

# 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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**RIO Connect App**



## LEADERSHIP



*Col. Kelli B. Smiley  
Commander*



*Chief Master Sergeant Billie M. Baber  
Group Superintendent*



*Master Sgt. Christopher J. Gracey  
First Sergeant*

## 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

### IR Pay: Current and Future State

At HQ RIO we are currently addressing some systemic and process problems that have impacted IR MilPay and Travel Pay for years. Although some of the root causes are outside of our control, we are executing a plan to fix what is within our control. For the past few years, HQ RIO has been on a journey to build processes that will provide the timely and accurate IR pay that our customers deserve. In June 2018, we began our transition away from email and AMRDEC to using myPers as a case management system and transparent way of managing pay submissions. On 1 November 2018, we transitioned RIO customer support to the TFSC to provide 24/7/361 support to IRs. Both of these efforts will take time to mature but we are confident these two steps are critical to building effective and efficient IR MilPay and Travel Pay processes. For further information go to <https://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1687371/ir-pay-current-and-future-state/>.

### Solicitation for 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year Award 2019

HQ RIO is now accepting nomination packages for the 2019 Outstanding Airman of the Year Award. Complete nomination packages are due to your detachment by 2359hrs local Dec. 21, 2018. Only complete packages will be considered. To learn more go to <https://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1698337/solicitation-for-12-outstanding-airmen-of-the-year-award-2019/> where you'll find the nomination guidelines for submitting a package.

### HQ RIO FY19 IR Orientation Class Dates Announced

HQ RIO Readiness Training team will be hosting the IR Orientation at HQ RIO, Buckley AFB, Colo. The course provides the Individual Reservist (IR) with tools and information to effectively manage their Air Force career. Although this training is not mandatory, it is highly recommended. The class dates can be found online at <https://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1684140/hq-rrio-fy19-ir-orientation-class-dates-announced/>.

### Blended Retirement System opt-in date is Dec. 31, 2018

The Blended Retirement System opt-in date of Dec. 31, 2018, is fast approaching with only one month left to decide. For more information go to <https://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1699992/did-you-know-blended-retirement-system/> to find resources to help Airmen understand the program and calculate service matching contributions available to those members opting into the program.

## Travel tips for Individual Reservists

did  
you  
know

When submitting your travel voucher you must attach receipts for any claimable expense that is \$75 dollars or more. But what if you lost them? Well, you must first attempt to get replacement tickets/receipts from your CTO, lodging, rental car agency, etc. You must be able to provide justification if you are unable to obtain replacements. (i.e. details of person/agency contacted and date request for replacement was made)

You can find the 'Certification of Missing or Lost Receipt' form on either the RIO Connect app, (See section 10.1) or by going to the HQ RIO Travel website at <https://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/hqrio/IRTravel.aspx>

This form must be attached to your RTS voucher when it is submitted in myPers.



### 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](http://www.Get1Now.us).

## Chief Wright to Airmen: Know your retirement options

By Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright, Secretary of the Air Force public affairs

The opt-in deadline for the Blended Retirement System is December 31, 2018.

Make your decision knowing only you can determine which system is best for you, and understand that if you opt into BRS, it is irrevocable. You only have one chance to make this choice, so it's imperative you and those involved in making financial decisions for your family fully understand the pros and cons of both retirement systems.

I encourage each of you to take all of the training available on ADLS and utilize the BRS comparison calculator on the Military Compensation website before making an appointment with your base financial counselor. The calculator provides a comparison between the current retirement system and the BRS. Doing your homework and preparing your questions ahead of time will help you get the most from your financial counseling appointment. I would like to see all eligible Airmen trained as soon as possible to give everyone time to really think about their options and be fully prepared before making this life-impacting decision.

If I had to pick just one thing I'm most passionate about as the chief master sergeant of the Air Force, without a doubt it would be taking care of our Airmen and their families professionally, physically, spiritually and financially. I'm a firm believer that these four things go hand in hand. In order to be the best, most resilient Airman possible, you have to balance your professional, physical, spiritual and financial wellness. This is why I'm always looking to arm our Airmen with knowledge to help them grow and make the best decisions possible in their lives.

Part of arming our Airmen with knowledge means providing them the tools necessary to understand and smartly plan their long-range financial goals. But this planning isn't just for Airmen with families; it's vital for all Airmen.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2018, the Department of Defense will transition to the Blended Retirement System. If you haven't heard about BRS, you need to get up to speed now and learn all you can. I need each of you to take an active interest in your financial planning by using every resource we've made available to learn about the BRS.

The BRS gives Airmen an opportunity to save their money in a portable Thrift Savings Plan while receiving matching government funds at the same time. This is the most basic layman's description of the program, which is why I need you to arm yourselves with all of the research and information available. To help you, our Air Force leaders have put together a team of experts ready to provide extensive training. Certified personal financial counselors are available at your Airman and Family Readiness Center. These experts cannot decide for you, but they can help you evaluate which retirement plan is best for you. Every Airman's situation is different, financial goals are unique to each Airman and there is no "one size fits all" decision.

Airmen who enter the Air Force on or after Jan. 1, 2018, are automatically covered by the BRS. Active component Airmen serving now and those who enter the Air Force on or before Dec.



Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright answers questions during the Air Force Materiel Command's Chief Orientation Course Feb. 8 in the AFMC headquarters building, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The course was attended by the command's senior master sergeants who have been selected for advancement to the rank of chief master sergeant. (U.S. Air Force photo/R.J. Oriez)

31, 2017, will be grandfathered under the current retirement system. Airmen with fewer than 12 years of active service on Dec. 31, 2017, or reserve component Airmen with fewer than 4,320 retirement points as of Dec. 31, 2017, have the choice to opt into the BRS. Reserve component members' "retirement points" and retirement eligibility for the defined benefit are the same under the BRS as under the current retirement systems.

There are pros and cons to every major decision we make, and this holds true for both retirement plans. I can't tell you what to do. I can't tell you what's best for your family. All I can tell you is that you need to arm yourself with knowledge. Check out the training, talk to people who can provide you with objective advice, talk to those who will be most impacted by your decision and execute your plan knowing you made the best decision for you and your family.

For more information about the BRS, visit the BRS website at <http://militarypay.defense.gov/BlendedRetirement/>.

## 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.



## AFIMSC Innovation Office seeks game-changing ideas

By Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright, Secretary of the Air Force public affairs



*AFIMSC has held two Installation and Mission Support Weapons and Tactics Conferences helping to reshape the installation from a platform to deliver services into an integrated weapons system of capabilities. The AFIMSC Innovation Office will collaborate across the Air Force enterprise to ensure events like I-WEPTAC lead to tackling ideas such as adaptive basing, base resiliency and failing installation infrastructure toward implementation. (U.S. Air Force photo by Armando Perez)*

The Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center Innovation Office launches a program in the new year to help Airmen implement their innovative ideas. The campaign, open Jan. 1-31, 2019, gives military and civilian members of mission support groups worldwide a chance to fund their ideas and partner with innovation experts.

“Our office focuses on an idea, and our goal is to collaborate across the enterprise and help lead the idea towards implementation” said Marc Vandever, AFIMSC chief innovation officer. “If we don’t implement, we’re not adding value to the organization.”

Ideas can be submitted through the online collaboration tool Ideascale at <https://usaf.ideascalegov.com/a/campaign-home/39>.

“Let’s get those brilliant ideas submitted from our civil engineer, security forces, logistics readiness, communications, force support and contracting squadrons,” Vandever said.

Full-time innovation specialists with the innovation office will collaborate with Airmen to refine their ideas. AFIMSC will fund some directly; compete others through the \$600-million Small Business Innovation and Research Program; and take the three best ideas to compete in an official AFWERX Challenge in 2019, each funded with \$200,000 to connect with global experts, start-ups and venture capitalists to prototype and implement.

“When the field submits an idea or challenge, it just doesn’t sit on someone’s desk,” Vandever said. “We put money against it and solve problems.”

The AFIMSC enterprise is at the forefront of innovation, said Brig. Gen. Brian Bruckbauer, expeditionary support director.

“We definitely feel the momentum building, and we’re finally making a name for ourselves,” Bruckbauer said. “Operations understands that installation and mission support is a big deal.”

The AFWERX program encourages partnerships with academic institutions, science and technology communities, and private industries with a vested interest in solving complex security issues.

“The goal is to enable Airmen to accomplish their mission better, faster, cheaper and more innovatively,” Vandever said.

## UTAPS Issue Resolution Tips

The Reserve Pay Office (RPO), has had many issues with Inactive Duty Training (IDT), not processing through UTAPS dating back as early as August 2018.

Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMA), should check to see if their IDTs have been certified in UTAPS by reviewing the calendar to see if the IDT shows up in black.

Individuals who have not received an LES within 12 business days are encouraged to contact the Total Force Service Center (TFSC), at 1-800-525-0102 or DSN 665-0102, to open a ticket and have their issue researched and resolved.

Members may also open a ticket themselves on the RPO website at <https://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/hqrio/IMA-RPO.aspx>, to alert customer service agents of the dates that have not been processed.