

THE **READINESS REPORT**

FOR INDIVIDUAL RESERVISTS

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Headquarters Individual Reservist Readiness and Integration Organization*

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RIO Connect - IMA Mobile Wingman



LEADERSHIP



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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

TRICARE West participants must update auto-payments

Due to changes to TRICARE that went into effect Jan. 1, members in the TRICARE West region who utilize TRICARE for their health insurance must update their insurance premium payment method with the new insurance provider, or face dis-enrollment.

On Jan. 1, 2018, Health Net Federal Services replaced United Healthcare as the insurance provider for TRICARE West. TRICARE West includes: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa (except the Rock Island Arsenal area), Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri (except the St. Louis area), Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas (areas of Western Texas only), Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

To update your insurance premium payment method, contact HNFS at 844-866-9378, or visit www.tricare-west.com.

CY19 EDEB Invitation to Apply | IR Susp: March 11, 2018

The CY19 Air Force Reserve Enlisted Developmental Education Board (EDEB) will convene Monday, May 14, 2018, at the Air Reserve Personnel Center, Buckley Air Force Base, Colo. The Invitation to Apply can be found [here](#) or via the myPers scrolling banner.

The CY19 EDEB application process will now go through vPC rather than email. To apply, log into the myPers vPC Dashboard, and the EDEB application will be accessible under the "Action Requests" tab. Individual Reservists must ensure their package is routed to their servicing [HQ RIO Detachment](#) no later than March 11, 2018.

For more information, call the Total Force Service Center at 1-800-525-0102. Questions specific to the EDEB process can be directed to arpc.dpaf.edeb@us.af.mil.

Get 1 Now program offers rewards for referrals

The Get1Now Program is a great way for Reservists to keep the Air Force Reserve strong by recommending qualified people with whom they wish to serve. You can refer someone you believe will make a good member of the Air Force Reserve. Once your referral is verified as a qualified lead, you become eligible for one of many awards.

Visit the Get1Now website for information on how to refer candidates, as well as the various prizes available for making qualifying referrals: www.Get1Now.us.



Did You Know?

Career tips for Individual Reservists

Did you know, when filing for IDT travel reimbursement, travelers must manually obtain three signatures - certifying official, authorizer and member - on their 40As? UTAPS does not generate these signatures automatically.

Members may have their 40As manually signed (electronic or wet) or may provide a color copy (PDF) of their UTAPS calendar (reflecting black for paid IDTs), along with copies of 40As and any receipts or other documentation.

Other common IDT travel claim errors: When performing active duty or annual tour in conjunction with IDTs, members must provide their DD Form 1351-2, OF1164 (SF1164 is no longer accepted), AF Form 938, certified AF 40As, and all required receipts; If you must resubmit, please resubmit full package.

Additional travel resources for Individual Reservists are available at <http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/HQRIO/IRTravel/>

2017: a year of changes, improvements

By Col. Kelli B. Smiley, commander, HQ RIO

Headquarters Individual Reservist Readiness and Integration Organization filled last year with changes in personnel, office moves and consolidation, new software implementation to better support our customers and the launch of a cutting-edge mobile app. In addition to providing readiness support to more than 7,000 IRs, we equipped hundreds to deploy, support as exercise leaders and respond to natural disasters.

We launched 2017 with the RIO Connect IMA Mobile Wingman App. Since its release on Feb. 7, 2017, more than 3,400 users have installed the app to access the information needed to manage their Air Force careers. We continue refining this tool to provide user-friendly information and secure access to online services such as webmail, Defense Travel Systems (DTS) and myPay. We will release more about this capability in the coming weeks.

We also implemented the myPers Console personnel program, a customer relationship management tool that empowers RIO personnel technicians to track, access and work on customer service requests while enabling customers to view their own service requests and updates. Also, the RIO website now has links to even more relevant resources and training.

In addition to these initiatives, we had several leadership changes. I assumed command as HQ RIO's third commander on June 12, 2017, and our new director of operations, Ms. Dianne Ferrarini, who already strives to streamline and enhance our many systems and processes.

Two major offices moved in 2017, the biggest of which was the relocation of the IR Travel Office from Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Georgia, to the HQ RIO offices at Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado. Ending in November after a tremendous six month effort, the move marked the first time since RIO's activation in 2014 that all HQ functions were located under one roof.

The consolidation of RIO Detachment 8 aimed to better serve IRs stationed in Europe. The operating location at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, closed its doors in the fall and all Det 8 staff now work out of the main office at U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, Germany.

Along with these milestone events, RIO professionals labored to equip IRs for their many missions and to better manage their careers. The IR Travel Office processed or reviewed more than 27,000 vouchers for payment and answered more than 50,000 phone calls and emails. The Reserve Pay Office and our orders writers likewise wrote and processed tens of thousands of orders for duty and payment.

Responsible for ensuring IRs are ready and able to support deployments and exercises, the RIO readiness section supported more than 20 deployments to six U.S. combatant commands, ensured more than 100 IRs were in place to support exercises and postured more than 70 Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers for responses to Hurricane Harvey, Irma and Maria, as well as to support the President of the United States.

I am fortunate to have met many of you during my 2017 detachment visits. Thank you for your time and honest feedback. I heard your concerns and want to assure you the RIO team works to improve your Airman experience. In alignment with your input, the RIO mission and vision, I released three RIO Strategic Priorities to drive our 2018 agenda. We commit to these priorities and to provide the Air Force the:

Right Airmen—Recruit, support and retain our world-class talent

Ready and Available—Exceed readiness and mobility capabilities

Relationship-minded—Connect with and deliver value to military and community partners

HQ RIO's Top 3 Priorities

Right Airmen—Recruit, support and retain our world-class talent

Ready and Available—Exceed readiness and mobility capabilities

Relationship-minded—Connect with and deliver value to military and community partners

Underpinning each of these priorities is our focus to improve our processes and the level of customer service we provide to each Airman. We partner with Headquarters Air Force and Air Force Reserve Command to embrace new technology solutions as well as address policy and processes that need to be revisited to best support our mission.

Thank you for what you do each and every day to support our great nation. Your sacrifices are noted and appreciated. I am honored to work alongside this team of committed RIO professionals, they are committed to improving RIO operations, the IR program and our support to each and every IR. They tirelessly face tough challenges to make this program the best in the Air Force Reserve. This team is honored to serve each of you!

Deserving Airman commissioning opportunity announced

The Pacific Command Joint Intelligence Operations Center (JIOC) Air Force Reserve Intelligence Directorate is holding a Deserving Airman Commissioning Program (DACP) Board April 24-26, 2018.

Selected candidates will fill a 14N1, Intelligence Analyst position at one of PACOM JIOCs Joint Detachments located at Honolulu, Hawaii, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Ft Worth, Texas, or Denver, Colorado. The billets will be Individual Mobilization Augmentee.

The board is open to qualified candidates from any AFSC with an Active TS Clearance and SCI eligibility. Candidates must be participating enlisted reservists with a four-year degree and under the age of 40 by the time of commissioning. Interested candidates from any AFSC are highly encouraged to apply. Candidates need to meet eligibility criteria as identified in AFI 36-2005, *Appointment in Commissioned Grades and Designation and Assignment in Professional Categories -- Reserve of the Air Force and United States Air Force*.

Selected candidates will attend Officer Training School at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, followed by Intelligence Officer Training at Goodfellow AFB, Texas.



How to Apply:

Please reference [AFI 36-2005](#) for required forms, and the [PACOM JIOC AFELM RID DACP Guide](#) for a complete list of application requirements.

Required items for DACP application include:

- Letter from Member to Board
- Unit Commander's Quality Force Review and Letter of Endorsement
- Resume (military and civilian experience)
- Last 5 EPRs
- Letters of Recommendations (no more than 3)
- Official AFOQT Scores
- Current Official Photo (full length)

Please submit completed packages via encrypted email, or [AMRDEC-SAFE](#), to HQ RIO Detachment 2 by March 23, 2018. Candidates will be contacted by April 17 if they qualify for the DACP board interviews.

About PACOM JIOC

PACOM JIOC produces and disseminates intelligence on political, military and asymmetric threats impacting U.S. and allied interests throughout the Asia-Pacific theater of operations. IMAs assigned to the PACOM JIOC provide 24-hour, all-source, global intelligence support for all military forces assigned to the PACOM, as well as warfighters operating in the Pacific theater. For more details on the PACOM JIOC mission and Intelligence Analyst duties please reference this article: <http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1319479/pacom-jioc-seeks-qualified-intel-airmen/>.

For questions regarding application content and eligibility criteria contact [HQ RIO Detachment 2](#). For information on the duty position please contact PACOM JIOC RID at (808) 445-4432. Please note Det 2 and PACOM JIOC RID should only be contacted for questions regarding the application content, eligibility criteria and the duty position. For all other questions, reference the PACOM JIOC DACP Application Guide and AFI 36-2005, *Appointment in Commissioned Grades and Designation and Assignment in Professional Categories -- Reserve of the Air Force and United States Air Force*.

Hurricanes, wildfires keep AF EPLOs busy in 2017

By Senior Master Sgt. Timm Huffman

With massive category 5 hurricanes slamming the Gulf Coast, East Coast, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands, and wildfires raging in the West, 2017 was a busy year for the 88 Individual Mobilization Augmentees who serve as liaisons between the Air Force and local, state, tribal, territories and federal disaster response authorities.

These Reserve Citizen Airmen Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers were called on 197 times to support real-world disasters, National Special Security Events and Special Event Assessment Rating Events.

Joe Sanders, the deputy director of the National Security Emergency Preparedness Directorate, which is responsible for employing EPLO capabilities, said EPLOs deployed to support civil authorities twice as many times in 2017 as they did in 2015 and 2016 combined.

The deputy director, himself a former EPLO, said NSEP's team of Air Force Reservists showed their dedication by deploying for an average of more than 20 days each. The longest deployment lasted more than 60 days, with the Airman traveling directly from Hurricane Harvey, to Irma, to Maria.

Sanders noted that NSEP's reservists are not strangers to the areas of responsibility for which they support. Most of them live locally and are often impacted by the very disasters they are responding to. He added that one EPLO was on duty when he received a call that Hurricane Irma had blown the roof off his home.

At the core of their job, EPLOs are tasked to facilitate defense support of civil authorities.

"They represent Air Force capabilities to the interagency partners so the responders don't have to look anywhere but within their own teams for a response," said Sanders.

He added that EPLOs are part of a joint team that supports a defense coordinating officer. DCOs are integrated within each of the 10 FEMA Regional Response Coordination Centers located throughout the Continental United States. The DoD is one of 27 federal agencies that respond to disasters. It is the responsibility of each defense coordinating officer to represent the DoD during a disaster, NSSE or SEAR event.

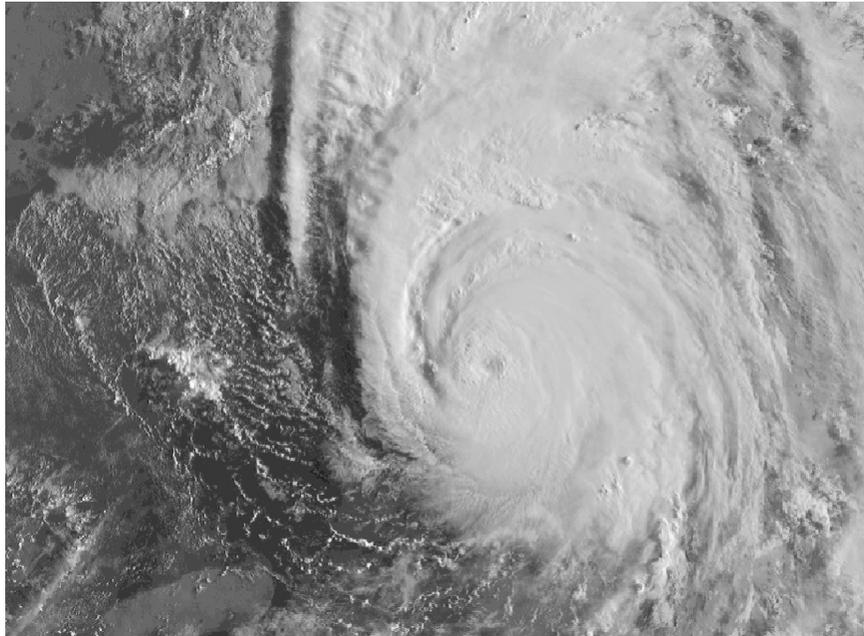
In 2017, EPLO deployments translated into 235 real-world FEMA mission assignments requiring DoD capabilities to complete, totaling over \$1.87 billion in support. This included staging of FEMA supplies at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Seguin Airfield for Hurricane Harvey, where over 1,300 tractor trailer trucks and millions of dollars of relief supplies were staged before being sent to those impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

In addition to playing a part in the response to the various natural disasters in 2017, EPLOs also supported a number of high-visibility national special security events and special event assessment rating events. These events included the presidential inauguration, the 2017 Super Bowl, Independence Day celebrations on the National Mall and the National Boy Scout Jamboree in West Virginia. They also supported four exercises, including the bi-national Vigilant Shield 2017.

All of that support would not have been possible without the work EPLOs do in the "Phase Zero" planning. This planning takes place during the time hurricanes are less prevalent, roughly December through May. EPLOs spend this time building relationships with emergency response entities, reviewing disaster response plans for their assigned area of responsibility, and networking with emergency managers at Air Force installations. They also provide training on how the National Response Framework and National Incident Management System works in response to a disaster or event.

In 2017, the NSEP team visited more than 73 Air Force installations, training more than 4,100 emergency management personnel. They also met with and trained more than 200 wing and vice wing commanders and 350-plus mission support personnel.

(Continued on page 7)



VLPAD AFROTC opportunity for lieutenant colonels, selects

A Total Force AFROTC Detachment Commander Supplemental Selection Board will convene March 6-9, 2018, to consider applicants for summer 2018 AFROTC detachment commander vacancies. Application deadline for consideration by the selection board is March 4, 2018.

To mitigate Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) Detachment Commander short falls, an AFROTC Detachment Commander Voluntary Limited Period of Active Duty (VLPAD) program has been implemented. The AFROTC Detachment Commander VLPAD program provides Air Reserve Component (ARC) line of the Air Force (LAF) officers in the grade of lieutenant colonel the opportunity to apply for extended active duty (EAD) to fill vacant AFROTC Detachment Commander positions for a period of three years and one day. ARC officers selected for this program will be ordered to EAD as outlined in AFI 36-2008, Voluntary Extended Active Duty (EAD) for Air Reserve Commissioned Officers.

Eligibility Criteria

- Must be a LAF officer in the grades of Lt Col or Lt Col Selects
- Must be medically qualified for EAD
- Must have no previous referral Officer Performance Reports (OPRs), referral comments or Unfavorable Information Files (UIFs)
- Must have a master's degree
- Must be released from respective Air Reserve Component (ARC) unless assigned to the Nonparticipating Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) or the Standby Reserve

Additional Guidelines

- Limited EAD tour lengths will be three years and one day
- NOTE: When necessary, officers are authorized initial tour lengths of less than three years and one day to avoid entering active duty retirement sanctuary. In accordance with Title 10, USC 12686(b), officers may then waive sanctuary rights for subsequent active duty tours not exceeding 179 days each to allow officers to serve the minimum three year and one day tour length requirement.
- Officers will not be eligible for deployment consideration.
- Officers will not be eligible for promotion on the Active Duty List (ADL)
- Officers will remain on the Reserve Active Status List (RASL) and will meet mandatory Reserve promotion boards when eligible. NOTE: Officers will not be eligible for position/unit vacancy promotion consideration
- Officers previously separated from active duty due to non-selection for promotion are eligible to apply if they have been subsequently promoted while in the ARC
- Officers separated from active duty for strength reduction that received Voluntary Separation Incentive (VSI), Special Separations Benefit (SSB), or Voluntary Separation Pay (VSP) may be subject to recoupment of any separation incentive, benefit, or pay
- Officers will not have return rights to their current ARC position upon completion of the EAD tour. Officers wishing to apply for a Reserve or Guard position upon completion of their EAD tour must contact an in-Service Recruiter for guidance and procedures.

Details on application packages can be found in the Awards and Boards section of the HQ RIO website. Additional information is available at https://mypers.af.mil/app/answers/detail/a_id/32356. Please direct any questions or concerns to your servicing HQ RIO Detachment.

(EPLOs, Continued from Page 6)

The relationships built in the off-season are crucial when the weather takes a turn for the worse. These Airmen are a critical link in post-disaster response efforts. They sit in emergency management operations centers, FEMA RRCCs and at higher headquarters, where they keep a finger on the pulse of the response effort.

During Hurricane Irma, NSEP activated Col. Paul Pinkstaff and integrated him into the FEMA Region IV RRCC in Atlanta, Georgia. According to Pinkstaff, EPLOs help solve problems that states identify to the lead agency as gaps in their response capabilities, these gaps are then translated into mission assignment which then become requests for capabilities to DOD. EPLOs vet these requests in coordination with the defense coordinating officer and then forward them to the appropriate level for approval, in some instances up to the Secretary of Defense. Sanders said the ultimate goal for the EPLO program is to represent Air Force capabilities in emergency situations, providing solutions that save lives, mitigate suffering and protect property.