTM is a Direct Vendor Delivery (DVD) item that is not intended for long term storage like the MRE, and should be disposed of when the shelf life expires.