

VOL 6 ISS 4

APRIL 2019

THE READINESS REPORT

FOR INDIVIDUAL RESERVISTS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- *HQ ARPC Reduces Retirement Order Process Time*
- *Scobee Testifies Before Senate Appropriations Committee*



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

Table of Contents

- 2 About HQ RIO
- 2 News Briefs
- 3 Travel tips for Individual Reservists
- 4 HQ ARPC reduces retirement order process time
- 5 Scobee testifies before Senate Appropriations Committee

CONNECT

Web: www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/HQRIO.aspx
Email: arpc.rio.det1@us.af.mil
TFSC: 1-800-525-0102

Detachment listing can be found at:
www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/hqrio/Detachments.aspx



www.facebook.com/HQRIO



www.twitter.com/HQRIO



www.youtube.com/HeadquartersRIO



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 PIRR 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>.

This Department of Defense magazine is an authorized publication for members of the DoD. Contents of *the Readiness Report* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the DoD, or U.S. Air Force. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Headquarters Individual Reservist Readiness and Integration Organization (HQ RIO). Staff: Col. Kelli B. Smiley, Commander, HQ RIO; Master Sgt. Eric Amidon, Editor, The Readiness Report. Mailing address: HQ RIO, 18420 E. Silver Creek Ave., Bldg 390 MS68 Buckley AFB, CO 80011; 720-847-3205.

NEWS BRIEFS

All remaining FY19 AT requests must be submitted by June 1

Per AFI 36-2254 vol. 1, para 5.7.1, all reservists must have annual tour (AT) orders published by 30 June each Fiscal Year. In order to meet these requirements, all AT requests by IMAs for the remainder of FY19 must be submitted through the Air Reserve Orders Writing System-Reserve (AROWS-R) no later than June 1, 2019. For further information go to <https://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1803695/all-remaining-fy19-at-requests-must-be-submitted-by-june-1/>

MyPers Mobile Capability

MyPers recently expanded its capabilities to include a mobile-friendly platform so Airmen can access important personnel information 24/7 without having to wait to get to a CAC-enabled desktop. For further information go to <https://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1799344/mypers-mobile-capability/>

Air Force Reserve expands hiring authority to recruit, maintain readiness

To meet the needs of America's national security requirements, the Air Force Reserve Command is expanding the direct hiring authority to recruit Air Reserve Technician maintenance personnel when and where they are needed. For further information go to <https://www.afrc.af.mil/News/Article/1801499/air-force-reserve-expands-hiring-authority-to-recruit-maintain-readiness/>

Congratulations to Col Kelli Smiley

Headquarters RIO is proud to announce that Col. Smiley has been selected as the new Commander, Air Reserve Personnel Center, Air Force Reserve Command, Buckley Air Force Base, CO. As commander of Headquarters Readiness and Integration Organization, Col. Smiley has been responsible for the readiness, accountability, personnel and administrative serving of more than 8,500 Individual Reservists worldwide since June 20, 2017.

Travel tips for Individual Reservists

did
you
know?

The Department of Defense mandates that service members use an available Commercial Travel Office (CTO) to arrange official travel. When a CTO is available, but not used, reimbursement for the transportation cost is limited to the amount the government would have paid if the arrangements had been made directly through a CTO.

If the member elects to use a privately owned vehicle (POV), or privately owned conveyance (POC), to travel to and from the duty location, it must be authorized in the order as more advantageous to the government for reimbursement. A traveler may not be directed to use a POV/POC.

When not authorized reimbursement or travel by POV/POC, transportation reimbursement may be limited. After a cost comparison between the Transportation Request (TR) cost listed in the orders and the member's actual mode of transportation is completed, the member is then reimbursed the lower cost. If a TR cost is not stated in the orders, the CTO will be contacted for a quote which will be used in lieu of a TR cost in the cost comparison.

For further information go to <https://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/hqrio/IRTravel.aspx>



GET **1** NOW

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.

HQ ARPC reduces retirement order processing time

By Maj. Joe Simms



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Eric Amidon

BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. -- Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center concentrated efforts during the month of February to reduce the inventory of retirement applications for Guard and Reserve members turning 60 years of age.

The Directorate of Personnel and Total Force Services (DPT) reallocated manning to serve the retirement section, increasing the number of technicians by 50 percent, and processing approximately 2,200 retirement orders to establish health and pay benefits.

“Our primary goal was to provide each age 60 retiree their retirement order to establish their health insurance and begin the process to receive their retirement pay,” said Richard Barshney, Retirement Lead Technician. “This effort also allowed us to reduce our current inventory so we can focus on innovation, automation and process improvement within the retirements section.”

Age 60 retirements are only one type of retirement HQ ARPC processes but it typically is the most time consuming to complete, according to Barshney. Retirees must first submit a myPers ticket with a completed AF Form 2656 in and ARPC Form 83 which can be found at <https://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/retirement/>. Once the two forms are received by the retirement technician, confirmation notification is sent to the retiree as the technician begins the auditing process.

This auditing process may take a technician anywhere from one hour to two days depending on the case. During the audit, technicians must confirm the retirement application includes the member’s entire service history, verify the retiree’s point credit summary and ensure bank account information is included for pay.

Due to manning and system issues leading up to the surge, retirement specialists saw an increase in inventory stretching back several months until leadership reallocated manpower to tackle the problem.

As of March 1, HQ ARPC was processing applications for retirees turning 60 that month, and have continued processing the current month’s workload into April.

“Our goal is to be at least one month ahead and sustain that level of production,” Barshney said. “We aren’t there yet but now we are in a better position to reach that goal than we were at the beginning of the year.”

Title 10 law mandates retirees must apply for retirement pay benefits which requires them to initiate the process. It is recommended by HQ ARPC that retirees submit their application three to four months prior to their 60th birthday to allow enough time to process the order. Applications received prior to the recommended date will not be processed any earlier as applications are placed in the queue based on birth month or reduced retirement pay date, according to Lt. Col. Melissa Johnson, DPT Director of Operations.

“This three to four month lead time allows technicians to reach back to the retiree if they require any additional information and still process the order by the time they turn 60,” said Johnson. “It also allows both the retiree and technician time to adjust if there are any updates or changes to the process, such as the release of a new AF Form 2656.”

When the retirement order is processed by the technician, it is uploaded to the retiree’s myPers profile and a copy is mailed to the physical address on file. The order is also submitted to Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) for pay via an automated system when feasible, as well as regular mail, to establish a pay file.

According to Barshney, the key for current and former retirees is to understand the process and what is required of them. Retirees approaching age 60 no longer receive a notification in the mail with the steps required to receive their benefits. However, there are several tools at their disposal to find information on the process.

The HQ ARPC website <https://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil> is one tool that doesn’t require a CAC card or login. MyPers is another source of information where current or soon to be retirees are able to calculate their estimated retirement benefits and find instructions from the retirement technicians themselves. Finally, the Total Force Service Center is available 24 hours a day at 1-800-525-0102 for questions or to initiate a myPers ticket request.

Scobee testifies before Senate Appropriations Committee

By Air Force Reserve Policy Integration staff



Lt. Gen. Charles D. Luckey, Chief of Army Reserve and Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command, Lt. Gen. Richard W. Scobee, Chief of the Air Force Reserve, Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel, Chief Of The National Guard Bureau, Maj. Gen. Bradley James, Commander of the Marine Corps Forces Reserve, and Vice Adm. Luke McCollum, Chief of the Navy Reserve, testify in front of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense on Capitol Hill, April 10, 2019. The purpose of the hearing was to review the fiscal year 2020 funding request and budget justification for the National Guard and the Reserve. (U.S. Army Reserve photo by Sgt. Stephanie Ramirez)

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Lt. Gen. Richard Scobee, chief of the Air Force Reserve and Air Force Reserve Command commander, joined his counterparts from the Army, Navy, Marine and National Guard, April 10, in front of the Senate Appropriations Committee's defense subcommittee on Capitol Hill to testify on the fiscal year 2020 budget request for the National Guard and Reserve.

Chairman Richard Shelby (R- Alabama) began by stressing the importance of the Guard and Reserve components to be sufficiently manned, trained and equipped to maintain and defend our national security interest.

"Our nation's Guard and Reserve components are a vital part of the nation's total military force," said Shelby. "The men and women that make up our Reserve components also serve our nation by remaining ready to put their lives on hold, whether they are called to mobilize, voluntarily deploy or transition to a full-time support. They represent the very best of us."

Scobee provided a brief opening statement before the panelists answered questions from the subcommittee members.

"The Air Force Reserve improved our overall readiness during the past year," said Scobee. "We are better prepared at the unit level and our individual readiness has increased."

Scobee thanked the committee for their continued support and diligent efforts to ensure predictable funding and said the on-time allocation of the Fiscal Year 2019 budget greatly bolstered Air Force Reserve readiness.

The general also asked the sub-committee to help improve the quality of life for Reserve Citizen Airmen by supporting legislation to authorize dual status Air Reserve Technicians to receive coverage under the Tricare Reserve Select health care plan.

"This initiative would improve health care across our Air Force Reserve for our Air Reserve Technicians and their families, and significantly increase the retention of our ARTs, our most challenging duty status."

Chairman Shelby asked Scobee about the Air Force Reserve's focus on improving personnel programs and meeting end strength goals, and how the budget request helps invigorate these measures.

"All of the changes we are making in our personnel systems are to address readiness," said Scobee. "Personnel readiness starts with making sure we meet our end strength."

Scobee specifically emphasized three areas: medical readiness, updating antiquated systems and converting 1,200 ART positions to Active Guard and Reserve over a three year period. The ART to AGR conversion will give Airmen a pay status that best suits the needs of Airmen and their families and bolsters readiness. The Reserve also had a backlog in medical readiness and because of the on-time appropriations, it is now down to zero.

Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Missouri) said the cyber-warrior space has always been a unique challenge.

"I've always thought there was a unique opportunity for the Guard and the Reserve to have the cyber-warrior who's out there every day in another capacity seeing what's happening," said Blunt. "I think of a scenario of where people who aren't in the full-time service bring in a different set of facts and understandings to their effort to be a cyber-warrior."

Scobee said that the Reserve stood up their first cyber wing in San Antonio but the cyber mission is also spread out throughout the country.

"What we are able to do is that we gain significant talent from industry where they have great expertise...all the tech industry that you can imagine and then we bring that to bear," said Scobee.

Scobee said that recruiting and retaining part-time Airmen are not a challenge.

"The things that you can do in the military are much different than you might be able to do in civil society. So it's interesting to them which really helps with our retention," said Scobee.

A rebroadcast of the hearing can be viewed here: <https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/hearings/review-of-the-fy2020-budget-request-for-the-national-guard-and-reserve>

RIO Connect IMA Mobile Wingman App



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

