

# THE READINESS REPORT

FOR INDIVIDUAL RESERVISTS

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- *Next IR Orientation course set for August*
- *Individual Reservists of the Year announced*
- *IDT reimbursement increase for eligible members*
- *Multiple award programs open for nominations*



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

## Table of Contents

- 2 About HQ RIO
- 3 News Briefs
- 3 Did You Know? Career tips for Individual Reservists
- 4 Next IR Orientation set for Aug.
- 4 Eligible Airmen to see IDT reimbursement increase
- 5 What it Means to Be Free
- 7 10 award programs soliciting nominations
- 8 We Are Airmen: 2018 Recruiting Video Contest

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**RIO Connect - IMA Mobile Wingman**



## LEADERSHIP



*Col. Kelli B. Smiley  
Commander*



*Chief Master Sgt. Dolores Colella  
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

## myPers reintroduces username and password option

The Air Force's Personnel Center implemented revised Headquarters Air Force-mandated security upgrades to myPers on May 30.

Now, authorized users, to include Airmen without a Common Access Card, may access myPers using a Username/Password option--in combination with a new email temporary login code functionality--from any computer, on or off the Department of Defense network.

Airmen, Retirees and family members without a myPers account can request one using the steps at <http://www.afpc.af.mil/Support/myPers/>.

## HQ RIO announces 2017 Individual Reservists of the Year

The Headquarters Individual Reservist Readiness and Integration Organization announced the 2017 Individual Reservists of the Year.

The award program recognizes the accomplishments of the outstanding Airmen who augment Active Component and government agencies world-wide.

"The IR of the Year awards recognize our best reservists for going above and beyond in their support of the Department of Defense," said Col. Kelli B. Smiley, the HQ RIO commander. "The members we selected this year are truly exemplary and I could not be more proud of the work they've done representing the IR program!"

### Individual Reservists of the Year

- Non-commissioned Officer of the Year: Staff Sgt. Michael Gaerman, Military Justice Paralegal, 66th Air Base Group Judge Advocate, Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts
- Senior NCO of the Year: Master Sgt. Jessica M. Pierce, Law Office Superintendent, 355th Fighter Wing Judge Advocate, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona
- Company Grade Officer of the Year: Capt. Bryan R. Scism, Chief Airfield Pavement Evaluation, Air Force Civil Engineer Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas
- Field Grade Officer of the Year: Maj. Brett A. Riley, Chief Spacelift Rocket Program Acquisition Team, Launch Enterprise Directorate, Air Force Space Command Space and Missile Systems Center, Los Angeles Air Force Base, California

Individual Reservists are Air Force Reservists assigned to active-component units and government agencies. IRs are managed by Headquarters Individual Reservist Readiness and Integration Organization, located at Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado, and serve more than 50 separate major commands, combatant commands and government agencies.

## Did You Know?

### Career tips for Individual Reservists

Did you know GTCC use is now mandatory for all Individual Reservists? In fact, GTCC use is required for all Air Force personnel when conducting official travel, per a SAF/FM memo dated Nov. 8, 2017. Centrally Billed Accounts may no longer be used to make travel arrangements.

Commercial Travel Offices (CTO) are required to adhere to the new GTCC policy and a member's failure to utilize their GTCC will result in an inability to make travel arrangements for official business. Additionally, it is against regulations to utilize personal means or personal credit cards to make travel

arrangements.

Exemptions to the use of a GTCC are extremely limited and are identified in GTCC Regulations, para. 040602. A canceled cards is not an exemption, regardless of reason, to include disagreement with existing or revised terms and conditions of the cardholder agreement.

Members who need to obtain a GTCC should contact the Agency Program Coordinator (APC) at their unit of assignment.

Visit the HQ RIO website for [more details](#) on this policy change.

## Next IR Orientation set for Aug., IRs have until July 6 to apply

HQ RIO will host the next IR Orientation (IRO) course Aug 20-23, 2018. Individual Reservists (IRs) gained within the last 12 months are automatically eligible. IRs gained more than 12 months prior to the class start date may attend with HQ RIO Detachment commander approval.

IR Orientations are provided twice a year at HQ RIO, Buckley AFB, Colorado. The course provides IRs with tools and information to effectively manage their Air Force career. Although this training is not mandatory, it is highly recommended.

The deadline to apply for the IRO course is July 6, 2018. Please note that all attendees must be in a RPA/School Tour status (requested through AROWS-R). Annual tour or IDTs cannot be utilized for IR Orientation attendance.

### To Register:

- Log-in to [myPers](#)
- Select "Incidents/Messages" under My Account (top left of home screen, below the myPers logo and site navigation bar)
- Select "Email Us"
- Component - "Air Reserve"
- Category - "Training"
- Subject - "IR Orientation August 2018"
- Question – Supply the required registration information listed below

### Required registration information:

- Detachment assigned
- Date gained to IR program
- Rank Name (Last Name, First Name)
- Contact number (cell phone, or duty phone if you are currently in status)
- E-mail address
- All attendees will have Buckley AFB lodging reserved on their behalf (unless in the HOR is CO) Travel mode (commercial air or POV, if in the local area)
- HQ RIO Detachment commander endorsement (if gained more than 12 months prior to Aug 20, 2018)
- Government Travel Charge Card (GTCC).



*IR Orientation is held at HQ RIO, located within the Air Reserve Personnel Center, Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado.*

Space is limited and applications must be received by July 6, 2018. Please contact your servicing detachment with questions or concerns. Detachment contact information can be found at the [HQ RIO website](#) under "Detachments" or "HQ RIO Directory" link or in the free RIO Connect IMA Mobile Wingman App.

## Eligible Airmen to see reimbursement increase for IDTs

Some Reserve Citizen Airmen attending inactive duty training outside normal commuting distances at Air Force Reserve locations will be seeing an increase in the maximum reimbursement for actual travel expenses under a revision to the Joint Travel Regulation.

In order for Reservists to be eligible for this entitlement, they must also reside outside the defined commuting limits, or 150 miles away from their duty station.

"With the increase in reimbursement funds, this will help offset the costs of traveling long distances," said Senior Master Sgt. Michael McClafferty, Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Squadron operations superintendent. "Normally the previous amount would not even come close to covering a round-trip airline ticket."

Reserve Citizen Airmen in authorized career fields will see an increase from \$300 to \$500, for travel performed on or after April 1, 2018."

The Air Force Reserve is committed to retaining experienced Airmen with skills in critical demand such as pilots, maintenance technicians, space operators, cyber specialists and more.

To view the IDT Travel Reimbursement Program Guide, [click here](#).



# What it Means to Be Free

*IMA Maj. Alea Nadeem knows better than most*

*By Bo Joyner, HQ Air Force Reserve Command*

**A**lea Nadeem was 8 years old when her world was turned upside down.

Born in Toledo, Ohio, in 1984, Alea was the first child of Cindy and Sam Nadeem. Her mom is American and her father is of Iraqi descent. Alea was 5 when her sister, Ayesha, was born. Life was good for the Nadeems until Alea was 8 and her father announced that he was taking the whole family to Iraq for a vacation.

That trip would change young Alea's life forever.

"I remember my dad saying he wanted to go back to Iraq because his mother was sick and he wanted my sister and me to meet our relatives over there," Alea said during a recent interview on the Megyn Kelly Today television show. "We flew to Iraq and it was a wonderful experience. I got to meet members of my dad's family for the first time and we were having a great vacation."

Things changed for Alea the night before the Nadeems were supposed to fly back to America. "I remember my dad took my sister and me to our aunt's house and then he left," Alea recalled. "I was playing with my sister and I realized my dad wasn't there and I started to cry. Nobody in the house spoke English and I

didn't speak Arabic, so I was really scared. I remember crying myself to sleep that night and I woke up the next morning and my dad still wasn't there."

Alea's father finally returned, but he had some heartbreaking news for young Alea. "My dad told me that he and I would be staying in Iraq and my mom and sister were going back to America," she said. "My dad told my mom that she had to choose which daughter she wanted to take home and she chose my younger sister because she was afraid that my little sister, who was 3 at the time, would not be able to remember her if she left her at such a young age."

Of course, Alea's mom was devastated by the decision she was being forced to make. But with her visa about to expire and tensions high between the

U.S. and Iraq at the time, she had no choice but to go back to America with Alea's sister.

"I don't have kids, but I can't imagine having to choose between your two children," Alea said. "It certainly wasn't fair to put my mom in that situation, but she made the best choice she could make at the time."

Alea still remembers clearly the day her mom and sister boarded a plane and headed back to America. "I felt numb," she said. "Even though I was only 8, I knew my life would forever be changed. I honestly do not know the words to describe the feeling of being left behind. All I can say is it was painful."



*Then-Capt. Alea Nadeem tells her story to television host Megyn Kelly on the Megyn Kelly Today program. (Courtesy photo)*

Alea spent four years in Iraq while Saddam Hussein was still in power. With no understanding of the local culture or language, she was immediately immersed in the life of an Iraqi schoolgirl.

It wasn't easy, but Alea slowly assimilated into life in the city of Mosul. Naturally, she missed her mom and sister terribly, but she adjusted to her new life and her new family. "Despite the problems with my father, most of the people I knew in Mosul were good people," she said. "But it wasn't easy being a girl in Iraq at the time. Having spent my early childhood in America, I knew what it meant to be free and you definitely didn't have that kind of freedom in Iraq," she said. "There were only two television stations. You listened to only what the government wanted you to hear. As a girl, I was

probably going to have to quit school after the eighth grade and get married early as most girls do in Iraq. There weren't many opportunities open to girls at the time.

"I remember my family in Iraq telling me to always say good things about Saddam Hussein, never say anything bad in public because it could put you in danger. It's kind of hard to imagine but I ended up enjoying the time I spent in Iraq, just not under the circumstances of how it happened. My family in Iraq were amazing, kind people who helped me and tried to comfort me as much as possible."



*Maj. Alea Nadeem (Courtesy photo)*

Alea was living in Mosul when Operation Desert Storm began. "I remember one day I saw a U.S. helicopter land near my home. I think they were transporting patients to a nearby hospital. I remember frantically running up and desperately begging the air crew to take me back to America with them. Of course, they couldn't take me with them that day, but I never lost sight of my goal. ... Neither did my mom," she said.

As soon as she got back to Ohio with her youngest daughter, Cindy Nadeem immediately began working to try and get her older daughter back to the United States. It took four years, but Alea's mother, with the help of the FBI and local government officials in Toledo, was finally able to secure Alea's return from Iraq.

Alea said she was able to talk with her mom some while she was living in Iraq. "She would call as much as she could. Back then, phone companies charged a lot of money to call internationally. At one point, my mother had more than \$10,000 in phone charges because she called Iraq so much.

"Eventually, my mom was able to convince my dad to fly to Canada so she could give him money from businesses she had sold. He agreed to fly to Canada. She met him at the airport and drove him across the border to the U.S. where the FBI arrested him (for kidnapping). Once my dad was in custody, the court told him he would not be released until I was brought back to the U.S. I was back in Iraq and had no idea any of this happened, but my uncle drove me to the Iraq-Jordan border where I was reunited with my mom."

Alea returned to the United States when she was 12. Once again, she had to assimilate into a new life. "It was a real struggle," she said. "I was 12 when I returned to the U.S. and a lot had changed. I was almost stuck in the mindset of an 8-year-old versus a 12-year-old. By this time, I was speaking broken English and was behind academically. My family hired me a tutor, but I was always self-conscious. Not until high school did I get my confidence back academically. It was a tough road, but I made it slowly."

Alea was a junior in high school when the United States was attacked on September 11, 2001. "As I watched the events unfold on television, I was scared," she recalled. "I could see how the tragedy brought Americans together, but I was confused after hearing negative comments about Muslims and Arabs. Many people were saying unkind things and I remember asking my family if we were the Arabs people were talking about. I knew we weren't.

"I realized people were confusing two different types of Arabs. America needed to know the difference between those horrible men who attacked our country and the people I knew and loved in the Middle East," she said. "As the U.S. ramped up its actions in response to the attacks, I wanted to make sure our military knew the vast majority of Arabs and Muslims are good people. Perhaps I was a bit naïve, but I was determined to help people understand Middle Eastern culture. The events of 9/11 ignited my desire to serve."

Alea walked into an Air Force recruiting office in Toledo and asked what jobs deployed the most. "A year later, I was in basic training, learning to become an Airman."

She originally served in security forces. Ten years ago, she earned her commission and has been serving as an intelligence officer ever since.

After serving on active duty for seven years, she switched to the Air Force Reserve in 2015. She is currently the individual mobilization augmentee to the director of operations for the 70th Operations Support Squadron at Fort Meade, Maryland. The 70th OSS is part of the 70th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing. Its mission is to provide multi-source, multi-service intelligence products for the Department of Defense by gaining and exploiting information as a major component of the Air Force and DOD global intelligence mission.

"I love the Air Force Reserve and am very happy becoming a Citizen Airman was an option for me following

active duty," Alea said. "I've provided cultural context about Iraq and Syria to senior Air Force leaders, including the secretary and chief of staff of the Air Force. I recently deployed to the Combined Air Operations Center at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, where I provided intelligence and counsel in regards to Middle Eastern cultural and geopolitics for Iraq and Syria in support of Operation Inherent Resolve."

The major said returning to the Middle East during her latest deployment was a therapeutic experience for her. "It brought back so many memories for me," she said. "I missed the culture, the bargaining at the shops, the food, the kind people and the desert air. This is my second home."

With her strong ties to the Middle East and her unique experience growing up, Maj. Alea Nadeem is a proud and a valuable member of the Air Reserve team.

"I am so proud to be serving in the Air Force Reserve and living under the U.S. flag," she said. "I am grateful for everything this country has given me and the opportunities the Air Force has afforded me. All the amazing people I have met in the Air Force have helped me become a better person and Airman. It takes a village and my Air Force village has raised me up and I am forever grateful."

(Editor's note: In recent years, Alea has reconnected with her father and they are working on rebuilding their relationship. "My father has atoned for what he did, I have forgiven him and we have begun building our relationship," she said.)

*"I love the Air Force Reserve and am very happy becoming a Citizen Airman was an option for me following active duty"*

*-Maj. Alea Nadeem*

## 10 award programs soliciting nominations

The following award programs are currently soliciting nominations. Individual Reservists may self-nominate through their chain of command for these awards:

- **2018 Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy | Susp. June 29, 2018** - Awarded annually to a living American for significant public service of enduring value to aviation in the United States.
- **2018 Lance P. Sijan Award | Susp. July 6, 2018** - Recognizes accomplishments of Airmen who demonstrate the highest qualities of leadership in performance of their duties and the conduct of their lives.
- **Brigadier General Wilma Vaught Visionary Leadership Award | Susp. July 9, 2018** - Presented to an Airman who exhibits innovation, commitment and a selfless spirit of service to others and whose innovative efforts have inspired others and significantly improved opportunities for women in the Air Force.
- **The GEICO Military Service Awards | Susp. July 10, 2018** – Recognizes the contributions of a military member in the areas of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention, Fire Safety and Fire Prevention and Traffic Safety and Accident Prevention.
- **Arthur S. Flemming Award | Susp. Aug. 15, 2018** – Honors outstanding federal employees (including Air Force Reservists) who have made significant and extraordinary contributions to the federal government.
- **2018 Verne Orr Award | Susp. Sept. 7, 2018** - Recognizes an Air Force unit (Active, Reserve, or Guard) which makes the most effective use of its human resources.
- **General and Mrs. Jerome F. O'Malley Award | Susp. Sept. 12, 2018** – Recognizes the wing commander and spouse team whose contributions to the nation, the Air Force, and the local community best exemplify the highest ideals and positive leadership of a military couple serving in a key Air Force position.
- **The NCO Association Vanguard Award | Susp. Sept. 12, 2018** – Recognizes an NCO who has performed a heroic act, on or off duty, which resulted in the saving of life or the prevention of serious injury.
- **Joan Orr Air Force Spouse of the Year Award | Susp. Oct. 4, 2018** - Recognizes the significant contributions made by non-military spouses of Air Force military members.
- **The Spirit of Hope Award | Susp. Oct. 12, 2018** – Presented to individuals and organizations whose patriotism and service reflect Bob Hope's service.

For details on each award, including award package instructions, visit [www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/HQRIO/Awards-Boards/](http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/HQRIO/Awards-Boards/).

Individual Reservists must route nomination packages through their active-component unit or government agency chain of command and then submit to their HQ RIO Detachment for final quality check and submission. Nomination packages must be submitted to the servicing HQ RIO Detachment by the listed suspense date.

Please contact your servicing [HQ RIO Detachment](#) with questions or concerns.



**LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION**

# WE ARE AIRMEN

## 2018 RECRUITING VIDEO CONTEST

**RECORD YOUR VIDEO**

**EMAIL US**  
[AIRFORCEVIDEOCONTEST@GMAIL.COM](mailto: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](http://www.Get1Now.us).

