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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 - IMA Mobile Wingman



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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 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>.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Deadline to schedule FY19 IDTs set for Aug. 15

All Individual Reservists must schedule their FY19 IDTs in UTAPSwab no later than Aug. 15, per AFI 36-2254, vol. 1, para. 4.2.1.2..

To schedule IDTs, members must work with their active-component supervisor to establish a schedule and then log-in to UTAPSwab (<https://utapsweb.afrc.af.mil/utapsweb/>) to populate their annual calendar.

Changes to the schedule can be made at a later time if requirements change.

IRs who need help with UTAPSwab can watch a YouTube UTAPSwab video that will step through the whole process: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/Y3wOagFWaTo>. Additionally, the "Help" tab within UTAPSwab has a variety of system resources.

Additional questions and concerns can be directed to the member's servicing [HQ RIO Detachment](#).

CY19 EDEB results released

Air Reserve Personnel Center officials released the results from the CY19 Enlisted Developmental Education Board, July 12. The selection can be found [here](#).

The selection board convened at HQ ARPC May 14-18, 2018, 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 55 primary and 53 alternate members of 493 enlisted considered.

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

AY19/20 RDEDB Invitation to Apply

The Academic Year 2019/2020 Air Force Reserve Developmental Education Designation Board (RDEDB) will convene Oct 22, 2018, at the Air Reserve Personnel Center, Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado

Both the Invitation to Apply and RDEDB Application can be accessed via the [myPers](#) scrolling banner or on the Force Development page. Additionally, the Invitation to Apply can be found on the [ARPC public website](#), by clicking on Force Development on the Total Force Service Center banner, drop down on Force Development and scroll down to "Current Invitation to Apply."

To apply, log in to the myPers vPC Dashboard and the RDEDB application will be accessible under the "Action Requests" tab. Applications are due to ARPC no later than Sep 21, 2018, at 4:30 p.m. MT; however, applicants are urged to check with their units for local deadlines.

More information specific to the RDEDB process, to include application routing instruction, can be directly addressed by emailing: arpc.dpaf.rdedb@us.af.mil. If you prefer to call, please contact the Total Force Service Center at 1-800-525-0102.

Did You Know?

Career tips for Individual Reservists

Did you know the AFI governing the Individual Reserve program was just updated? AFI 36-2629, Individual Reserve Management, prescribes administrative control guidance, responsibilities and administrative management procedures for Individual Mobilization Augmentees and Participating Individual Ready Reservists.

A new edition of the AFI was released July 5.

The update is the first significant revision of the AFI since before Headquarters Individual Reservist Readiness and Integration Organization was activated in 2014 and the program was under the control of the Readiness Management Group. It is important for IRs to review the new AFI as it contains significant changes that could impact a member's career.

AFI 36-2629 is available on the AF E-Publishing website: https://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/af_re/publication/afi36-2629/afi36-2629.pdf. After reviewing the updated Air Force Instruction, members can direct questions to their servicing [HQ RIO Detachment](#).

New hours for IR Travel aim to improve accuracy, timeliness

In order to improve the timeliness and accuracy of travel voucher processing, the IR Travel Office has changed its customer service phone hours.

New hours are:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:
7:00 AM – 1:00 PM (MT)

Wednesdays: Closed for training
Phone: 720-847-3501 (DSN 847)

For the most efficient and timely service, travel vouchers and inquiries should be submitted in myPers.

To check on the status of a voucher submitted through email, you may open an incident in myPers and include the time and date you sent the email voucher. Visit

<http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/HQRIO/IRTravel/> for instructions.

Please refer to the [IR Travel Companion](#) for voucher-filing instructions.



The IR Travel Office is located at HQ RIO, within the Ar Reserve Personnel Center, Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado. (Courtesy photo)

Post 9/11 G.I. Bill policy change to impact some Reservist's ability to transfer benefits to dependents

The Department of Defense issued a substantive change today to its policy on the transfer by service members in the uniformed services of Post-9/11 GI Bill educational benefits to eligible family member recipients.

Effective one year from the date of this change, eligibility to transfer those benefits will be limited to service members with less than 16 years of total active-duty or selected reserve service, as applicable.

Previously, there were no restrictions on when a service member could transfer educational benefits to their family members. The provision that requires a service member to have at least six years of service to apply to transfer benefits remains unchanged in the policy.

Focus on Retention

"After a thorough review of the policy, we saw a need to focus on retention in a time of increased growth of the armed forces," said Stephanie Miller, director of accessions policy in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. "This change continues to allow career service members that earned this benefit to share it with their family members while they continue to serve."

This change is an important step to preserve the distinction of transferability as a retention incentive, she added.

If service members fail to fulfill their service obligation because of a "force shaping" event -- such as officers involuntarily separated as a result of being twice passed over for promotion or enlisted personnel involuntarily separated as a result of failure to meet minimum retention standards, such as high year of tenure -- the change will allow them to retain their eligibility to transfer education benefits even if they haven't served the entirety of their obligated service commitment through no fault of their own.

All approvals for transferability of Post-9/11 GI Bill continue to require a four-year commitment in the armed forces and, more importantly, the member must be eligible to be retained for four years from the date of election, officials said.

The policy affects service members in the uniformed services, which includes the U.S. Coast Guard as well as the commissioned members of the U.S. Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Air Force transitions to a single combat uniform

By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Air Force leaders announced the service will move to a single combat utility uniform, adopting the Operational Camouflage Pattern, or OCP, already in use by the Army and Airmen in combat zones and in certain jobs across the Air Force.

Starting Oct. 1, 2018, Airmen who have serviceable OCPs may wear the uniform, and Airmen can purchase OCPs at Army and Air Force Exchange Services at the following locations: Aviano Air Base, Italy; Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina; Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina; and MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. These initial locations will allow uniform manufacturers to produce additional stocks for other locations, eventually outfitting the total force over the coming months.

The service will fully transition to OCPs by April 1, 2021.

Details on the uniform change for Individual Reservists are forthcoming. Information on the uniform replacement process is available on the [Resources section](#) of the HQ RIO website.

Air Force leaders decided to transition to the OCP following feedback from Airmen that it is the best, battle-tested utility uniform available. It will also eliminate the need to maintain two separate uniforms – one for in-garrison and one for deployments – and it is a visible reminder of the service's identity as a joint warfighting force, Air Force officials said.

"We looked at all utility uniforms currently in our inventory to find the best-of-breed," said Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. David L. Goldfein. "We spoke to and listened to Airmen on this, and the OCP was the clear choice."

those conducting patrols in the Middle East," he said.

More than 100,000 Airmen have been issued or are already wearing OCPs or equivalent two-piece flight suits—from Airmen deployed to Air Forces Central Command, to those serving in Air Force Special Operations Command, and most recently, aircrews in Air Mobility Command and defenders in Air Force Global Strike Command.

Preserving service & squadron identity

As with the Battle Dress Uniform, or BDU, worn by all services until about 10 years ago, the OCP Airmen wear will have distinctive Air Force features. The name tape and Air Force lettering will be a spice-brown color,



and T-shirts and belts will be tan. Most rank will also be in spice-brown thread.

Squadron patches will also be worn on the OCP, said Goldfein. Bringing back squadron patches was among the recommendations made by Airmen as part of the ongoing effort to revitalize squadrons.

"Unit patches express squadron identity and heritage – something our Airmen are incredibly proud of and want to celebrate," he said.

Unit patches and special functional identifiers (Security Forces, Fire, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Tactical Air Control Party, Combat Controller, etc.) will be attached to Velcro fabric on the sleeves. All patches will be in subdued colors; headquarters patches and the U.S. flag will be worn on the right shoulder, and unit patches and authorized

OCP Frequently Asked Questions

"The uniform works in all climates—from Minot to Manbij—and across the spectrum of missions we perform," Goldfein added. "It's suitable for our Airmen working on a flight line in Northern Tier states and for

duty identifiers will be worn on the left shoulder.

Airmen can find guidance for proper wear of the uniform in the coming months via an Air Force Guidance Memorandum, followed by updates published in AFI 36-2903.

Proven for better fit and functionality

Feedback from the force indicated Airmen find the OCP more functional—from the slanted, Velcro chest pockets to the easily-accessible shoulder pockets. Female Airmen have made it clear that this uniform is a better fit, as well.

“The Army has done considerable work to make the OCPs a better fitting uniform for female service members,” said Maj. Gen. Bob LaBrutta, director of military force management policy, deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services. “The uniform comes in 20 female sizes and 37 unisex sizes. Female Airmen, currently issued the unisex uniform in U.S. Air Forces Central Command, report a better fit and higher morale as a result.”

Active-duty Enlisted Airmen should start to see an increase to their annual clothing allowances starting Oct. 1, 2018.

“Many of our Airmen already have this uniform from their numerous deployments, so they will be able to make the transition easily,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright. “For other Airmen, we must provide enough time for their clothing allowance to fund the items to avoid out-of-pocket expenses.”

Effective April 1, 2019, Airmen can purchase the uniform at any AAFES store that carries them and AAFES online services will open purchases to Airmen around October 2019. The schedule will be updated monthly on the AAFES and Air Force’s Personnel Center websites.

The delay in availability allows the supply chain to produce and field enough uniforms, boots and other associated uniform items to meet both Army and Air Force requirements. Enlisted Guard and Reserve Airmen will receive the new uniform through their unit’s clothing replacement procedures.

The Air Force will also outfit Basic Military Training, Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, and Officer Training School starting October 1, 2019.

“This celebrates joint warfighting excellence as OCPs will become the joint combat uniform for Airmen and Soldiers while patches and nametapes will identify our respective services,” Goldfein said. “We’ll maintain our distinctive Air Force uniforms in blues, service dress, mess dress, and PT gear.”



TIMELINE

2018

1 OCT

Serviceable OCPs may be worn.

Airmen can purchase OCPs at the following AAFES locations: Aviano AB, Charleston AFB, Shaw AFB and MacDill AFB

2019

1 APR

Expansion of in-store AAFES sales locations continues

Tan T-shirt must be worn (Desert Sand is authorized until this date)

OCT

Online sales projected to be available

2020

1 JUN

Coyote Brown boots must be worn (Tan is authorized until this date)

DLA issued green socks must be worn (Desert Tan, Tan authorized until this date)

2021

1 APR

OCP Mandatory Wear Date

BENEFITS

- The OCP works in all climates and across the spectrum of missions we perform
- Over 100,000 Airmen have been issued and/or are already wearing OCPs. This includes Air Force Central Command, Air Force Special Operations Command and our Air Force Global Strike Command Defenders
- The OCP will bring back Air Force heraldry with unit patches
- The OCP celebrates our joint warfighting excellence and close ties with the Army

AIR FORCE OCP UNIFORM GUIDANCE

Further official wear guidance will be available soon in AFI 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance

[Click to enlarge](#)



**LIGHTS
CAMERA
ACTION**

WE ARE AIRMEN

2018 RECRUITING VIDEO CONTEST

 **RECORD YOUR VIDEO**

EMAIL US
AIRFORCEVIDEOCONTEST@GMAIL.COM 

 **GET RECOGNIZED**

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.



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.

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.

