

How can Air Force IMAs telecommute without a government laptop?

With more than 7,500 IMAs around the globe, Air Force Reserve Command and HQ RIO have worked hard recently to improve connectivity to Air Force systems from personal computers. All IMAs have access to CAC-readers for their personal computers. While some systems can be reached by simply “CAC-ing” in, the combination of computer, operating system, browser, and certificates can make accessing some .mil systems frustrating.

The solution is DESKTOP ANYWHERE.

Desktop Anywhere is a secure, remotely accessible, virtualized desktop — a breakthrough capability in the Air Force enabling users to securely access critical apps and data via their personal computers (Windows and Mac) from around the world with only a commercial internet connection and a CAC. It provides a rich remote user experience with the same look and feel of the user's AF physical computer - including the same Unified Collaboration capabilities.

Users can access:

- **Outlook (not webmail)**
- **The Global Address List (GAL)**
- **Skype for Business**
- **All .mil website-based applications (Sharepoint, UPTAPS, MyPers, ARCNet, etc.)**
- **Much more**

How to download and install

Desktop Anywhere

Any Air Force member (active duty, too!) can install Desktop Anywhere to a Windows or Mac personal computer. Users should CAC into the Air Force Portal and search “Desktop Anywhere” in the search box in the upper right-hand corner. The download links and instructions will be right at the top of the results. Follow the instructions carefully and call the help desk number listed if any problems arise.

The recent DoD stop movement guidance hits IMAs hard. Many live outside the commuting distance from their active duty units. While in-person duty is preferred, this unprecedented set of circumstances means all Airmen and their units have the opportunity to “*adapt and overcome.*” If an IMA or his/her active duty chain of command need help working out a telecommuting option, HQ RIO and the IMA’s servicing detachment are here to help. Our mission throughout the stop movement is to make sure our active duty units are getting the reserve support they need, while also assuring our IMAs earn the points and the income many of them rely on.