

THE READINESS REPORT

FOR INDIVIDUAL RESERVISTS

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*The official publication of the
Headquarters Individual Reservist Readiness and Integration Organization*

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ABOUT HQ RIO

The Headquarters Individual Reservist Readiness and Integration Organization (HQ RIO) is located at Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado. Its mission is to seamlessly integrate wartime-ready Individual Reserve forces to meet Air Force and Combatant Commander requirements.

HQ RIO standardizes the processes for the Individual Reserve program. The IR force is comprised of Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMAs), who are accountable to the Air Force Reserve Command and assigned to funded, active-component positions, and Participating Individual Ready Reservists (PIRRs), who participate for points towards retirement only. There are more than 2,700 enlisted members and more than 4,500 officers in the IR. IMAs and PIRRs support more than 50 major commands, combatant commanders and government agencies.



Watch the "What is the Individual Reserve" video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/r0bMSNnYhUE>.

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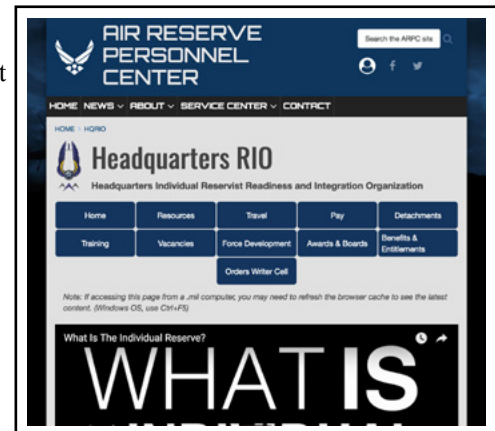
NEWS BRIEFS

Reserve Pay & Travel Pay submissions made easier

As of Oct. 15, 2018, the Reserve Pay Office (RPO) and Individual Reservist (IR) Travel office has shut down their organizational email boxes and are no longer accepting submissions from email, AMRDEC, or fax. Go to the website at (<https://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/hqrio.aspx>), and choose either the Travel or Pay button from the navigation pane for a link to submit your requests through MyPers. For more information click [here](#).

TFSC support for IMAs expanding Nov. 1, 2018

Effective Nov. 1, 2018, HQ RIO Travel Pay & Reserve Pay (RPO), will be moving their customer support to the Total Force Service Center (TFSC). IRs will now be able to call the TFSC customer support 24/7/361 at 1-800-525-0102 or DSN 665-0102 for all their personnel and pay issues.



This new support line will provide extended support hours, decreased wait times for customers and timely responses to customer inquiries.

Hurricane season highlights IR's need to keep AFPAAS current

Natural disasters happen all the time and Individual Reservists sometimes find themselves and their family members displaced by the aftermath. The Air Force Personnel Accountability and Assessment System (AFPAAS) helps Air Force leadership provide support and assistance to those affected members and their families. In preparation, IRs should make sure to keep their status, location and emergency contact information current by updating their information [here](#).

IMAs must submit orders requests 30 days prior to tour start

Just a friendly reminder that in order to ensure a trouble-free orders publication process, AFI 36-2254 vol 1. section 6.5.4 stipulates that all IMAs must submit their orders requests electronically through AROWS-R at least 30 days prior to their tour start date.

OCP transition begins with five phase roll-out

Phase One of the Air Force OCP transition has started with the issuance of the latest Air Force Guidance Memorandum to AFI 36-2903. AFGM2018-03 covers a wide range of changes to the AFI from tattoos to operational badges on the new OCP uniform.

Members are encouraged to read the latest guidance memorandum and the updated OCP section of the AFI by clicking [here](#).

Career tips for Individual Reservists

did
you
know?

Did you know that when checking the status of your travel voucher you should first contact your organizational defense travel administrator (ODTA)?

Members with Defense Travel System (DTS), travel vouchers can also check their voucher status by logging on to their DTS account. Likewise, those members with Reserve Travel System (RTS), travel vouchers can check their status by logging into myPers to see the status of their voucher. If the voucher is 'open' it is being processed. If the voucher is 'waiting' then it is undergoing an internal auditing process. A 'closed' voucher means it is either awaiting documentation from the member or being processed for payment.

Air Force leaders say increased funding is improving readiness

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs



Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein testify before the Senate Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Defense May 17, 2018, in Washington, D.C. (Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Rusty Frank)

Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson and Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. David L. Goldfein thanked Congress for providing the resources necessary to restore the service's readiness while testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee's Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support Oct. 10.

During her testimony, Wilson praised Congress for passing an appropriations bill on time for the first time in nearly a decade.

"With your help, we have made great strides in a short period of time," she said. "We are more ready today than we were two years ago."

After decades of readiness decline, the Air Force is working to accelerate its recovery, ensuring the service is prepared to combat rapidly evolving threats.

Today more than 75 percent of the Air Force's core fighting units are combat ready with their lead forces packages. The service's goal is for 80 percent of those units to have the right number of properly trained and equipped Airmen by the end of 2020 – 6 years faster than projected before the Air Force developed a recovery plan.

"Restoring the readiness of the force is our top priority," Goldfein said. "And the budget Congress recently passed will have a significant impact for Airmen across our active, guard, and reserve components."

To do this the Air Force is focusing on three key areas: people, training and cost-effective maintenance and logistics.

For the Air Force, readiness is first and foremost about people. In fiscal year 2018, Congress provided funding to allow the Air Force to address a serious shortage of maintainers. In September 2016, the service was short 4,000 active duty maintainers, but by December 2018 that number is expected to reach zero.

"Actions by Congress over the last few years has been tremendously helpful," Wilson said. "Now we must get these Airmen the experience needed to become craftsmen at their work."

In addition to maintainers, the Air Force has placed an emphasis on addressing the national aircrew shortage, first by addressing

quality of service and quality of life issues, and also increasing financial incentives and providing more control over assignments and career paths.

The Air Force is increasing the number of pilots it trains from 1,160 a year in FY 2017 to 1,311 in FY 2019, building to 1,500 by FY 2022 and steady state, thereafter.

As part of the readiness recovery, the Air Force is focused on providing relevant and realistic training to maintain an advantage over increasingly capable adversaries. To meet this need the service is investing in operational training infrastructure — ranges and airspace — and simulation.

The Air Force is also improving infrastructure, simulators, threat emulators and training ranges to enhance realism and enable Airmen to train locally for a high-end, multi-domain fight.

Cost-effective maintenance and logistics

The third element of restoring the readiness of the force is weapons system sustainment – the parts, supply and equipment – to make sure our aircraft are ready to go when needed.

"There are a thousand fingerprints on every aircraft that takes off. From air traffic control to crew chiefs to weapons loaders to avionics technicians – it is a total team effort," Goldfein said. "When the plane is twice the age of the team, it makes it harder. So we are looking at new methods across the board for how we are maintaining an older fleet with a younger workforce."

The Air Force is already seeing improvements in its depots, increasing depot production by 20 percent, completing 75 aircraft per year.

RIO Connect IMA Mobile Wingman App



Official app of HQ RIO

The [RIO Connect IMA Mobile Wingman App](#) is the official mobile app of the Headquarters Individual Reservist Readiness and Integration Organization (HQ RIO) and is designed for Individual Reservists.

AWACS maintainers at the leading edge of 3-D printing

By Master Sgt. Andrew Stephens, 513th Air Control Group Public Affairs

Imagine you're in aircraft maintenance and a mission is scheduled to fly in the next 24 hours. You need a part that hasn't been manufactured in more than 30 years. A specially-commissioned replacement is available for \$15,000, but it will take a year to arrive.

A technician tells you he can get you the part by the end of the day for less than \$500. When you ask how, the answer is shocking: He's going to "print" one.

The previous scenario is a real-world example of what aircraft maintainers for the 513th Air Control Group do every month for the Air Force's only Reserve associate unit for America's Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) fleet. Assigned to Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, the AWACS maintenance community is a blend of active-duty Airmen with the 552nd Air Control Wing, traditional Reservists, Air Reserve Technicians and civil service employees -- all working together to keep the parts-and-labor intensive AWACS fleet flying.

"With our 3-D printing capability, we can have 30 parts ready in hours with spares distributed into the AWACS supply system," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Ritter, metals tech section chief for the 513th Maintenance Squadron. "The technology is simple. An Airman can become competent on the printer in 10 days, from software and machine maintenance to getting signed off on the printer in his training records."

Ritter said the printers represent an added empowerment for the 21st century Air Force maintainer. If a vital part that's not under contract is unavailable, the maintainer can print their own. After a thorough inspection, a zero balance issue, meaning parts are unavailable, can be eliminated.

Zero balance for parts is a problem across the service as aircraft age and contracts lapse. The advent of 3-D printing has empowered maintainers to fill voids in the supply system.

The printer AWACS maintainers use has a printing area of 16 inches x 14 inches by 16 inches and allows for spools of colored plastic to be subject to high heat, melting them through a stylus that follows a plotted pattern. A manufactured piece cools rapidly at room temperature, then becomes as hard as most metals.

Ritter demonstrated how a printed mold fixture was durable enough to bend sheet metal in a hydraulic press to create necessary brackets for the airframe. The printed plastic mold reduces an eight-hour long project to less than 90 minutes.

"The printed plastic is heavier than phenolic parts," explained Ritter, referring to a type of lightweight plastic resin used in many aircraft worldwide today.

That can be a disadvantage when every pound of weight added to an aircraft means greater fuel consumption, so smaller pieces are more convenient to manufacture.



Staff Sgt. Christopher Ritter, 513th Maintenance Squadron Section Chief, and Staff Sgt. Michael Wright, 552nd Maintenance Squadron Aircraft Metals Technology, show the difference between 3-D printed parts and manufactured parts. Whether printing up something as simple as a plastic seat handle or as complex as a replacement for phenolic resin honeycomb, 3-D printing saves Tinker AFB's Team AWACS time and money while improving aircraft readiness. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Stephens)

Another advantage of the 3-D printing capability is, while it only prints plastic parts, the plastics can be up to four layers thick and be high-performance thermoplastics, static-dissipating polymers, or heat-resistance compounds.

In December 2015, the plastic met the requirements for fire and smoke safety and was approved for use. Ritter said it's for this reason that some 3-D printable parts can also be used as welding fixtures to hold metal parts while welding, whereas phenolics cannot.

"We can hold a blowtorch to a printable plastic part and, while it may turn black, it won't burn or emit any harmful vapors," he said. "Phenolics produce a toxic vapor when subject to open high heat."

Tech. Sgt. Joshua Rea, Ritter's counterpart with the 552nd Maintenance Squadron Fabrication Flight, said the printer can only be used for parts that are not under contract.

"All active-duty and Reserve Airmen in our shop use this 3-D printer regularly," said Rea. "We give our Airmen training projects during the week to maintain their familiarity with the machine. It might be a bathroom door knob handle that's no longer made or a seat assembly component. The [ACG] Reservists expand our fabrication capabilities and help us in designing new parts. We're glad to work alongside them and they are valued members of Team AWACS."

Ritter said he is optimistic for the future of tomorrow's maintainer when it comes to 3-D printing capabilities. Having been an AWACS maintainer for only two years, his past maintenance experience includes F-16, F-15 and A-10 weapon systems -- all aircraft that were built before he was born.

"If I'd had one of these 3-D printers when I started in the Air Force, it wouldn't be the same service it is today," he said. "The 3-D printer makes the maintainers' job so much easier."

The Operational Camouflage Pattern uniforms roll-out is on

Air Reserve Personnel Center Public Affairs

ANG/AFRC OCP FIELDING PLAN

KYLOC ONLINE CLOTHING WEBSITE



The following timeline depicts when the OCP Uniform will be available at AAFES Military Clothing Stores (MCS). OCPs are currently all unisex. Production of women's OCP coat and trouser have just begun and will lag initial distribution. Limited quantities of women's OCP coats and trousers are projected to be available for purchase in Feb 2019. OCP cold weather gear will also lag initial distribution and is projected to be available for purchase in Spring 2019 with priority fielding to northern tier installations.

Note: The locations and zip codes below represent the member's unit, not physical location.



Serviceable Operational Camouflage Pattern (OCP) Uniforms are now authorized to wear, with a mandatory wear date of 1 April 2021. General Officers and their Command Chiefs or Senior Enlisted Leaders are part of the initial OCP roll out today. Airmen who were previously authorized to wear OCPs can wear their OCP uniforms today as well. Name tape, USAF tape, and rank are mandatory while occupational badges are optional.

Did you know that Airmen can only purchase OCP uniforms at the following AAFES locations: Aviano AB, Charleston

AFB, Shaw AFB, MacDill AFB, and the Pentagon? Due to the complexity of this transition, the availability of the OCP uniform, and the critical need to provide uninterrupted support to deploying Airmen and Soldiers please ensure that you and your Airmen only purchase OCPs at the designated AAFES locations.

AFGM to AFI 36-2903 is now posted on the AFPC Dress and Appearance webpage along with more information on the transition.

Refer a friend to the Air Force Reserves

The Get1Now Program is a great way to keep the Air Force Reserve strong. Reservists can refer people they believe will make a great addition to the Air Force Reserve. Once a referral is verified as a qualified lead, the Reservist becomes eligible for one of many prizes. Visit the Get1Now website for info on how to refer candidates and to see the various prizes available at www.Get1Now.us.