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Army to Muster Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) Soldiers in 2010

The U.S. Army will conduct its IRR Readiness Muster program again in 2010. The U.S. Army Human Resources Command (HRC), which has operational control of the muster program, will muster approximately 14,000 Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) Soldiers in 2010, at 19 locations across the United States and Puerto Rico.

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. The main purposes of musters are to sustain the individual readiness levels of IRR Soldiers by insuring their administrative and medical data is current, and to provide them information on the benefits and resources available to them in the Army Reserve. Over the past two years the Army has continued to change the format of the musters to provide more personal services to the soldier as well as opportunities to continue service with the federal government within the federal continuum of service.

The musters are 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 (VA). The musters will be conducted at Army Reserve Centers and Department of Veterans Affairs facilities located across the continental United States and overseas. The Army is partnering with the VA in an effort to raise the visibility of VA benefits and services to IRR Soldiers, which was a significant success in its test year of FY 2009.

A total of 19 Readiness Musters (RM) will be conducted between January and August 2010. The first muster will be conducted at the VA Health Care Facility in Phoenix, AZ on January 23. In all, nine muster sites will be at Veterans Affairs Health Care facilities. The other muster sites at VA facilities are: Tampa, FL, New York City, Tacoma, WA, Temple, TX, Boston, MA, Fayetteville, N.C, Denver, CO and Ann Arbor, MI.

The Army will conduct Readiness Musters at Army Reserve Training Centers at Los Angeles, CA, San Juan, PR, Houston, TX, Atlanta, GA, Chicago, IL, Philadelphia, PA, Minneapolis, MN, Dallas, TX, and Fort Meade, MD.

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The Readiness Muster, or 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 a year.

Muster orders will be issued to IRR Soldiers and they will be paid \$200 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, the supervising officer for the 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 Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.”

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 the remaining portion of their contractual eight year military service obligation.

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