

Frontline Notice: 250122-01

Topic: Air Force Reserve Indispensability Program

Applicable to: Air Force Reserve Members and Retirees

BLUF: The Air Force Reserve Indispensability Program authorizes Regular Air Force, Reserve, and Air National Guard retirees to serve in the Air Force Reserve. This article provides further information into the program.

This program is used sparingly to address critical manning challenges, filling positions that require specific skill sets or are located in hard-to-fill areas. Therefore, indispensability should not be viewed as a tool to fill any vacant position but rather for those that meet a critical AFR need.

U.S.C. Title 10, Chapter 1005, Section 10145, Ready Reserve, authorizes retired members to serve in the Air Force Reserve if they meet specific and critical AFSC and/or skill levels to address vital manning needs. Retired individuals who have not reached their Mandatory Separation Date (MSD) or High Year Tenure (HYT) may request Unit, IMA, and ART assignments based on the Air Force Reserve Indispensability Policy. The Chief of the Air Force Reserve (HAF/RE) is the delegated approval authority for these assignment requests. If approved, individuals will be restricted to an initial two-year contract. Extensions may be requested in two-year increments but may be curtailed based on AFR needs.

If a member serving under this policy is selected for another position or promotion, they must submit a new indispensability application for HAF/RE approval before changing positions or rank.

IMPORTANT NOTES: Refer to the HAF/RE Indispensability Policy Addendum for information on AFSCs where some program restrictions have been temporarily lifted based on AFR mission requirements. A retired RegAF officer holding a Regular commission seeking to enter the AFR must request an appointment into the AFR and be approved on an OSD scroll before AF/RE approval. A retired RegAF enlisted member seeking to enter the AFR under indispensability must be HAF/RE approved prior to enlistment into the AFR.

The responsibility for the Air National Guard Indispensability Program lies with NGB/A1. For additional information and assistance with initiating the process, please contact the Air National Guard Recruiting office.

Initial Application Process

1. Applicable to: Air Force Reserve Retirees

Interested members should apply by submitting an application with an Air Force Reserve recruiter. The recruiter will work with the gaining unit's servicing Force Support Squadron (FSS) or RIO Detachment to route the member's request for approval.

The gaining FSS or Detachment must submit all Retiree to Selective Reserve requests on an AFRC Snowflake through the Task Management Tool for NAF/CC or RIO/CC concurrence.

Units and Detachments must route a complete package to the following organizations within TMT:

- Wing/CC or Det/CC
- NAF/CC or RIO/CC

- The NAF/CSS or RIO/Det will utilize TMT to manage/assign the application to the "ARPC DPAAA Workflow" for additional coordination and processing as follows:
 - AF/REG (Col's Group as required)
 - AFRC/CFM
 - AFRC/A1
 - AFRC/CD
 - AF/REP
 - AF/RE

HQ ARPC/DPAAA will notify the gaining NAF/Wing or RIO/Det of approval or disapproval actions.

If the request is approved, HQ ARPC/DPAAA will communicate any additional actions with the FSS or Det and update the member's assignment with a gain date no earlier than the date of HAF/RE approval. If the request is denied, no additional action will be taken by HQ ARPC/DPAAA.

Timelines: Requests can take 120-180 days to be processed/approved from the time HQ ARPC/DPAAA receives them via TMT.

2. Applicable to: RegAF Retirees

RegAF retiree members should contact an Air Force Reserve Recruiter for assistance with initiating an application for the Air Force Reserve Indispensability Program.

Extension Request Process

1. Applicable to: Retired Air Force Reserve and Retired RegAF members currently participating under Indispensability

Upon completing an initial 2-year assignment, individuals may request extensions in one-year increments. The Air Force Reserve Command Deputy Commander (AFRC/CD) is the approval authority for these requests.

The member must submit an extension request through their chain of command for approval.

The member's servicing FSS or Det must submit all extension requests on an AFRC Snowflake through the Task Management Tool (TMT).

Units and Detachments must route a complete package to the following organizations within TMT:

- Wing/CC or Det/CC
- NAF/CC or RIO/CC
- The NAF/CSS or RIO/Det will then manage/assign the TMT application to the "ARPC DPAAA Workflow" for additional coordination and processing as follows:
 - AF/REG (Col's Group as required)
 - AFRC/CFM
 - AFRC/A1

- AFRC/CD
- HQ ARPC/DPAAA will notify the owning NAF/Wing or RIO/Det upon approval/disapproval.

If the request is denied, the member will return to retired status upon completion of their contracted assignment.

If approved, HQ ARPC/DPAAA will request an updated Indispensability contract, coordinate any additional actions with the FSS or DET, and update MilPDS accordingly.

Timelines: Requests can take up to 90 days to process from the time HQ ARPC/DPAAA receives them in TMT.

Position Move Request

1. Applicable to: Retired Air Force Reserve and Retired RegAF members currently participating under Indispensability

In accordance with the Chief of the Air Force Reserve (HAF/RE) memo dated 13 June 2017, "...since indispensability is needs-based, members selected to fill another position or selected for promotion must submit a new request for HAF/RE indispensability approval prior to being moved or changing positions due to promotion."

NOTE: Colonel assignments must have HAF/REG concurrence first.

Individuals currently participating in the Indispensability Program should apply for reassignment by submitting a position move request through their servicing Force Support Squadron (Traditional Reservist) or RIO Detachment (IMA) on an AFRC Snowflake utilizing the Task Management Tool (TMT) for NAF/CC or RIO/CC concurrence.

Units and Detachments must route a complete package to the following organizations within TMT:

- Wing/CC or Det/CC
- NAF/CC or RIO/CC
- The NAF/CSS or RIO/Det will then manage/assign the TMT application to the "ARPC DPAAA Workflow" for additional coordination and processing as follows:
 - AFRC/CFM
 - AFRC/A1
 - AFRC/CD
 - AF/RE

Upon HAF/RE action on the request, HQ ARPC/DPAAA will notify the gaining NAF/Wing or RIO/Det of approval or disapproval actions.

If approved, HQ ARPC/DPAAA will provide additional instructions to the servicing FSS or DET to accomplish the position move.

If disapproved, HQ ARPC/DPAAA will take no additional actions, and the member will remain assigned to their current position.

Timelines: Requests can take 120-180 days to be processed from the time HQ ARPC/DPAAA receives them via TMT.

Indispensability (Return to Retired Status)

1. Applicable to: Retired Air Force Reserve and Retired RegAF members currently participating under Indispensability

Retired members currently approved for participation in the Air Force Reserve who no longer desire to participate should contact their servicing Force Support Squadron (FSS) or RIO Detachment and apply for reassignment back to Retired Status (RegAF or Reserve Retired Status).

○ Traditional Reservists

- The losing FSS will generate a loss order for unit assigned retirees and submit a copy to HQ ARPC/DPAAA via MyVector. The gaining assignment details for the order will be the PAS Code/unit the member was assigned to while they were in a retired status.
- **NOTE:** If assignment details are unknown, the servicing FSS should contact HQ ARPC/DPAAA via MyVector for details.

○ Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMA)

- The losing Detachment will submit the IMA assigned retiree member's approved request to HQ ARPC/DPAAA via MyVector.
- HQ ARPC/DPAAA will generate reassignment orders and reassign the member to the PAS Code/unit the member was assigned to while they were in a retired status.

2. Submit a MyVector request using the following steps:

- Log in to MyVector: [MyVector \(af.mil\)](https://www.af.mil/MyVector)
- Select "My Applications": Navigate to the "My Applications" section on the left-hand side of the MyVector Dashboard.
- Locate "ARPC AFR Assignments": Under the Applications Catalog.
- Select "Indispensability (Return to Retired Status)"
- Click "Apply."

Special Note for ALL RETIREES: After returning to retired status, members should request a service re-computation via MyFSS through the HQ ARPC Retirements Branch.

Resources:

ARC Assignments Branch, tools, guides, etc. may be found on the ARPC Assignment Splash Page - <https://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/Services/Assignments/>

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