

HQ INDIVIDUAL RESERVIST READINESS & INTEGRATION ORGANIZATION

The Readiness Report

Flu season is here; *vaccinations due by Jan. 1*

Winter is right around the corner and that means flu season has arrived.

Per a Sept. 17, 2015, memorandum from Maj. Gen. Richard S. Haddad, Air Force Reserve Command vice commander, all Individual Reservists are required to receive the influenza vaccination by Jan. 1, 2016.



Members who fail to meet this deadline will have their readiness status change to red. This may affect the member's ability to receive orders, or the orders may direct the member to obtain their flu vaccine on their next set of orders.

IRs may obtain their flu vaccine from either their servicing medical treatment facility (MTF) or from a civilian provider.

At their MTF, Reservists can expect to receive either a live, weakened virus administered by inhalation, or an inactivated virus administered as a shot. If utilizing the MTF, the member must be in-status.

If the member chooses to obtain the flu vaccine through their civilian provider, they must submit flu shot documentation to their servicing MTF. Any version of the flu vaccine administered by a civilian provider is acceptable.

Questions regarding the flu vaccine should be directed to the member's servicing HQ RIO detachment or MTF.



As civilian, Reservist 'leads' in *fight against forest fires*

By Master Sgt. Timm Huffman

In a year that has seen nearly 9 million acres of land affected by forest fires, the most since 2006, one Air Force Reservist is playing a lead role in beating back the flames.

Col. Paul "Buster" Delmonte is an aerial firefighter with the U.S. Forest Service as a civilian. He is a lead plane pilot, escorting other aircraft, including the Air Force's firefighting-equipped C-130s, in and out of target drop zones.

According to Col. Delmonte, the fire season started out slow but has turned into a record-setting year. The pilot said everything hit at once in the second week of July. With only 15 USFS lead pilots to help fight fires from Florida to Alaska, he said resources are stretched thin. Over the past two and a half months, Delmonte has flown 51 missions, in seven states, on 29 different fires; and the season isn't over yet. He's currently working 12 days on, two off, and has fought fires in Montana, Nevada, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and California.

His position with the Forest Service is analogous to an airborne forward air controller, said Delmonte. He said he flies in over a scene, works with the ground commander to figure out what the priorities are, then connects with the tankers or helicopters, leads them onto the targets, and de-conflicts the air traffic for safety.

In a typical mission, Delmonte will fly one of three airframes, a C90 King Air, DHC-6 Twin Otter, or a DC-3, to about 100 feet above tree level, scouting for the best target. Once he has identified it, he returns to the tankers, which are in a holding pattern, and leads them, one-by-one, into the blaze. The USFS aircraft he flies are equipped with airshow smoke and Delmonte uses it over the drop site to show the other aircraft precisely where he wants fire retardant dropped.

After the terrorist attacks on 9/11, Delmonte (a traditional reservist at the time) worked on active duty orders at Air Combat Command. He wanted, though, to use his aviation skills in a capacity similar to the tactical missions he flew on active duty. In 2004, Delmonte found that opportunity—he became a Forest Service pilot after a stint in the airline business.

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IMA program allows Airman to continue service

By Master Sgt. Timm Huffman

In 2013, Tech. Sgt. BreAnna Martinez was ready to return to civilian life. But, she wasn't ready to give up the Air Force.

Turning to the Air Force Reserve gave her the opportunity to have the best of both worlds.

The command and control Airman was out-processing when she logged into myPers to visit the Reserve Vacancy finder in AFPC Secure. She found a job opportunity posted there for an Individual Mobilization Augmentee with Special Operations Command Africa, based out of Patch Barracks, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, Germany.

"I knew nothing about the IMA program, but after all the details were explained to me, I realized it was exactly the kind of service commitment I was looking for," she said of the position which allowed her to continue working with her active-duty counterparts.

In her IMA position as a joint operations center watch non-commissioned officer, Martinez is responsible for maintaining 24/7 command and control for special operations forces in the U.S. Africa Command area of responsibility, battle-tracking SOF teams working with African partner nations during contingency and crisis operations, and funneling reports from four operating units in Africa to higher headquarters.

Martinez said that working for SOCAFRICA is different from the work she was doing on active duty, where she never saw the end users for the missions she coordinated. In her Air Force Reserve job, the frontline operators are brought directly to her. She said she has met Navy SEALs, Army Special Forces, and SOF Airmen who depend on the work of command and control Airmen.

"I'm able to see, firsthand, the significance of my work and how each situation report or request for forces document I send really does make a difference to someone down the line," she said. "This information informs decision makers; missions change and plans are adjusted with each new piece of data."

In addition to coming face-to-face with those she serves, Martinez has also found herself working alongside Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines. She said the joint environment was a steep learning curve at first but it has changed her understanding of the military's warfighting capabilities.

"As an NCO, I'm really lucky because I have the opportunity to... draw knowledge, perspective and experience from the sergeant majors, chief warrant officers, and chief petty officers in my directorate," she said.

Martinez also appreciates the flexibility inherent in the IMA program.

"I meet my Air Force Reserve requirements every year and I'm given the opportunity to complete my Annual Tour and Inactive Duty Training days at times that work best for the unit and me."

She added that the ability to complete all of her annual requirements at once brings stability to her training and allows her to focus on honing her command and control skills.



Tech. Sgt. BreAnna Martinez

Did you know? | Tips for the Individual Reservist

Did you know that Air Reserve Component personnel deployed on MPA man-days under 10 USC 12301(d) are called to active duty for a specific period of time and, by law, cannot be involuntarily extended?

The mobilized individual may be extended, but the extension cannot prevent them from returning to home station in time to take authorized down-time, use accrued leave and complete any required out-processing actions.

Questions regarding voluntary and involuntary extensions should be referred to your detachment. For more information, review AFI 36-3802.



Job melds Reservist's passion for culture, helping others

By Master Sgt. Timm Huffman

Katchi kapshida, Korean for "we go together", is a phrase Capt. Passion Julinsey often exchanges with her Republic of Korea counterparts in the personnel readiness division, plans and operations branch, at U.S. Forces Korea.

Julinsey, an Air Force Reserve Individual Mobilization Augmentee, serves as a noncombatant evacuation operations liaison officer there, ensuring there's a plan in place for the evacuation of the thousands of non-essential personnel and U.S. family members stationed in the Republic of Korea (ROK).

"My job since July 2014 has been to ensure that noncombatant evacuees are appropriately tracked from the assembly point all the way to repatriation in what would be the U.S. Government's largest evacuation operation," she said.

Julinsey said that on a typical day she reviews evacuation plans with other directorates within USFK to identify problems and solutions. She also works closely with her ROK counterparts to determine how they can support evacuation operations. In the event of a disaster or outbreak of war, she said her work would be validated if all evacuees were moved out of harm's way with minimal mental distress.

The captain has a history of working to help those in crisis. In 2013 and 2014, she worked with CARE, a humanitarian relief agency, coordinating gender equality conferences in Dubai and Rwanda and organizing humanitarian response to the Syrian refugee crisis in Jordan and Turkey. Prior to that, she also spent three years volunteering with a domestic violence non-profit, facilitating Spanish-speaking victims groups and discussing exit strategies with those in abusive relationships.



"My sociology professor-mother raised me in the predominantly Buddhist country of Thailand; I was always taught to make good merit and give back to the community," she said.

When she saw the NEO job, Julinsey was initially intrigued by the humanitarian aspect of the work. She found she also enjoyed the opportunity to immerse herself in Korean culture and work alongside members of the ROK army. She has great working relationships with her ROK counterparts and they frequently share meals, plays sports, and watch baseball after hours.

One thing Julinsey appreciates most about working alongside her South Korean co-workers is their culture of teamwork. She said individualism is less prevalent than in American culture and they regularly work and make decisions as a team.

"I now see why the South Koreans want unification with their northern brothers and sisters and why the ROK-U.S. alliance is so strong," she said. "By working with my [personnel and manpower] counterparts, I'm helping to strengthen that alliance." Julinsey said she has had a lifelong fascination with Korean culture that stems from her youth in Thailand. She recalls going with her mother to see a Korean movie in which the heroine sang the famous folk song Arirang; a tune some consider the unofficial national anthem of Korea and one that still moves Julinsey to this day.

The IMA began her Air Force career in the Washington Air National Guard. After six years, she stepped back from service and entered the inactive ready reserve. However, while she was living in Australia, she came in frequent contact with U.S. military personnel assigned to the embassy there.

She realized how much she missed the camaraderie found among Airmen. Julinsey reached out to a friend at the Air Reserve Personnel Center who connected with HQ RIO Detachment 2. The staff there helped her find the NEO position in Korea.

In addition to providing Julinsey with a flexible drill schedule, the IMA program has given her opportunities to serve on full-time orders, allowing her to learn the ins and outs of the NEO field and to spend more time in a foreign country she loves.

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It was during this time that Delmonte found a posting on USAJobs for a USFS pilot in Ogden, Utah. He applied and was selected.

"I didn't realize there was another venue that was mission oriented," he said. "It's a good translation of the flying I was doing in F-16s."

In addition to his normal duties as lead plane, Delmonte is also a certified smoke jumper pilot, flying firefighters into wildland areas where they parachute in to combat forest fires.

After being hired by the USFS, Delmonte also continued flying and advancing through the ranks as a traditional reservist. However, when he was promoted to colonel last year, he had to find a new, non-flying position. Not wanting to give up serving his country, Delmonte turned to the Individual Reserve to continue his career. In addition to gaining a more flexible schedule, he found a position that pairs nicely with his civilian job. The ink is still wet on his transfer paperwork, but once it dries, Delmonte will serve as the Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer (EPLO) for Utah.

EPLos -- a group that includes close to 90 IMAs assigned to 1st Air Force's National Security Emergency Protection Directorate, Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida -- work

closely with state and local emergency responders to coordinate federal military air support during natural and man-made disasters. They engage with key local, state and federal policy makers to build emergency response plans, capabilities, and operational procedures and identify potential shortcomings.

Delmonte feels his tactical training and experience has come full-circle with his civilian and military jobs.

"For 24 years, the Air Force trained and provided me with a world class tactical aviation foundation that I've been able to leverage in the complex wildland fire airborne environment. Now, as the Air Force Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer (EPLO) to Utah, I'm very fortunate to take what I've learned from the Forest Service and provide that perspective back to Defense Support of Civil Authorities," he said.

As Delmonte continues down the road of his two careers, he hopes his experiences on both sides of the fence will allow him to make a positive impact on the emergency response world. He also looks forward to the opportunity to serve his state as an EPLO.

"It's always a bonus 'fighting fires' in Utah, knowing that this is my home and these are my friends," he said.



A lead plane, like the one flown by Col. Paul Delmonte, peels off after directing a MAFFS-equipped C-130 to a drop zone over a forest fire (U.S. Air Force photo)