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Army to Muster Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) Soldiers

U.S. Army Human Resources Command (HRC) will muster approximately 14,000 Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) Soldiers in 2009.

Mustering is part of readiness screening operations begun by the U.S. Army in 2007 to optimize the operational and strategic value of the IRR program. Musters sustain the individual readiness levels of IRR Soldiers, who may be called upon as needed to support the Army in the Global War on Terror.

The Army, under the operational control of the U.S. Army Human Resources Command, with support from the U.S. Army Reserve Command and the Department of Veterans Affairs, will conduct three types of one-day musters at Army Reserve Centers and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities located across the continental United States and overseas. The three types of musters are Readiness Musters (RM), Personnel Accountability Musters (PAM) and Unit Visit Musters (UVM).

To accommodate IRR Soldiers in areas where there is not an Army Reserve Center, the Army will conduct five Readiness Musters at Veterans Affairs facilities in Tampa, Fla.; Phoenix; Denver; Kansas City, Kan;. and Temple, Texas.

A total of 13 Readiness Musters will be conducted between March and August. In addition to the five VA facilities, the other muster sites are Seattle; Los Angeles; Dallas; Atlanta; Houston; Chicago; New York, and Fort Meade, Md.

The Readiness Muster (RM) is a one-day event consisting of readiness and personnel accountability tasks such as an orientation to the Reserve, records review, security clearance updates, medical and dental screening, identification card issue, presentation of training and unit opportunities, and exit surveys. The RM is typically conducted for Soldiers assigned to the IRR for more than one year and who live in a high-population area.

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The Army also will conduct PAMs at more than 400 Army Reserve Centers. The PAM is a one-day event intended for Soldiers in their first year in the IRR. The purpose of the PAM is to educate Soldiers on IRR participation requirements, update their personal information, and to explain training and promotion opportunities. Soldiers also are offered the Post Deployment Health Reassessment Program (PDHRA) which is designed to identify and address health concerns, with specific emphasis on mental health, that may have developed since their re-deployments.

The UVM is a one-day event designed for IRR Soldiers during their third year in the IRR. It is intended for those who do not reside in a highly-populated area where they would routinely muster with other IRR Soldiers. This muster requires the IRR Soldier to visit a Reserve unit in addition to muster activities. The UVM focuses on accomplishing PAM tasks while an Army Reserve unit is drilling. The focus is placing IRR Soldiers in an environment where they can observe the camaraderie and esprit-de-corps available in a Reserve unit, called a Troop Program Unit (TPU).

Muster orders will be issued to IRR Soldiers and they will be paid \$197 for successfully completing the muster. IRR Soldiers who complete their muster requirement will be credited as satisfactory participants for the year.

“The muster program gives us the chance to collect required information from our IRR Soldiers, but it also gives them a chance to learn about the services and benefits available to them,” said Lt. Col. Craig Smith, U.S. Army Human Resources Command-St. Louis, who is the officer supervising the 2009 IRR Muster Program.

“A lot of opportunities can open up for them through either more active IRR participation, membership in a Reserve unit, or volunteering to mobilize in support of the Global War on Terror,” Smith added.

A Soldier typically becomes a member of the IRR after successfully completing several years of Active Duty or Reserve unit membership. Soldiers may transfer to the IRR to fulfill their eight-year contractual military service obligation.

For more information about the IRR program, visit the HRC Media Center at www.hrc.army.mil/site/media/