



In this issue:

- **AROWS-R and IR Readiness Requirements**, pg 2
- **News Briefs**, pg 2
- **Military disciplinary actions**, pg 3
- **Annual award winners**, pg 3
- **Tips to help Reservists avoid problems**, pg 3

Editorial Staff

Col. Nancy Zbyszinski
RMG Commander

Lt. Col. Gwyn Poock
Managing Editor

Capt. Kimberly Champagne
Editor

Editorial Policy

The *RMG Chronicle* is published monthly by RMG public affairs.

This Air Force newsletter is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the *RMG Chronicle* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by RMG public affairs. All photos are Air Force photos, unless otherwise indicated. The deadline for all editorial submissions is noon the 15th of the month.

Public affairs can be contacted at DSN 497-2419, Comm (478) 327-2419, or by email at: rmg_pa@afrc.af.mil.

Funded billets for PIRR members

By **Capt. Kimberly Champagne**
RMG Public Affairs

Participating Individual Ready Reserve members may now enter paid status as Individual Mobilization Augmentees in order to meet AFRC fiscal year 2009 end-strength goals. That's according to a recent memo from Lt. Gen. Charles Stenner, Commander of the Air Force Reserve Command.

Some members currently in the PIRR are

former IMAs who lost their positions in 2007 when approximately 5,000 IMA slots were unfunded during a reduction of 7,700 AFRC manpower authorizations.

This Program Budget Decision 720 initiative helped pay for force modernization. Senior AFRC leaders worked closely with regular Air Force major commands to make tough decisions while maintaining mission capability.

In 2007, Air Force

leaders decided to increase Air Force end strength. Consequently, AFRC recently was authorized to add approximately 4,200 positions for new, emerging and critical missions.

Of those authorizations, approximately 800 are IMA positions. Current PIRR members are being given preference in filling these IMA billets.

A PIRR member can also be assigned as an overage in an IMA billet if a primary billet is not

available, or can be assigned against a "pseudo" billet. The overage position is authorized for only two years from date of assignment, so members should still be looking for a primary billet during the two-year period.

This program does not apply to colonels, chief master sergeants, academy liaison officers or Civil Air Patrol members. For more information contact the respective program manager or base IMA administrator.

VA to begin accepting Post-9/11 GI Bill transfers

DENVER -- The Defense Department started accepting registrations June 29 to transfer servicemembers' Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to their spouses or children.

Airmen must call the Air Reserve Personnel Center Education Counselor at [1800-525-0102](tel:1800-525-0102) before registering online at www.dmdc.osd.mil. The site is accessible using a common access card, Defense Department self-service user identification or a Defense Finance and Accounting Service personal identification number.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is available to most Air Force Reserve members who have served a cumulative of at least 90 days of active duty since Sept. 11, 2001, other than annual or school tours.

Defense officials are asking those whose families will not use the benefits for the upcoming fall semester, not to register until mid-July so applicants who need immediate attention can get processed first.

The most current and accurate information on the new benefit is available at www.gibill.va.gov or by calling 1-888-GIBILL-1. The Department of Defense has a dedicated sec-

tion on its Web site <http://www.defenselink.mil/home/features/2009/0409_gibill/> featuring articles, videos and specific implementation guidance on the Post-9/11 GI Bill, including guidance on transferability of benefits to family members.



Airmen should first get counseling from their Education Center on GI Bill options. To be eligible to transfer benefits, Airmen must have at least four years left of retainability, unless retirement eligible. Airmen who need additional retainability should visit their servicing military personnel section for counseling on reenlisting

or extending their current enlistment before applying to transfer their benefits.

Airmen planning to transfer their benefits should verify family member information is accurate in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System. If family members are not in DEERS, Airmen cannot transfer benefits to them.

Airmen apply to transfer benefits at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB/>.

History of the GI Bill

On June 22, 1944, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed into law one of the most significant pieces of legislation ever produced by the United States government: The Servicemembers' Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly known as the GI Bill of Rights. By the time the original GI Bill ended in July 1956, 7.8 million World War II veterans had participated in an education or training program and 2.4 million veterans had home loans backed by the Veterans Administration. Today, the legacy of the original GI Bill lives on in the Montgomery GI Bill. For more information, visit www.va.gov.

AROWS-R and IR Readiness Requirements

By Capt. Kimberly Champagne
RMG Public Affairs

If you're an Individual Reservist (Individual Mobilization Augmentee or Participating Individual Ready Reservist) you've no doubt received e-mail updates on your readiness information in ReserveNet. It's your responsibility to ensure your information in ReserveNet is correct. Unmet readiness standards can keep you from being approved for military duty.

Effective July 9, Readiness Management Group detachment staffs will review each request for orders in AROWS-R to ensure the member meets all mobilization readiness standards and

fit testing before Military Personnel Appropriation or Active Duty for Special Work orders are published. Orders will not be approved until all necessary actions are complete. Program managers may grant exceptions due to extenuating circumstances.

Members are encouraged to check their readiness status using ReserveNet at <https://www.my.af.mil/reservenetprod/classic/home.asp>.

Readiness standards for IRs include, but are not limited to, the following:

Dental—an annual dental evaluation is required to be world-wide qualified.

Physical Health Assessment—is required by the end of the

15th month after their prior PHA, or their ReserveNet database record will show their overall status as not ready. Members must be in a duty status (including points-only Inactive Duty for Training status) when attending a PHA appointment.

Security Clearance—a current security clearance is required or a security clearance pending, verified by the unit Security Manager. Pending is defined as the IR having completed all follow-up actions to submit an application.

Fit Testing—a current, passing score in Air Force Fitness Management System is required. Current is defined as within the last 12 months. On

the first day of the 13th month, a member is noncurrent for fitness.

Members must be in a duty status (including points-only IDT) to take the fitness test, but may not perform points-only IDTs for the sole purpose of working out. IRs on long tours must remain current while on tour.

IRs who become overdue on long MPA or ADSW tours will be given a reasonable deadline (such as two weeks) to become current, and will be taken off orders on the deadline if they do not become current.

For more information contact your program manager or Base Individual Mobilization Augmentee administrator.

News Briefs, Education Information

On-line PHA assessment is required

Individual Reservists (Individual Mobilization Augmentees and Participating Individual Ready Reservists) are required to follow the same protocols as regular Air Force members for the physical health assessment. They must complete an annual Web-based health assessment. This form must be completed before attending a PHA appointment. Contact the local medical treatment facility for scheduling a PHA exam. To fill out the on-line assessment, visit <https://www.defenserack.com/afwebha/home.asp?ScreenX=1280&ScreenY=773>

2009 Reserve Developmental Education Designation Board

This board is the avenue for Individual Mobilization Augmentee officers to compete for in-residence Intermediate Developmental Education and Senior Developmental Education courses. (Participating Individual Ready Reserve members are not eligible for in-residence schools.)

In order to apply, IMAs must log on to the virtual Personnel Center—Guard and Reserve home page, then Dashboard, then Action Requested, then RDEDB, then RDEDB Application.

Completed forms should be forwarded to the IMA's rater. The rater must have a vPC-GR account, once the account is established the IMA can select the rater's name and forwards the form.

Once the raters complete their information, they will use a drop-down menu and select the title "Program Manager." The applica-

tion will be sent to the IMA's PM based on the member's PAS code.

If they have not done so already, PMs should go into "My Profile" within vPC-GR and select an e-mail address through which to receive notifications of vPC-GR items awaiting action. This allows PMs to receive a notification e-mail regarding RDEDB applications. The RMG detachment staff will ensure the applying IMA is current on all Quality Force/ReserveNet items, meets prerequisites to attend each course they are applying for, complies with all core application requirements, and completes the application form properly. For more information contact your program manager.

The suspense date for all packages to be submitted to the Air Reserve Personnel Center is Sept. 12. Due to the requirement for the detachments' quality review and senior rater's input, IMAs should submit their application early enough for detachments to make corrections and meet the ARPC suspense. Contact the detachment for information.

Civilian Employment Information

The DoD is requesting all Airmen of the Ready Reserve within the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve to complete their Civilian Employment Information as soon as possible. The purpose for collecting the civilian employment information is to achieve fair treatment between members in the Ready Reserve who are being considered for recall to active duty, ensure that there will be no significant attrition of Ready Reserve members or units during mobilization and

inform Reserve Component members and their employers of their rights, benefits and obligations under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployments Right Act.

This request is for all members, and those who fail or refuse to provide required information may be subject to administrative action. For more information, instructions or to update your CEI, visit the CEI Website at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/aa/esgr>.

RMG/RPO offers new fax number to submit documents

The RMG Reserve Pay Office offers three options for members to submit all military pay related documents email, fax or mail.

The preferred method is to scan and email all documents to the RMG/RPO organization email box at rmg.rpo@afrc.af.mil.

Effective immediately, members can fax all documents to a new number, DSN 497-1830 or commercial (478) 327-1830. The former fax number 478-327-2290, is available until Sept. 30. When using the fax option include a cover sheet, provide an email address and contact phone number.

The mailing address is: HQ/RMG, Atten: RPO, 233 N. Houston Rd, Ste 131A, Warner Robins, Ga. 31093. For more information contact the RPO Call Center from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. at DSN 497-2385 or commercial (478) 327-2385.

IRs must update contact information

IRs are reminded to update all contact information by visiting Virtual MPF at <https://www.my.af.mil/afpc2ww3/vmpf/Hub/Pages/ConfirmInfo.asp>.

And the winner is...

The following are the 2008 recipients of the Readiness Management Group Annual Awards. Congratulations to our winners!

Airman Of The Year:

Senior Airman Robert Whealton (Staff Sgt.), HQ RMG/DOM

Noncommissioned Officer Of The Year:

Tech. Sgt. Teresia Ortiz, HQ RMG/DP

Senior Noncommissioned Officer Of The Year:

Master Sgt. Ryan Phipps, HQ RMG/DP

Company Grade Officer Of The Year:

1st Lt. Kellie Rabideau, HQ RMG/DP

Civilian Of The Year Category I:

David Hutchinson, Det. 12, Air Force Materiel Command, Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio

Civilian Of The Year Category II:

Lori Albrecht, HQ RMG/DP

Personnel Specialist Of The Year:

Lori Albrecht

Dr. Edwin C. Peterson Base Level Education and Training Manager Award:

Master Sgt. Ryan Phipps

Dr. Edwin C. Peterson Air Force Level Education and Training Manager Award

Master Sgt. Ryan Phipps

Detachment of the year (small) with a total Readiness Score of 86%:

Det. 26, HQ NORAD-USNORTHCOM, Lt. Col. Patti Frisbie, Program Manager

Detachment of the year (large) with a total Readiness Score of 71%:

Det. 12, Air Force Materiel Command, Col. George Fenimore, Program Manager

Military disciplinary actions

Commanders and first sergeants, in concert with the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, are responsible for ensuring good order and discipline within the Readiness Management Group.

There are many avenues available to meet this responsibility, including trial by court-martial, Article 15, administrative discharge, and the U.S. Magistrate's Court.

Actions recently reviewed by the RMG legal office for the second quarter (April-June) include:

Letters of Reprimand

A lt. col. from Det. 14 received an LOR for

using government-provided contract services for his personal use. An investigation also revealed the member fraudulently signed and submitted for pay three AF Form 40s for duty that was never performed. He has been recommended for discharge.

A major, also from Det. 14, received an LOR and was recommended for discharge for shoplifting.

A col. from Det. 6 received an LOR for misconduct and retired.

A capt. from Det. 11 received an LOR and was recommended for discharge for false statement and drug abuse.



Tips to help Reservists avoid problems with employers before they happen

In an effort to eliminate misunderstandings between employers and deploying Reservists, the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve offers the several tips.

Deploying reservist should provide notice to their employers in advance of their deployment. The notice should be provided in writing and, if at all possible, at least 30 days in advance of the deployment.

To assist service members with this task, ESGR provides a sample Deployment Notification Letter and Military Leave of Absence Form on its Web site at www.ESGR.mil under the resources section.

Service members fill in the blanks and provide the completed documents to their em-

ployers. These documents provide employers with need-to-know information, including ESGR contact information.

The notification letter also functions as a tool to start the sometimes difficult communication process between military members and their employers. Typically, it is a lack of open communication, especially in the initial stages of the deployment process, that leads to late notifications and increased friction between military members and employers.

Both documents also provide employers a resource should they have questions related to the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act.

It is important that service members and

employers sign and retain a copy of these documents should the need arise to substantiate facts at a later date.

Curtis Bell, director ombudsman, National Committee for ESGR, said it is important for service members to realize that USERRA does not protect them against economic problems and their resulting effects.

If a company conducts lay-offs, closes a branch or goes bankrupt, service members may lose their job as a result. The USERRA does not protect service members from this type of job loss. Conversely, employers must ensure their decision to lay off an employee is not solely based on the employee's association with the military, or with an employee's deployment.



Photo by Lt. Col Luis Morales

Col. Barbara Petersen, Det. 15 program manager, instructs Beninese nurses on the importance of handwashing. Col. Petersen was part of the Exercise Shared Accord team that traveled to Benin. Shared Accord is an annual Joint Chief of Staff exercise led by U.S. Marine Forces-Europe. SA09 is a U.S./Benin bi-lateral field training exercise aimed at conducting small-unit infantry training as well as providing a humanitarian assistance effort for the local population.