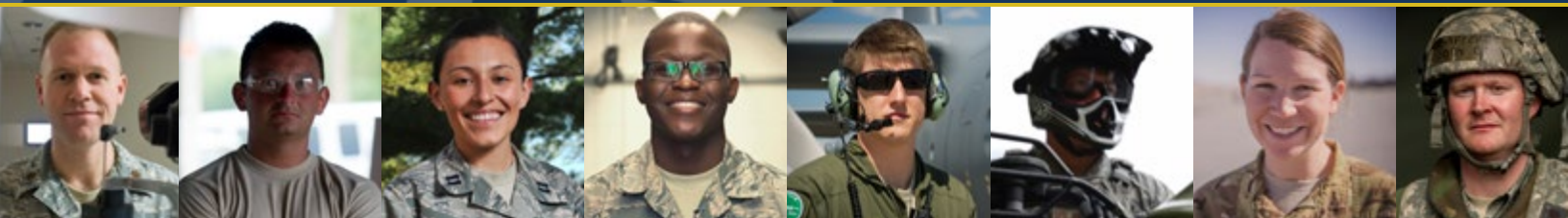


THE READINESS REPORT

FOR INDIVIDUAL RESERVISTS

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

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LEADERSHIP



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Commander*



*Chief Master Sergeant Billie M. Baber
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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>.

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; 720-847-3781.

NEWS BRIEFS

ETP letter required for all AT requests for remainder of FY18

IMAs must submit an Exception to Policy (ETP) letter to their servicing detachment on any Annual Tour orders requests for the remainder of this fiscal year.

In accordance with AFI 36-2254, Volume 1, paragraph 5.7.1, all Reservists must have AT orders published by 30 June of each fiscal year.

Paragraph 5.7.2 requires a justification/explanation for orders requests received after 1 June, to be approved by the HQ RIO Commander or designated representative.

The ETP template is available on the HQ RIO website.

Aug 12th per-diem policy changed for long-term TDYs

Please be aware that as of midnight, August 12, 2018, the flat rate per-diem for long term TDY (+30 days) has changed.

Effective immediately the following per-diem rules apply:

- *Lodging receipts are required for all lodging payments*
- *Actual cost of lodging not to exceed the full locality lodging per-diem rate will be paid*
- *Full meals and incidental expense (M&IE) will no longer be reduced by 75% or 55%*

For more information, see the following resources:

- [Flat Rate Per-Diem Transition FAQs](#)
- [Flat-Rate Per Diem Transition Example 1, 2, 3, 4, 5](#)

If you need additional information or would like to submit a question to the Travel Assistance Center, please go to Travel Explorer (Trax), in the DTMO Passport Portal [here](#).

Reserve School Selection Board Public Release

Air Reserve Personnel Center officials will release the results from the semi-annual Reserve School Selection Board Friday, Aug. 17, 2018, at 1 p.m. MT. The selection list will be accessible on [myPers](#) and the [ARPC website](#) at that time.

The selection board convened at the Center July 9-13 to match selected members to their respective schools based upon the needs of the Air Force Reserve and consideration for the individual's school preferences. Board members selected 225 primary and 81 alternate members of 536 officers considered.

For more information, call the Total Force Service Center at 1-800-525-0102. Questions specific to the RSSB process can also be directly addressed by emailing: arpc.dpaf.rssb@us.af.mil.

Career tips for Individual Reservists

did
you
know?

Did you know that when making airline reservations DoD Policy states that it is mandatory for travelers to make travel arrangements through an electronic travel system (i.e., DTS) when it is available or, if it is not available, through an available Travel Management Company (TMC) (JTR paragraph 010201-C1).

Any DoD traveler who cannot reach the TMC must contact the AO for assistance. The only time travelers may be authorized to bypass the TMC to make airline reservations is when personal travel to a leave point is combined with the TDY but contact your servicing TMC with specifics for the TDY to obtain official permission to bypass.

TFSC Call Center Agents Move to 24-Hour Operations



U.S. Air Force Illustration by Master Sgt. Christian Michaels

Effective Aug. 1, 2018, the Air Reserve Personnel Center's call center will centralize at the Air Force Personnel Center call center at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. With this centralization, ARPC's more than 1.3 million customers will now have access to Total Force Service Center (TFSC) call agents 24/7, 361 days a year by calling 1-800-525-0102.

Centralization of the call center is expected to reduce call wait times and allow ARPC technicians to focus on executing personnel programs including evaluations and retirements. The Center's mission is to provide exceptional personnel services for the customer.

This centralization not only offers Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard and retired Airmen of all components extended hours of access, but also shorter wait times, quicker responses and a better customer service experience.

Antarctic airlift overcomes polar hurdles

By Staff Sgt. Daniel Liddicoet, 446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs



A Bell 212, operated by Antarctic New Zealand, is prepared to be loaded onto a C-17 Globemaster III Feb. 17, 2018 near McMurdo Station in Antarctica. Members of the 304th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron operated aircraft while supporting the U.S. Antarctic Program through Operation Deep Freeze. (Courtesy Photo)

For the first time in the 63-year history of Operation Deep Freeze (ODF), members of the 304th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron flew six daily missions in a row, making up for a troublesome weather situation.

"We were challenged with quite a few delays caused by winter storms, which put us behind to start the season,"

said Lt. Col. Trace Dotson, the 304th EAS commander. "We were so far behind that our team flew six days in a row once the weather cleared."

While working through weather issues, Airmen also had to overcome unexpected maintenance hurdles. But in another first, the 304th AES operated an upgraded C-17 aircraft,

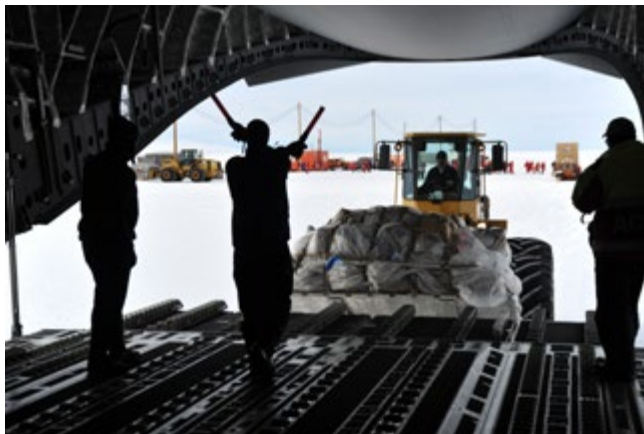
which comes equipped with navigation systems that proved to be reliable in the Antarctic, where knowing your exact location in whiteout conditions is of paramount importance.

“We unexpectedly got to test a Block 21 C-17 aircraft this year in Antarctica,” Dotson said. “We had a maintenance issue with our assigned aircraft that wouldn’t allow us to fly it back to Antarctica, so we swapped aircraft in the middle of the deployment to a Block 21 C-17.”

In spite of these weather and maintenance challenges, the men and women of the 304th EAS came together as a team and accomplished the mission.

“We have amazing professionals at McChord who make it possible to support the National Science Foundation’s research in Antarctica,” Dotson said. “Every problem we encountered was met with a ‘can-do’ attitude by our aircrew, our maintainers, and our support teams in the 62nd and 446th Airlift Wings. It’s a true honor to work with Airmen and partners that take pride in their work.”

Because of their efforts, Airmen from the 304th EAS opened a new capability to support science and research conducted by the U.S. Antarctic Program by providing year-round access to the polar continent through mid-winter flights. This extended operating season enables additional experiments to be performed in the sub-zero temperatures at McMurdo Station.



Cargo is loaded onto a C-17 Globemaster III on Feb. 9, 2018, near McMurdo Station in Antarctica. Members of the 304th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron operated aircraft while supporting the U.S. Antarctic Program through Operation Deep Freeze. (Courtesy Photo)

“This last season was an absolute success,” said Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Emmert, 304th EAS superintendent. “We really expanded our capabilities to demonstrate that we could move larger equipment during the mid-winter months.”

In addition to supporting ODF, members of the 304th EAS participated in the City of Christchurch’s biannual IceFest, which allows the New Zealand population to celebrate



A C-17 Globemaster III sits in the frigid cold near McMurdo Station in Antarctica on Feb. 9, 2018. Members of the 304th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron operated aircraft while supporting the U.S. Antarctic Program through Operation Deep Freeze. (Courtesy Photo)

the start of the Antarctic season. The culminating event of IceFest is an Air Day where the people of Christchurch—where ODF missions are generated from—are invited out to the airfield.

“The people of Christchurch really look forward to Air Day and we were able to interact with more than 3,500 people from the community,” Dotson said. “The interactions between our aircrew and the local citizens really build on the amazing relationship we have with Christchurch and New Zealand as a whole.”

Looking ahead to planning for the next season, McMurdo Station will begin a major rebuild in fiscal year 2019 that will last an estimated 8-10 years.

“This rebuild will consolidate many of the current 104 buildings down to around six buildings, increasing energy and logistical efficiency, reducing manpower needs and making for a more efficient environment in which to conduct science,” Dotson said.

The Air Force will play a vital role in these planned renovations, as they will be responsible to transport much of the personnel, equipment and supplies so the construction projects can be completed on time. But if the actions of the 304th EAS are indicative of things to come, Airmen will continue to thrive and succeed in one of the most environmentally challenging locales in the world.

ASTS Conducts TCCC Training at Patriot Warrior

By Staff Sgt. Xavier Lockley, 927th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs



Lt. Col. Rafael Palacios, 927th Aeromedical Staging Squadron medical technician administers gauze on a patient during Tactical Combat Casualty Care training during Exercise Patriot Warrior on Aug. 12, 2018 at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. Patriot Warrior is an exercise that provides Reserve Citizen Airmen with critical skills for when they deploy. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Xavier Lockley)

Members of the 927th Aeromedical Staging Squadron participated in patient rescue scenarios during the Tactical Combat Casualty Care training at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, Aug. 12.

TCCC is used to treat preventable causes of death on the battlefield, but Airmen can be placed in dangerous predicaments if they aren't careful. Critical thinking and decision-making skills were put to the test in this training.

In the scenarios, Airmen were faced with a situation where they had to enter an area with continuous warfighting, treat their injured patients and evacuate them into a transport vehicle where the patient would be taken to the nearest treatment facility.

"I felt like this portion of training really made me realize exactly what a deployed environment could consist of," said Senior Airman Len McPhearson 927th ASTS technician. "Upon arrival we faced gunfire but still focused on saving our patients, we were able to rescue them from gunfire, treat them, and transport them over to the vehicle which would take them to the closest treatment area."

The training is used to provide Airmen with a realistic perspective of what dangers they could possibly face attempting to save a patient's life.

"We wanted TCCC to present our Airmen the best possible example of some things they could potentially encounter in the field," said Master Sgt. James Finley, 927 ASTS medical technician. "The men and women in the squadron are going to come away from this training with a better understanding of how to evaluate a situation and make the best possible decision for themselves and the patients under duress."

In pressured situations, it is extremely crucial for Airmen to be at their best. However, mistakes can happen in a training environment, the important part is to learn from them.

"When we did the after-action breakdown, I and others with the help of the instructors realized things that we need to clean up," McPhearson said. "We're fortunate to have this training at Patriot Warrior because this is only going to enhance our capabilities later down the line in a deployed atmosphere."

Patriot Warrior is an exercise that readies expeditionary Reserve Citizen Airmen for world-wide deployments and provides knowledge and experience to strengthen home station training programs.



RIO Connect IMA Mobile Wingman App

Official app of HQ RIO

Whether you're on the road TDY or at home, the RIO Connect IMA Mobile Wingman App is everywhere you are with the information you need to manage your Air Force Reserve career. It is the official mobile app of the Headquarters Individual Reservist Readiness and Integration Organization (HQ RIO) and is designed for Individual Reservists.



Calling all storytellers! Air Force officials are offering Airmen the chance to create their own recruiting video through the We Are Airmen 2018 Recruiting Video Contest.

The top videos will be shown at the Air Force Association's Air, Space & Cyber Conference in National Harbor, Maryland, Sept. 17-19. Finalists will be flown to Washington, D.C., with free admission to the AFA Conference and lunch with Wright. The winning video will be announced during one of the conference's senior leader keynote addresses. Visit <http://www.aetc.af.mil/About-Us/We-Are-Airmen-Video-Contest/> for full details.

Refer a friend to the AFR

The Get1Now Program is a great way to keep the Air Force Reserve strong. Reservists can refer people they believe will make good members of 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 the various prizes available:
www.Get1Now.us.

