Air Reserve Personnel

UPDATE

HQ Air Reserve Personnel Center, Denver, Colo. Vol. 4, Issue 1 January/February 2003

Non-current exams affect participation

By TSgt. Devin Fisher
Editor

Four out of five individual mobilization augmentees, or IMAs, are in jeopardy of being ineligible to participate after May 1.

As of mid-January, 79 percent of the IMA force has failed to complete one or both of the mandated annual medical and dental examinations and could be placed in a "no pay-no points" status, according to senior officials in accordance with Air Force Manual 36-8001, *Reserve Personnel Participation and Training Procedures*, and Air Force Instruction 48-123, *Medical Examinations and Standards.*

"Failure to accomplish the required examinations by May 1 will affect a member's participation, pay and points for all training and their ability to complete a satisfactory year," said Col. K.C. McClain, ARPC commander. "However, failure to accomplish the exams does not prevent you from being mobilized."

The annual requirement of the Reserve Component Periodic Health Assessment, or RCPHA, replaced the traditional five-year physical Oct. 1, 2001.

The necessary forms are available via the ARPC Web site, at **arpc.afrc.af.mil/sgp/forms_pubs.htm**. However, due to the slow response from IMAs, the directorate of health services individual reserve programs, HQ ARPC/SG, recently stepped up its efforts by mailing all non-current IMAs an RCPHA package, complete with all the forms and instructions on how to schedule, complete and return the necessary paperwork to ARPC.

'Failure to accomplish the required examinations by May 1 will affect a member's participation, pay and points for all training and their ability to complete a satisfactory year.'

Col. K.C. McClain
ARPC commander

The RCPHA consists of a Reserve Component Health Risk Assessment, or RCHRA; a SF 600 overprint tailored to gender, age and flying status; a dental examination; and an immunization record review. The RCHRA and SF 600 overprint must be completed by a military health provider. The dental examination, however, may be completed by a military dentist using the SF

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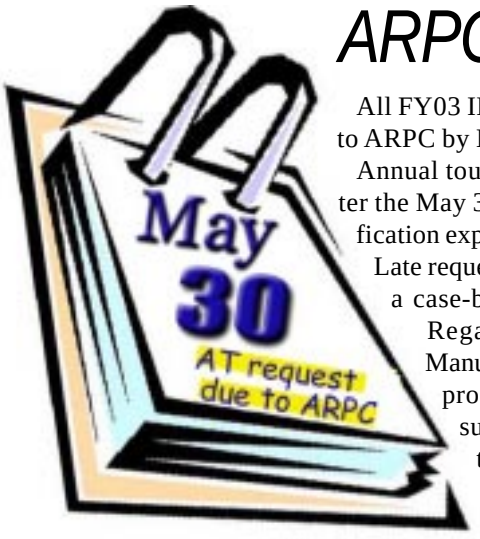
ARPC sets annual tour request deadline



All FY03 IMA annual tour requests are due to ARPC by May 30.

Annual tour requests received at ARPC after the May 30 deadline must include a justification explaining why the request was late. Late requests will be reviewed at ARPC on a case-by-case basis.

Regarding substitution, Air Force Manual 36-8001, para 1.2.1, states that program managers may request the substitution of military appropriation, or MPA, manday tours in support of contingency (real-world) operations for annual tour and inactive duty training, or IDT, requirements.

These requests must be submitted and approved in advance of the tour; However, ARPC/DPAF will accept these substitution requests for those supporting contingency operations for FY03. Program managers should submit these requests as soon as the requirement is identified.

IMAs newly assigned after April 1 are not required to perform an annual tour unless it is necessary to meet unique mission requirements or retention/retirement year requirements for a good year.

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Defense bill OKs pay raise, incentives to stay

WASHINGTON – A minimum 4.1 percent military pay raise, more time to use education benefits and more incentive to join the Air Force Reserve are among the provisions of the fiscal year 2003 National Defense Authorization Act.

Signed into law Dec. 2 by President George W. Bush, the act authorizes an across-the-board pay raise of 4.1 percent with higher targeted raises for mid-level and senior NCOs and mid-grade officers.

In other ways, the FY 2003 defense bill mirrors the Department of Defense Appropriations Act signed by the president Oct. 23. Both bills call for end strengths of 75,600 reservists and 1,498 full-time Active Guard and Reserve members, as well as 9,911 full-time air reserve technicians in Air Force Reserve Command.

Congress differed, however, over funding for the command. The authorization act called for $1.5 million more for operation and maintenance funding to train, organize and run the command, and an additional $18.4 million for military construction, primarily at March Air Reserve Base, Calif.

Several provisions of the authorization act are designed to make life easier for reservists.

To be eligible for a non-regular military retirement, reservists must now serve six years rather than eight years of continuous reserve component service immediately before qualifying for retired pay.

The authorization bill extends the maximum period reservists have to use their Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve benefit from 10 years to 14 years. Another provision treats an obligation to refund the United States as a debt when a reservist must repay Montgomery GI Bill benefits because he or she failed to participate satisfactorily in the Selected Reserve.

Congress also wants the Department of Defense to clamp down on travel card abuses. DOD is authorized to withhold or deduct from the pay of a DOD employee or member of the armed forces funds for payment of delinquent travel card charges when the person is delinquent in paying and does not dispute the amount of the delinquency.

When authorized by the service secretary, a servicemember may receive a one-time emergency leave of absence of up to 14 days for a qualifying emergency in order to avoid entering an unearned leave status or excess leave status.

Enlisted people may receive more basic allowance for subsistence when they are assigned to single government quarters without adequate availability of meals from a government messing facility.

The services have the option of reducing the three-year time-in-grade requirement for retirement of officers in the grades of O-4 and above.

To help families, Congress authorized continued eligibility of family members for TRICARE Prime Remote when the sponsoring servicemember is ordered to active duty for more than 30 days and transferred from a duty that qualified the family for care but the family is not authorized to accompany the sponsor at the new duty assignment. Certain surviving dependents may enroll in the TRICARE Dental Program after the family discontinued enrollment in the program.

Bonus extensions

Each year Congress renews one-year extensions of bonuses and special pay. This year's extensions through Dec. 31, 2003, include:

- ❑Special pay for health-care professionals who serve in the Selected Reserve in critically short wartime specialties;
- ❑Selected Reserve affiliation, enlistment and re-enlistment bonuses;
- ❑Special pay for enlisted members of the Selected Reserve assigned to certain high-priority units;
- ❑Ready Reserve enlistment and re-enlistment bonuses; and
- ❑Prior-service enlistment bonus until Dec. 31, 2003.

Enlistment incentives

To attract more prior-service people with critical skills, the enlistment bonus rates increased from a maximum of $5,000 to $8,000 for a six-year enlistment and from $2,500 to $4,000 for three years. The incentive to re-enlist or extend for another three years went from $2,000 to $3,500 for people who enlisted for three years.

As another enlistment incentive, Congress extended the time period members who enlist in the Reserve delayed training program may remain in the program from 270 days to one year.

A unique enlistment incentive program potentially ties active duty,

*See **NDAA**, Page 3*

NDAA highlights

Qualifying years reduced

The FY03 National Defense Authorization Act permanently reduces the requirement to retire from the Air Force Reserve from the last eight qualifying years back to six, effective Oct. 1, 2002.

Before Oct. 5, 1994, upon reaching 20 years of service a reservist needed the last eight qualifying years of service in the Reserve system to be eligible to retire. From Oct. 5, 1994 through Dec. 31, 2000, only the last six qualifying years were required.

The criteria reverted to the last eight qualifying years for reservists retiring between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30, 2002.

MGIB-SR benefits extended

Reservists who became eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve program on or after Oct. 1, 1992, now have up to 14 years to use this benefit.

This change is a result of the FY03 National Defense Authorization Act which extends the benefit from 10 years to 14.

Air Reserve Personnel Center

UPDATE

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AF leaders thank employers for support

By TSgt. Scott Elliott
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – In recognition of the air reserve components' contribution to the war on terrorism, the service's senior leaders are sending their personal thanks to employers of Air National Guardsmen and Air Force reservists.

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper are sending joint letters and lapel pins in recognition of the sacrifices made in support of the war.

The Air Force is asking guardsmen and reservists to come forward with information about their civilian employers, as this information is not routinely collected.

"The real key to the 'Thank the Employer' program is gathering information from our airmen," said Brig. Gen. Ed Tonini, an activated Kentucky Air National Guardsman working with the Air Force office of public affairs. "We need every commander and supervisor to make the case, face-to-face, to their people."

So far, the Air Force has collected data from more than 34,000 of the country's 190,000 citizen airmen.

"We know that the war on terrorism and the efforts to ensure homeland security have placed a strain on the employers of our Guard and Reserve airmen," Tonini said. "We also know that many airmen worry about the effects their service will have on their civilian employment."

Sending recognition to employers also acknowledges the "Thank the Employer" program's value as a recruiting and retention tool, Tonini said.

"If you're looking at the reserve component as a viable fighting force, then we'd better have the support of employers or else people won't join, and they won't stay," he said.

"It's about recognition," the general said. "First and foremost, it's the fact that we have leadership in the Air Force that recognizes that this particular constituency is vital and important to the success of the Air Force.

"We cannot do the job of the Air Force without supportive employers, so we're reaching out to them to thank them and let them know they're full partners in what we're going through right now."

Two Web sites are available for traditional members of the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve Command, including individual mobilization augmentees, to provide their employer information.

Members can visit **www. yourguardiansoffreedom.com/thanks**. Personnel who have been activated for a second year can provide their information at **www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com/year2.** (*Courtesy AFRC News Service from Air Force Print News*)

NDAA from Page 2

Reserve and public service together in one program. After completing an initial active-duty service commitment, an individual may serve an additional period of active duty or 24 months in the Selected Reserve.

The person would then fulfill the remaining obligation in the active force, Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve, Peace Corps, Americorps or other national service program, or some combination of these programs.

Participants would have to meet all military service eligibility requirements and elect one of the following incentives:

❑$5,000 bonus payable after completing 15 months of active duty;

❑Repayment of a qualifying student loan, not to exceed $18,000;

❑Educational allowance at the monthly rate payable under the Montgomery GI Bill for 12 months; or

❑Educational allowance of one-half of the monthly rate payable for basic educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill for 36 months.

Program participants who are otherwise qualified and volunteer to continue serving on active duty may be considered for reenlistment or extension on active duty and any additional benefits for which they may be eligible.

In a recognition program for enlisted reservists, individuals who receive the Air Force Cross or equivalent for extraordinary heroism are authorized a 10 percent increase in retired pay.

The secretary of defense may prescribe a flat-rate stipend for military retirees and others who are not servicemembers or government employees who participate in funeral honor details. The stipend is in lieu of receiving payments for transportation and miscellaneous expenses.

Provisions for the good of the service include:

❑Repealing the prohibition on full-time Active Guard and Reserve members to perform base security functions;

❑Authorizing use of trained contractors to perform security guard duties for up to three years after enactment of the bill if those duties would have been performed by members of the Armed Forces; and

❑Postponing the requirement for significant joint service experience for appointment as the chief of Air Force Reserve until Dec. 31, 2004.

Some benefits offered by defense bills are not immediate because DoD and Air Force must implement policies and programs before these benefits are delivered.

In some cases, Congress issues additional clarification in later defense bills. For example, the FY 2003 bill corrects a provision from the FY 2002 bill to provide transitional health care to dependents of members separated from active duty who are eligible for transitional health care. *(Courtesy AFRC News Service)*

Bush orders smallpox vaccinations

By Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASINGTON — President Bush announced Dec. 13 that he ordered smallpox vaccinations to begin for military personnel.

He also recommended medical personnel and first responders receive the vaccine, but on a voluntary basis. Administration officials stopped short of recommending widespread vaccinations of the American public.

"Men and women who could be on the frontlines of a biological attack must be protected," the president said during an afternoon press briefing in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

The president stressed his decision was not based on a specific threat, but on the renewed focus on security brought about by the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and the subsequent anthrax mail attacks.

"To protect our citizens in the aftermath of Sept. 11, we are evaluating old threats in a new light," he said.

In a Jan. 6 policy memorandum to major command commanders, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper outlined details of the commanders' force protection program.

The first Air Force people to be vaccinated will be medical people and designated forces that constitute specific mission-critical capabilities. The identified medics include those responsible for administering the vaccine to other airmen, and base-level smallpox medical team members (medics who have been selected to treat anyone who contracts the disease). Other U.S. forces will be vaccinated depending upon circumstances.

Smallpox is a highly contagious viral disease. It is often fatal and nearly always disfiguring. There is no cure or treatment.

The eradication of smallpox as a naturally occurring disease is one of the greatest triumphs of the World Health Organization. The risk of smallpox was so remote by 1972 the United States stopped routine vaccinations. The military continued vaccinating until 1990.

A DoD release indicated the department will immunize personnel based on their occupational responsibilities, with emergency response teams and hospital and clinic workers receiving the vaccine first. Next will be those individuals with "critical mission capabilities."

The smallpox vaccine is licensed by the Food and Drug Administration and is from the same stocks used before routine vaccinations stopped in the 1970s. Though the vaccine is considered safe and effective, vaccination is not without risks. Medical officials warn that there is a slight possibility of severe reactions for some people.

Public health officials warn that pregnant women, individuals with weakened immune systems and those with certain skin disorders shouldn't receive the smallpox vaccine.

During his announcement, Bush said he'd be vaccinated because he wouldn't order military personnel to take anything he wasn't willing to take himself.

"These vaccinations are a precaution only and not a response to any information concerning imminent danger," Bush said. "Given the current level of the threat, and the inherent health risks of the vaccine, we have decided not to initiate a broader vaccination program for all Americans at this time."

RCPHA from Page 1

603A, *Health Record – Dental Continuation*, or a civilian dentist using the DD Form 2813, *Department of Defense Reserve Forces Dental Examination*.

"The RCPHA is a critical program in verifying a member's readiness for worldwide duty, protecting individual health and assuring a fit fighting force," said Col. Linda McHale, ARPC director of health services individual reserve programs, or ARPC/SG.

Reservists are encouraged to complete their RCPHAs during their annual tour or inactive duty training, or IDT.

IMAs unable to complete the exams during their scheduled duty periods may submit an AF Form 40a, *Record of Individual Inactive Duty Training*, for one non-paid point upon completion of the exams.

Making sense of the RCPHA process

ARPC/SG provides the following step-by-step instructions to assist IMAs in complete the Reserve Component Periodic Health Assessment, or RCPHA:

❑Schedule appointment(s) by contacting the physical exams clinic at the base clinic of assignment or attachment. IMAs unable to schedule an appointment at an active duty Air Force medical treatment facility should search **www.afcrossroads.com/html/dodinstall/index.htm** to locate the closest Department of Defense MTF. References for authority to conduct medical exams of IMAs are available at **arpc.afrc.af.mil/sgp/imamed_ex.doc**.

❑Contact their active duty supervisor regarding the date and time of their exam.

❑Notify HQ ARPC/SGP of appointment dates and locations. This can be done by sending an e-mail to **arpc.sgpdl@arpc.denver.af.mil**. IMAs may also send a fax to DSN 926-7589 or (303) 676-7589. The fax should include member's name; Social Security number; location, date and time of appointment(s); type of appointment – physical exam, dental exam or both; and MTF phone number. If notified 10 days before the appointment, SGP can provide the MTF a copy of the last exam.

❑Download blank forms at **arpc.afrc.af.mil/sgp/pubs_forms.htm**. Fill out the four-page Reserve Component Health Risk Assessment, or RCHRA, prior to the appointment. Take the RCHRA, the blank SF 600 and shot record to the appointment. Also, bring any documentation pertaining to past medical conditions.

❑Upon completion, send a copy of the forms to HQ ARPC/SG, 6760 E. Irvington Pl. #7200, Denver, CO 80280-7200. ARPC/SG accepts faxed copies of the forms pending receipt of original documentation. Their fax number is DSN 926-7589 or (303) 676-7589.

Eagle Eyes: *Program enlists airmen, citizens in terror prevention*

By Maj. Mike Richmond
OSI Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – A new anti-terrorism initiative from the Air Force Office of Special Investigations is taking root around the world.

Called "Eagle Eyes," the program aims to prevent terrorism by encouraging and enabling Air Force members and citizens to report terrorist planning activities they observe. The program also features processes for rapid follow-up investigations and information sharing to other echelons of command and other law-enforcement agencies as appropriate.

"Terrorism is always preceded by planning steps, and those steps are observable if you know what to look for," said Maj. John Gamache, an OSI special agent working homeland security threat and investigative issues from OSI headquarters at Andrews AFB, Md. "This program seeks to educate the masses – both on base and off – on what those activities are, and then what to do about it if you see something suspicious."

Gamache said "Eagle Eyes" officially came to life April 18 when Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper signed a memo endorsing the program. Weeks earlier, however, OSI detachments and security forces squadrons around the globe began establishing local reporting processes in anticipation of the program's launch.

"Security forces are full partners in this initiative," Gamache said. "Their participation is crucial to making this work at the installation level."

While local reporting processes may differ slightly, in most cases people will be advised to report suspicious activity to their security forces desk.

"Our squadrons have the advantage of being manned 24 hours a day, all year round, so there's never a time that a person couldn't report a suspicious activity to us," said Maj. Mel Allen of the Headquarters USAF Security Forces Directorate. "Once a calls comes in, our cops will notify the OSI right away to investigate, and depending on what the nature of the call is, we can respond to the situation immediately if that's what's called for."

According to Gamache, widespread promotion of the program is critical to its success.

"It'll do no good to build speedy reporting and investigating processes if people don't know what to report," Gamache said. "And for that reason, a substantial promotional campaign is built into the program."

Gamache said program promotion will include base-newspaper articles, briefings at commanders' calls, and presentations to newcomers, family members, and off-base populations. Additionally, an official program logo is being designed and will eventually be applied to educational handouts.

The publicity campaign targets a large and diverse audience.

"It's important that this campaign reaches as many people as possible, to include not just military people, but civilian workers, family members, contractors, off-base merchants, community organizations, neighborhoods, you name it," Gamache said. "Our agents can't be everywhere, and neither can the security forces personnel, so we're enlisting the eyes and ears of everybody. We're saying, 'You know best what does or doesn't belong in your neighborhood, in your work area, on your drive to work, so you'll be able to spot something that doesn't quite look right and phone it in."

Gamache identified seven categories of suspicious activities that warrant reporting:

❑**Surveillance.** Someone recording or monitoring activities. This may include the use of cameras (either still or video), note taking, drawing diagrams, annotating on maps, or using binoculars or other vision-enhancing devices.

❑**Elicitation.** People or organizations attempting to gain information about military operations, capabilities, or people. Elicitation attempts may be made by mail, fax, telephone, or in person.

❑**Tests of security.** Any attempts to measure reaction times to security breaches or to penetrate physical security barriers or procedures in order to assess strengths and weaknesses.

❑**Acquiring supplies.** Purchasing or stealing explosives, weapons, ammunition, etc. Also includes acquiring military uniforms, decals, flight manuals, passes or badges (or the equipment to manufacture such items) or any other controlled items.

❑**Suspicious persons out of place.** People who don't seem to belong in the workplace, neighborhood, business establishment, or anywhere else. Includes suspicious border crossings and stowaways aboard ship or people jumping ship in port.

❑**Dry run:** Putting people into position and moving them around according to their plan without actually committing the terrorist act. This is especially true when planning a kidnapping, but it can also pertain to bombings. An element of this activity could also include mapping out routes and determining the timing of traffic lights and flow.

❑**Deploying assets:** People and supplies getting into position to commit the act. This is a person's last chance to alert authorities before the terrorist act occurs.

In addition to investigating each report, Gamache said OSI detachments will share the information with their "watch team" at OSI headquarters, which compiles such reports and pushes them out electronically in near real-time to other levels of command and law-enforcement agencies.

Local OSI detachments have more information on local reporting procedures.

Back in blues after 16 years

Desire to serve drives business owner back into service

By TSgt. Devin Fisher
Editor

Why would someone who achieved his lifelong dream of owning a successful business decide to put back on the Air Force blue after 16 years?

It's really quite simple.

"When you get to be my age you've put a lot of road behind you," said 46-year-old TSgt. Tom Kimball, a public affairs IMA at Buckley AFB, Colo. "I took a hard look at my life and decided I wanted to give back for the privileges I've enjoyed and the benefits of living in a country like ours."

Of course, the fact that his only son, Ben, was off at Air Force Basic Military Training at Lackland AFB, Texas, didn't hinder the decision process.

"When I dropped him off for basic training he was still that kid … he ran out of my truck saying 'see you dad,'" the elder Kimball explained. "But when I returned, he was a man, a squad leader."

TSgt. Tom Kimball, left, returned to duty joining the Air Force Reserve four days after his son, Ben, right, graduated from Air Force Basic Training.

Ben graduated from basic training on Friday and his father reenlisted four days later.

Two years have passed since Kimball raised his right hand and accepted the oath bringing him back to the Air Force team. And today, he has only one regret.

"Knowing what I know now, I would have done it sooner," Kimball explained. "The experience of the last two years, in tandem with what I do in civilian life, has been nothing but positive."

Kimball entered active duty in 1979 and following initial training was stationed in 48th Tactical Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office at RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom. In 1983, he decided to trade in his Air Force blues and chase his dream of becoming a successful business owner.

"I'd been to college, and I was looking to do something different," he explained. "I had aspirations all along to run my own business. They were giving early outs, although they were not downsizing, and they really weren't encouraging us to stay in."

During his tenure at Lakenheath, Kimball made some 350 personal appearances in support of the base's community relations program which led to him receiving the Gen. Frederick E. Castle Award, England's highest award for Anglo-American relations.

With his Air Force training in tow, Kimball returned to Denver where he moved in 1976 to attend college.

He spent his days freelancing as a writer, broadcast reporter and actor in theater, movie and commercials.

"I quickly discovered that my Air Force experience, to include my writing, helped me build my business, because the video is only as good as the writer," Kimball said. "Good writing is not a common thing."

After focusing his attention on rewriting scripts, Kimball discovered producing was not all that difficult. Seeing a pattern in his "go-to guys," he created the production company the Light Group in 1998.

"All along I've felt my Air Force experience has helped me," he explained. "The core values really apply — that's what companies want to be communicating to their customers and employees."

The experience in blue, now 16 years removed, also transformed Tom Kimball, the father, into a successful recruiter.

With his son prepared to enlist in the Army, Kimball drew on his past and encouraged Ben to explore what the Air Force had to offer before making his final decision.

"I know the Air Force family … I know that everyone takes care of each other," the elder Kimball said. "As a father, that's very comforting to me."

While attending his son's graduation from basic training, it became evident that the Air Force was not only the right choice for Ben, but also for himself.

"When I saw him at basic training, I wept," said the proud father. "It was as though divine providence was sending me a message saying, 'This is the right thing for you to do.'"

Four days later Kimball was back in Air Force blue, as a traditional reservist with the 302nd Airlift Wing at Peterson AFB, Colo. At age 44, he was just six weeks shy of being ineligible to return to duty.

To this day, Ben, who is promoted to the rank of senior airman Jan. 29, still thinks the whole situation is "kind of cool."

"You hear about kids being forced into their parent's footprints," said the imag-

See **KIMBALL**, Page 7

IMA medical officer receives Bronze Star

By Mike Molina
ARPC Public Affairs

Col. (Dr.) Roger Santala is no stranger to acts of bravery. As a cancer and blood disorder specialist in Billings, Mont., he sees courage everyday in the patients he treats.

And perhaps it was working with patients who face their own mortality, that fuels Santala's commitment to sacrifice.

'It seems appropriate if you're called for duty that you should press forward ... waiting for others to do things doesn't sound like the way I do things.'
Col. (Dr.) Roger Santala

In December, the 56-year-old IMA medical officer received the Bronze Star for his actions while stationed in Kyrgyzstan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"I am pleased that somebody recognized the commitment we made," Santala said. "It is quite gratifying to know they thought enough of me to put me in for this award."

Santala, a 32-year reservist, received the order that he was being activated in February 2002. A month after leaving his practice in Billings and reporting to Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland AFB, Texas, Santala found himself headed for the front lines of the war on terrorism.

"The time came when they were going to send someone (to Kyrgyzstan)," Santala said. "I told them, 'Why not send me? I'm not sleeping in my own bed, it's 1,600 miles away.'"

On March 11, Santala was deployed as an Expeditionary Critical Care Team, or ECCT, member, which is comparable to a civilian intensive care unit physician. As the senior medical officer, Santala commanded the 376th Expeditionary Medical Group. He led the development of the first-ever United States-led Coalition Hospital that provided level II medical care to eight countries. A level II designation is given to hospitals capable of providing a complete range of emergency services for the most severe injuries and trauma.

Together with physicians from seven different countries, Santala and his team helped create a medical clinic in Kabul. He also commanded a medical site survey deployment team to Bagram and Kabul where, according to the Bronze Star citation, "Under hostile fire and danger, he provided the necessary oversight to ensure required logistical, intelligence and medical information was obtained."

"There was a sense of uncertainty," Santala said when asked about the risks he faced. "You get a briefing of what actions to take, when you're supposed to respond with deadly force, but you felt the people who were probably in the biggest danger were the bad guys."

Santala says despite the danger he was in, he has no regrets about volunteering for the deployment.

"It seems appropriate if you're called for duty that you should press forward. Standing by and waiting for others to do things doesn't sound like the way I do things."

In July 2002, Santala completed his tour in Kyrgyzstan and returned to his community practice in Billings.

Looking back, he says he has a greater appreciation for the impact of the Reserve force in the war on terrorism.

"You realize that a tremendous part of the load is being carried by reservists. Clearly, we have an important role to play."

Kimball from Page 6

ery analyst assigned to Joint Forces Intelligence Command, Norfolk, Va. "But this is sort of a reversal, I had decided what I was going to do with my life, and my dad followed suit. I followed in his footsteps, and then he followed in mine."

Being a successful business owner, it's obvious the elder Kimball didn't return to the Air Force for the money.

"It's about being part of something bigger than myself where I can make a difference," Kimball explained. "I'm proud of that … and proud that my son is part of that great tradition."

The Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon proved there are consequences to consider. The Reserve's partnership with the active duty brought to light the reality that both father and son could be called on to continue the nation's fight for freedom. Noting this possibility didn't receive much thought until the morning of Sept. 11, both father and son stood ready.

"Not everything we do is planned by ourselves, but there is a divine providence that has us do things for the benefit of others," Ben said. "Knowing this, we were ready to go … it was scary, but we were ready to step out and serve."

The father added, "An often quoted scripture says 'No greater love than this that one would lay down his life for his friends.' We're not being ignorant; we simply realize there's a greater cause for which we fight. We are commanded to love one another and be peacemakers, fight the good fight and fill our duty as airmen in the United States Air Force."

And now that things have intensified with the situation in both Afghanistan, Iraq, and Korea, it's even more evident.

"It's even more obvious today that serving in this great nation's military is the right thing to do. You have to ask yourself, If not me … then who?"

Kimball noted the Reserve is looked at in a different light today than back when he left active duty.

"In the 1980s, being in the Reserve and Guard was the last thing anybody wanted to do. Back then they were just looking for bodies to fill the positions, but today they are looking at the whole person, taking advantage of their civilian experience."

Kimball believes this is more evident in the IMA program, thus explaining his move to the program in February 2002.

"It's exciting to come in here and show the active duty that the old guy can be an asset," Kimball explained. "I want to be where the action is, and that's why I'm in the IMA program."

City Pair beneficial for government, traveler

By TSgt. Devin Fisher
Editor

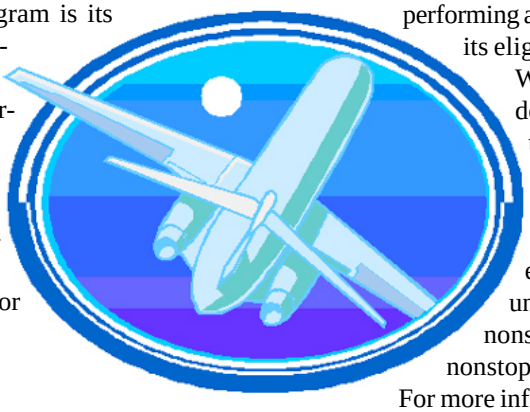
Most government travelers are aware of the enormous flexibility they are afforded in their travel itineraries, but few are aware of the tremendous savings the government enjoys as a result of its established agreements with the airlines.

The General Services Administration, or GSA, City Pair Program provides its travelers the benefits associated with unrestricted fares while saving the government a projected $2 billion in airfare during fiscal year 03.

"The program has evolved into a remarkable tool that not only affords our travelers great flexibility, but also saves the government money," said Dave Gallop, ARPC director of financial management. "Due to the agreement with the contracted airlines, our customers can make changes to their itinerary as needed at no cost to the government."

And the real beauty of the program is its flexibility. Key features of the program include:

- ❑No requirement for advance purchase of tickets;
- ❑No limits on length of stay at any location;
- ❑A full refund for unused tickets;
- ❑No charge for cancellations or changes;
- ❑Last seat availability; and
- ❑No blackout periods apply.



City Pair has made great strides since its inception in 1980 when the program was only available for travelers in 11 markets, using four participating air carriers. Today, City Pair boasts more than 4,900 destinations worldwide with 14 participating air carriers. Originally designed to accommodate active-duty travelers, the FY99 National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, authorized Reserve component members to use City Pair fares while performing active duty tours. The FY2000 NDAA expanded its eligibility to include inactive duty training.

'The program has evolved into a remarkable tool that not only affords our travelers great flexibility, but also saves the government money.'

Dave Gallop
ARPC director of financial management

While Gallop admits the City Pair program doesn't always provide the lowest available fare to each location, the peace of mind the program offers makes it the best choice for the government and the traveler in most cases.

On average, the program provides the government with a 72-percent savings compared to unrestricted market commercial fares and offers nonstop service in 95 percent of the markets where nonstop service is available.

For more information on the City Pair program, visit **http://www.fss.gsa.gov/citypairs**.

Activated reservists get tax help; aid for others on the way

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Unless on active duty during tax preparation time, Air Force reservists are not entitled to Air Force tax assistance through base legal offices.

To help reservists who may have been on active duty during 2002 and to assist other taxpayers in Air Force Reserve Command, the AFRC Staff Judge Advocate is preparing articles about military allowances for activated reservists, as well as general information about filing taxes.

The articles should appear in AFRC News Service, located at **http://www.afrc.af.mil/news/afrcnews/**, in January 2003, at the start of the 2002 tax preparation period.

Due to manning constraints and regulatory restrictions on legal assistance, AFRC installation and wing legal offices do not offer tax preparation and filing services to reservists in an inactive status. However, unit reservists participating in an inactive status are entitled to mission-related legal assistance – wills and powers of attorney.

Reserve legal assistance officers should be able to address specific tax questions from members on active duty as part of their legal assistance program. These officers should also be able to direct activated military members to the closest active-duty location offering full tax preparation services.

Tax preparation centers are found on most active-duty military installations and normally operate from late January to April of each year.

Reservists on active duty should present their identification cards and orders to the personnel at the tax center to show their entitlement to the service. The military services operate tax centers on installations, ships at sea and at deployed units throughout the world.

Commanders support the program by detailing servicemembers to prepare returns and by providing space and equipment for tax centers. The Internal Revenue Service supports these efforts by providing tax preparation training to servicemembers at sites around the world.

This combined DoD/IRS effort ensures that servicemembers receive free tax assistance from well-trained and equipped military tax preparers. Overall, service tax programs save servicemembers and their families more than $57 million. And, with electronic filing and direct deposit, service members often receive refunds in less than a week.

Last year, personnel at military service tax centers prepared and electronically filed more than 400,000 federal tax returns and 91,000 state returns. This made the military tax program the largest non-commercial filer of electronic tax returns. The services also prepared more than 240,000 traditional (paper) federal and state returns. *(Courtesy AFRC News Service)*

Briefs

Address changes

Reservists can now verify their mailing address is correct and make necessary updates through the Virtual MPF, or vMPF, Web site, located at **https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afpcsecure/**.

Changes made in Virtual MPF automatically update the Military Personnel Data System, or MilPDS.

Reservists are encouraged to update their address using the vMPF, however, other methods are available. They include:

❑Submitting an address change via the ARPC Web site, at **http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/dpssab/custservice.htm**; and

❑Notifying ARPC customer service of the address change via:

❖E-mail, **address.changes@arpc.denver.af.mil**;

❖Fax, (303) 676-6298 or DSN 926-6298;

❖Letter, HQ ARPC/DPSSA/B, 6760 E. Irvington Place, Denver, CO 80280-4010; or

❖By phone, 1-800-525-0102 or DSN 926-6528/6730.

Reservists should include their mailing and residence address if they are different.

ATM fee reimbursement

A recent Joint Federal Travel Regulation change allows infrequent military travelers who are exempt from using the Government Travel Card to be reimbursed for ATM fees when they use their personal credit card to obtain funds for official travel.

ATM fees are listed separately on the travel voucher as items for reimbursement.

Interim vouchers explained

There has been confusion over interim travel voucher use during recent extended deployments. Travel vouchers should be sent to the Dobbins ARB, Ga., pay office unless otherwise stated on the orders.

The following excerpt from the "Travel Companion," helps explain the proper use:

❑Members ordered to active duty for more than 45 days may file an interim voucher every 30 days for reimbursement of accrued per diem and other expenses.

❑Reservists should file their first 30 days of expenses for long term TDY when this filing period has elapsed. The first interim voucher should show the arrival date and place with the word "INTERIM" written prominently on the DD 1351-2.

❑The follow-on vouchers must show "In Place" but have the dates the voucher is covering and the word "INTERIM" written prominently on the DD 1351-2. Subsequent interim claims should be submitted after each 30-day period has elapsed.

❑Travel vouchers are to clearly show all travel including authorized and voluntary returns to the permanent duty station/ residence, side trips, all other travel to locations other than the PDS, etc.

❑Please do not indicate MC (Mission Complete) until submitting the final voucher.

Split disbursement mandatory

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - All Air Force government travel card holders can expect to file split disbursements on their travel vouchers starting in the spring of 2003.

The Air Force is making the current optional process mandatory to combat delinquent government travel card payments to Bank of America, which holds the government travel card contract.

Rhonda Griggers-Evans, government travel card service coordinator for Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, expects split disbursements to become mandatory during the April to June timeframe.

She said using the process is a simple, easy way to manage government travel cards. Account holders select the option when filing their travel voucher and enter how much they want Bank of America to receive. *(Courtesy AFRC News Service)*

Travel card cancellations

Due to the mass closure of expired and unused Government Travel Cards (GTCs), some IMAs are finding that their GTC accounts have been cancelled.

Some MAJCOMs are also canceling accounts of infrequent travelers, those who travel less than three times a year.

To assist IMAs in this effort, HQ AFRC/FM has requested that MAJCOM agency program coordinators (APCs) make their unit APCs aware of the need to support IMAs in reactivating their cards or receiving advances through electronic fund transfers.

Although AFRC's policy is to reinstate accounts of any traveler within AFRC who needs the card for travel, other MAJCOMs can implement their own procedures.

Any infrequent traveler is exempt from using the card and can use their own personal funds/credit cards, or obtain an EFT advance to pay for travel costs.

DoD Financial Management Regulation 7000.14R, Volume 9, Chapter 3, states the card is mandatory for people who travel more than twice a year. This doesn't mean the infrequent traveler is not allowed to use the GTC.

Unfortunately, some MAJCOMs have denied all infrequent travelers reinstatement of their accounts. In the event your MAJCOM denies the use of the card, as an infrequent traveler, IMAs may use their own personal funds, or obtain an EFT advance.

A statement must be in the orders that the individual is exempt from using the GTC. If the statement is not in the orders, IMAs can submit a letter from their commander or order writer requesting an advance. The advance will be limited to 80 percent of the total amount of the order. To obtain an EFT advance, fax the order (or order and letter) with a note requesting the advance to the Dobbins IMA travel office at DSN 497-0625 or (478) 327-0625. Dobbins will process the advance the day received and the money will be electronically deposited into the IMA's bank account two days later.

Travel companion

The Dobbins reserve pay office technicians have designed a product they call the "travel companion."

This pamphlet is designed for guidance only and is not intended to replace or amend information found in the JFTR or JTR.

Simply put, this publication answers questions reservists might have in reference to official travel. A link to the travel companion is available on the ARPC Web site, **http://arpc.afrc.af.mil**, under "Orders/travel."

New rental car policy

The Military Traffic Management Command agreement effective Oct. 1, 2002, affects DoD employees' rights and obligations when renting a vehicle while on TDY orders.

Under the agreement, members make arrangements through a Commercial Travel Office, which guarantees rental rates, conditions, and official traveler insurance coverage for cars and mini-vans, but not for sport utility vehicles. There is a $5 per day reimbursable administrative charge, which members need to include in their cost analysis to justify the need for a rental car.

TDY rental vehicles may only be used for official purposes. Any accidents should be reported to local police, the rental car company, and the nearest legal/claims office.

War trophies not always souvenir bargains

By Lt. Col. Brent Evans
Air Force Reserve Command deputy staff judge advocate

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Souvenirs from Afghanistan and other countries in the area of responsibility make great conversation pieces back home, but there's a catch.

Air Force Joint Instruction 31-217, *Control and Registration of War Trophies and War Trophy Firearms*, governs keeping and registering "war trophies" by Air Force people. Failing to abide by these rules could lead to serious consequences, including fines and jail time.

A war trophy is any item of enemy public or private property used as war material acquired within a combat area or zone. It can be a weapon, a shell casing, a radio or many other kinds of property.

To possess and transport such a souvenir, one must have written permission from the theater commander. Some items, such as shell casings, require additional written permission from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Federal law requires that the desire for souvenirs not blemish the conduct of combat operations, result in mistreatment of the enemy, bring dishonor to their dead or further other unbecoming activity.

Enemy material captured or abandoned must be turned over to appropriate U.S. or allied military personnel, and military members may not take an enemy object as a souvenir unless specifically authorized by regulations. In addition, Article 103 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice requires service members to reasonably secure all public property taken from the enemy and to turn over captured or abandoned property to the U.S. military.

Failure to carry out these duties, or looting, pillaging or disposing of captured property for personal benefit is punishable by court-martial. AFJI 31-217 contains a long list of items that may not be kept as war trophies. Those items include, but are not limited to, live ammunition, machine guns, electronic equipment and components, and enemy equipment not designed to be issued or carried by individuals (tanks, planes, motorcycles). Also banned are art or historic articles and items like gold, silver or jewelry.

General orders of combatant theater commanders are usually more restrictive. For example, U.S. Central Command General Order No. 1 specifically prohibits keeping personal items of the enemy (identification cards, dog tags, photos, letters), weapons or any part of a foreign made weapon and *unit* war trophies.

For items not prohibited by the instruction or a general order, service members must have an approved Defense Department Form 603-1, *War Trophy Registration/Authorization*, from the theater commander.

People who violate these rules can be punished under the UCMJ. During the Gulf War, U.S. military personnel, including two airmen, were court-martialed for violating these rules.

Authorized war trophies may be mailed, shipped, included in authorized baggage or carried personally to the United States as prescribed by the major overseas commander and U.S. Customs. Nearly all of the mail arriving from overseas is now being checked by customs agents because of recent increases in contraband.

On a final note, war trophies can be dangerous. In Bosnia, weapons were sometimes booby trapped to explode when the trigger was pulled, so the U.S. Army had the following safety campaign slogan: "If you didn't drop it, don't pick it up." *(AFRC News Service)*

JAG and paralegal news

JAG, paralegal orientations

The judge advocate and paralegal orientation workshops offer the "A to Z" of the IMA program. The workshops include hands-on computer training and mock Quality Review Panels.

The following workshops are scheduled:

❑IMA judge advocate orientation workshop, March, 6-7

❑IMA paralegal orientation workshop, March 20-21

Although designed for IMAs, the paralegal workshop is open to active duty law office managers on a space-available basis.

If interested in attending, contact Jim Prior or TSgt. Jay Dorris (judge advocates); or CMSgt. Deborah Fischer or MSgt. Joyce Balding (paralegals); at DSN 926-6494, 1-800-525-0102, Ext. 71251, or e-mail **arpc.ja@arpc.denver.af.mil**.

Personal readiness database

The Chief of Air Force Reserve, The Judge Advocate General, and the mobilization assistant to TJAG must ensure a ready and able force.

Current climate makes this the absolute top priority. In an effort to adequately track readiness for each Reserve judge advocate and paralegal, a personal readiness database has been created for use by senior leadership.

The majority of the information was populated by Dec.1, but needs to be kept current to be a useful tool. This is the ultimate responsibility of Reserve coordinators and senior IMAs. However, IMAs play a critical role since much of the data is fed in by WebFLITE's ROSTER.

It is crucial for members to keep their personal data in ROSTER up to date and quickly provide additional information upon request.

This helps ensure TJAG's Department Reserve is ready and able to serve the country whenever, however and wherever needed.

Updating WebFLITE is not a substitute for updating the Virtual MPF, or vMPF. Members must update both the WebFLITE and vMPF databases.

POC: HQ ARPC/JA
CMSgt. Deborah Fischer
(800) 525-0102, Ext. 71251
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Comm: (303) 676-6494
E-mail: arpc.ja@arpc.denver.af.mil
Address: 6760 E. Irvington Pl. #5200
Denver, CO 80280-5200

MPA tours denied in WOTS

As a service to its customers, ARPC/JA permits all tour requests to be sent through WOTS. However, WOTS is only used for RPA, school and annual tours.

As such, MPA tours are denied in WOTS and processed manually by ARPC/JA. This is why it's important for members to return to WOTS and see why a tour was denied.

While it may simply mean the MPA order is being processed manually, there could be a problem with the request. The only way to find out is to check the remarks in WOTS.

Medical profession news

Program builds international 'medical bridges'

By Lt. Col. Luis Morales
AFRC International Health Specialist program manager

In a recent Chief's Sight Picture, Air Force Chief of Staff General John Jumper emphasized that "just as we need pilots, intelligence specialists, satellite operators and jet engine mechanics, our expeditionary force requires airmen with international insight, foreign language proficiency, and cultural understanding."

The CSAF reiterated the need for a "cadre of professionals proficient in foreign languages and area studies — men and women who have the right skill sets to shape events and rapidly respond to worldwide contingencies. These international skills are true force multipliers and essential to our ability to operate globally."

What does it mean to a Reserve component medic? Most don't interface at higher levels — only with patients. But Reserve medics are part of the expeditionary air and space force, specifically, the global mobility task force. The Reserve is organized to provide worldwide movement of assets to include support to victims of natural and man-made disasters, and must be prepared to evacuate noncombatants. Medics who speak a second language and have international regional experiences can make a difference.

The Air Force Medical Service established the International Health Specialist, or IHS, program in each combatant commanders' area of responsibility. The concept is actually quite simple. Doctors, dentists, nurses and allied health support technicians interface with international colleagues in a low-threat environment, sharing the desire to provide the best medical/dental care to their patients. By participating in joint/combined medical exercises with other countries reservists build what the former AF Surgeon General called "medical bridges." These medical bridges will help open doors in future small scale contingencies.

> ***'The more we are familiar with each other's medical capabilities, the more we come to understand how we can complement each other.'***
> **Retired Lt. Gen. Paul Carlton**
> *Former Air Force Surgeon General*

Former Air Force Surgeon General The surgeon general once said, "The more we are familiar with each other's medical capabilities, the more we come to understand how we can complement each other," said retired Lt. Gen. Paul Carlton, former Air Force Surgeon General. The Air Force Reserve Command is building those medical bridges by implementing IHS across the command.

The AFRC IHS program resides in the medical readiness division of the Health Services Directorate, Robins AFB, Ga. AFRC/SG created a database to track Reserve medics with international experiences. Reservists with qualifying language skills can also apply for a special experience identifier, or SEI.

Information is available on the surgeon general's home page at **https://wwwmil.afrc.af.mil/HQ/SG/**, under "International Health Specialist." Those interested in applying can download a sample IHS resume from the site. IHS reservists do not lose their current unit affiliation or AFSC.

For more information, contact Lt. Col. Luis Morales at 1-800-223-1784, Ext. 7-1888, or e-mail **Luis.Morales@afrc.af.mil**.

Chaplain news

Worldwide chaplain conference

Every IMA chaplain service member should plan to attend the worldwide conference in Denver Aug. 4-7.

This conference provides chaplain service personnel a fresh focus on the "big picture." It is also an opportunity to receive ancillary training for readiness and other duties.

IMAs should plan to arrive in Denver Aug. 4 and depart Aug. 8. Registration information will be sent via mail and posted on the ARPC Web site.

USAFA opportunities

Twelve Reserve chaplains, two chaplain candidates and four chaplain assistants are needed to supplement chaplain service personnel during the Air Force Academy Cadet Summer Programs from June 26 to Aug. 11.

Applicants should be prepared for a ministry of presence on campus and in field conditions.

Those interested should contact HQ ARPC/HCP at 1-800-525-0102, Ext. 71240 before Feb. 1.

ARPC Web site

The Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center Web site is the chaplain service reservist's portal to the 21st Century Air Force.

The Web site provides 24-hour, seven day a week accessibility.

Located at **arpc.afrc.af.mil**, the site features three areas to assist customers in navigating the site.

The ARPC header includes six "file folder" links for easier navigation throughout the Web site. The middle four tabs navigate customers to ARPC's most popular areas – assignments; promotions; publications and forms; and retirements, separations and points.

The "Main Subjects" tab on the far left provides a topical listing of 26 main areas on the Web site. This area provides a link to the individual reserve guide, a must download for Reserve chaplain service personnel.

Finally, the "A-Z Site Map" is a comprehensive alphabetical listing of items available on the ARPC Web site.

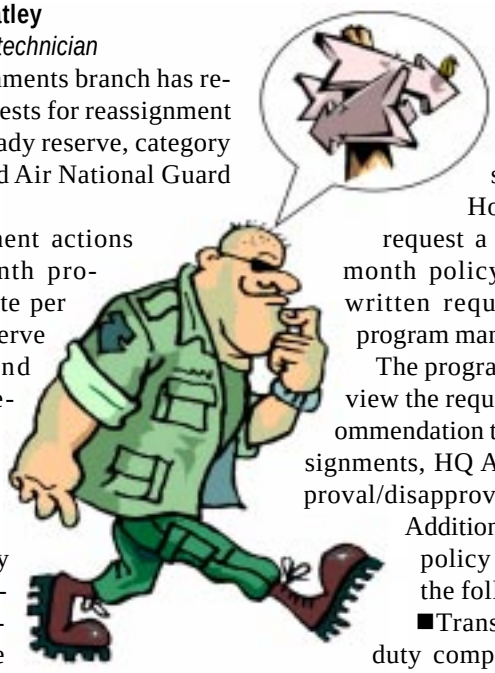
Career management news

Assignment actions require six months

By Catherine Wheatley
Assignments branch technician

The ARPC assignments branch has received several requests for reassignment to the individual ready reserve, category E (points only), and Air National Guard programs.

These reassignment actions require a six-month projected effective date per the Air Force Reserve Command's End Strength Management Policy, which was implemented in February 2000.



This policy applies to all voluntary reassignment, retirement, and separation (to include "Tenders of Resignations" and conditional releases) from the IMA or unit Reserve programs. However, IMAs can request a waiver to the six-month policy by submitting a written request through their program manager.

The program manager will review the request and make a recommendation to the director of assignments, HQ ARPC/DPA, for approval/disapproval.

Additionally, this six-month policy does not apply to the following actions:

- Transfers to any active duty component;
- Transfers to any Active Guard Reserve, or AGR, or extended active duty, or EAD, program;
- Transfers from the IMA program to the unit Reserve program;
- Transfers from the unit Reserve program to the IMA program;
- Transfers within the IMA program;
- Transfers within the unit Reserve program;
- Discharge for expiration term of service, or ETS, with no remaining military service obligation, or MSO;
- Retirement at high year tenure date, or HYTD, or mandatory separation date, or MSD; or
- Retirement at ETS.

For more information, contact the ARPC assignments branch at 1-800-525-0102, Ext. 71292; DSN 926-6429; or e-mail **arpc. dpapadl@arpc.denver.af.mil.**

Duty history accuracy vital to promotion

By SSgt. Latrina Russell
Assignments branch

As an officer in the individual mobilization augmentee, or IMA, program or the Participating Individual Ready Reserve, or PIRR, it is the member's responsibility to ensure all information on their officer pre-selection brief is current and correct.

This document meets the promotion board along with an officer's selection folder and should accurately reflect all past and present duty information.

If duty information on the brief is questionable, reservists should contact the ARPC Assignments Branch, ARPC/DPAPA, to ensure data is corrected.

Before any updates can be made, reservists must provide DPAPA their name, Social Security number, and a brief description of what they believe to be in error.

The request should also include a valid source document, such as an officer performance report; Air Force Form 2096, *Classification/On-The-Job Training Action;* assignment orders; etc., according to Air Force Computer Systems Manual 36-699, *Personnel Data Systems*, para 5.42.3.3.8.2.

Once DPAPA validates the information, the update will be made in the Military Personnel Data System, or MilPDS. All updates are made in real time; therefore, visible immediately in the Virtual MPF, or vMPF, located at **https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afpcsecure/**.

IMAs should contact their program manager for changes to their current duty title. Program managers will in turn forward the information, to include effective date, to ARPC for updating.

Since reviewing duty histories and making corrections can be time consuming, DPAPA encourages periodic reviews of the vMPF to ensure information is accurately reflected. These reviews eliminate potential problems caused by last-minute corrections. In dealing with promotion boards, DPAPA stresses the importance of prompt action as each "correction/change" directly affects the preselection brief and should not go unnoticed.

DPAPA suggests reservists take advantage of the vMPF to verify their information as this system reflects MilPDS data.

Participating individual reservists should direct questions or requests to HQ ARPC/DPAPA, at 1-800-525-0102, Ext. 71292; DSN 926-6429; or e-mail **arpc.dpapdl@arpc. denver.af.mil.**

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