



ABOUT THE AIR FORCE RESERVE

The Air Force Reserve is an exciting, vibrant part of the nation's defense. It offers similar benefits afforded to those on active duty, with one major addition: the benefit of time. Time to be with your family, time to work at your civilian career, and time to serve your country.

An ideal option for those who have never been in the military and want to participate without being on full-time active duty, the Reserve is also a great way for those in other branches of the military to continue their benefits. Those include educational and retirement programs; starting their civilian careers with the stability of a second paycheck; and continuing the camaraderie and adventure only available through the service.



HISTORY

President Harry Truman called for the formation of the Air Force Reserve in 1948, just a year after the United States Air Force was formed. Originally, the Reserve was conceived as a "stand by" force for emergencies. But in February 1997, the Air Force Reserve changed from a Field Operating Agency to a Major Command (MAJCOM). Since then, the 71,500-member force has evolved into the Air Force's Wingman, performing the same missions and working side-by-side on the same equipment.

WHAT WE DO

The Air Force Reserve has evolved into a Major Command of the active duty Air Force, performing many missions in common with the Air Force and others that are unique (specifically, Weather Reconnaissance - the Hurricane Hunters - and Aerial Fire Fighting).

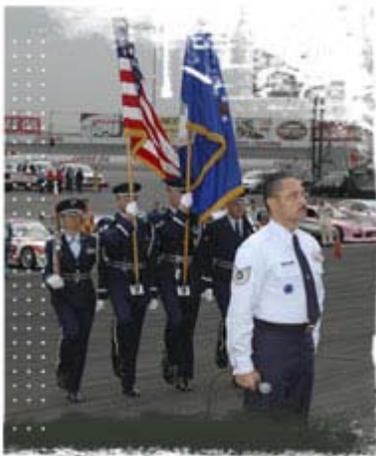
To support those missions, the Reserve deploys 13 different kinds of state-of-the-art aircraft, from the remote-piloted Predator to the specialized C-17 Globemaster III to the new F-22 Raptor fighter.

The Air Force Reserve performs about 20 percent of the work of the Air Force. While the majority of Reservists hold part-time jobs, the number of full-time positions is growing. Full-time roles are performed by Air Reserve Technicians (ARTs) and the Active Guard Reserve (AGR). Another group of experienced Reservists



employ their specialized skills as Individual Mobilized Augmentees (IMAs), working tailored schedules at assigned locations.

The Air Force Reserve operates in various locations around the world, including Air Force Bases, Air Reserve Bases and Air Stations, and may also operate from Joint Reserve Bases owned by different branches of the armed forces. While many missions are common to all bases, some have specialized missions, such as the Weather Reconnaissance mission (or Hurricane Hunters), which operates out of Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi. Ultimately, the missions assigned to each unit in the Air Force Reserve determine the jobs that are available at a given location.



Given the constantly evolving missions of the Air Force Reserve, there is always a need for officers and enlisted personnel. Members of all branches of the military may join the Air Force Reserve even if they have not served in the Air Force. Those with prior service do not repeat Basic Military Training, usually keep their rank, and are entitled to many other benefits, including low-cost medical insurance. Note that a special need exists for those from the healthcare professions; all physicians and nurses join as officers.

Of course, those with no military experience may also join the Air Force Reserve. Although a high school diploma or GED is not required to join the Reserve, higher ASVAB test scores are required. Parents or guardians must give permission for 17 year-olds.

Important to all Reservists is the Airman's Creed, which captures the heritage as well as the vision of the future of the American Airman.

STRUCTURE

The Air Force Reserve is comprised of the 4th Air Force, the 10th Air Force and the 22nd Air Force. Under those numbered Air Forces are a total of 33 flying wings and seven groups (the space group has ten space associated units). The Air Force Reserve has facilities at 67 locations:

- 5 Air Reserve Bases
- 5 Air Reserve Stations
- 1 Navy Tenant Base
- 1 ANG Tenant Location
- 44 AF Tenant Locations
- 8 Miscellaneous Locations
- 3 Ranges.

The total membership of the Air Force Reserve is 71,500. Of those 77 percent are Enlisted and 23 percent are Officers. The Headquarters of the Air Force Reserve is at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. The Command Structure starts with the President of the United States.

RESERVE CATEGORIES

The Air Force Reserve Command supports the Air Force mission to defend the United States through control and exploitation of air, space, and cyberspace by supporting Global Engagement. The AFRC plays an integral role in the day-to-day Air Force mission and is not a force held in reserve for possible war or contingency operations.

The Air Force Reserve performs approximately 20 percent of the daily missions of the Air Force and in some cases provides a majority of the support for certain missions. For example, the Air Force Reserve provides 65 percent of the Aeromedical missions the Air Force performs. There is always a need for healthcare professionals who wish to serve on a part-time basis. Air Force Reserve categories of service break down like this:

Traditional Reservists

These members work part-time jobs for the Air Force Reserve in an area in which they choose to live. They usually serve one weekend a month and are on temporary duty (TDY) two weeks a year. These make up the majority of those in the Reserve.

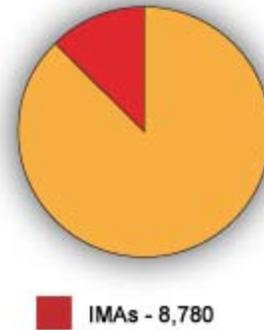


Total: 49,228.

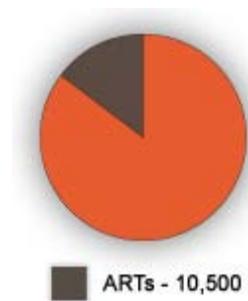
Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMAs)

These reservists can live anywhere. They work part-time, augmenting active duty units, and serve individually at a wide range of locations around the world. They usually serve 24 flexibly scheduled days throughout the year. They are often, but not always, prior active duty members.

Total: 8,780.



Air Reserve Technicians (ART)



Air Reserve Technicians (ART) are a special group of reservists who work as civil service employees during the week in the same jobs they hold as reservists on drill weekends. ARTs are the full-time backbone of the unit training program, providing day-to-day leadership, administrative and logistical support, and operational continuity for their units. More than 15 percent of all reservists are ARTs.

To apply for an ART position you must qualify and be willing to join the Air Force Reserve. To qualify for an ART position you must have experience and qualifications in the career field of the position to which you are applying.

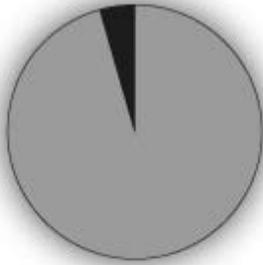
Civil Service Benefits:

- Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI)
- Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB)
- Retirement
- Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)
- Federal Leave Program
- Federal Program for Dental & Vision Benefits (FEDVIP)
- Flexible Spending Account (FSA)
- Long Term Care Insurance

Military Benefits:

- Pay and Personal Recognition
- Life Insurance and Medical Care
- Reemployment Rights
- Job Training
- The Community College of the Air Force (CCAF)
- Travel
- Retirement
- Additional Benefits
- Money for School

Active Guard Reserve (AGR)



These Reservists have been issued Title 10 Active Duty orders to work at their Air Force Reserve job on a full-time basis.

Total: 2,992.

■ AGRs - 2,992

The Air Force Reserve performs many of the day-to-day functions on bases around the United States. About 20 percent of the work of the Air Force is performed by members of the Air Force Reserve. As the Air Force Reserve takes on more duties, missions change. Missions are not to be confused with jobs, of which there are many. For example, if you are interested in a particular mission listed here but do not believe you have the skills or training to be involved, remember - we train people. We can teach you the skills; we want you to bring the enthusiasm.

MISSIONS



Aerial Spray

The 757th Airlift Squadron of the 910th Airlift Wing conducts the only aerial spray missions in the Air Force. These Reservists use four C-130H aircraft equipped with Modular Aerial Spray Systems (MASS), which are used to treat vast areas. For example, crews were charged with spraying areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, to prevent the spread of disease. The 757th Airlift Squadron operates out of the Youngstown Air Reserve Station in Ohio.



Weather Reconnaissance

Another mission unique to the Air Force Reserve and one of the better-known in the U.S. military is that of the Hurricane Hunters. Hurricane Hunter teams are comprised of pilots, scientists, technicians, maintenance personnel and other support roles. These members of the 403rd Wing of the Air Force Reserve - the largest flying organization at Keesler Air Force Base - fly WC-130J aircraft back and forth through tropical depressions, following the storms' paths and measuring intensity as they churn through the Atlantic or Pacific.

Amazingly, these aircraft not only fly directly into a hurricane - they cross back and forth through the storms, gathering and transmitting data for several hours. The Hurricane Hunters project the directions, intensity and time of landfall for a storm from its oceanic origins to its demise. Once a storm hits, tracking is turned over to the National Weather Service. By forecasting storm paths and predicting where and when landfall will be, the Air Force Reserve Hurricane Hunters save thousands of lives and millions of dollars every year.

The Hurricane Hunters are based at Keesler Air Force Base near Biloxi, Mississippi.



Aeromedical Evacuation

The Air Force Reserve provides approximately 65% of the total Air Force medical evacuation capability. By serving in the Air Force Reserve, health care professionals can continue their civilian careers and still serve their country.

The Air Force Reserve primarily deploys the C-130 Hercules and the C-17 Globemaster III to fulfill aeromedical evacuation missions in the United States and around the world, but virtually any cargo aircraft can be configured for these critical missions. Specially trained technicians set up the interior of the aircraft and operate the necessary medical equipment, while doctors and nurses turn these planes into flying intensive care units that can transport those injured in combat or in natural disasters to waiting hospitals.



Aerial Port

Aerial Porters account for and manage aircraft payloads, including every piece of cargo and any and all people onboard. Along with tending to passengers and assisting them in boarding and deplaning, they are charged with inspecting, weighting, packing, and re-weighting every item carried. The Aerial Porters then determine how the aircraft must be loaded. This exercise in weight and balance determines the center of gravity of an aircraft, which in turn determines if it can successfully take off. Aerial Porters work at every base with an Airlift mission.



Airlift

The Air Force Reserve participates in two kinds of Airlift missions: Strategic Airlift and Theater Airlift (also known as Tactical Airlift). Strategic Airlifts involve carrying equipment and troops from a neutral area to an area of operations; the Reserve performs about 46 percent of such missions. Theater or Tactical Airlifts support the transport of equipment and troops within an area of operations; the Reserve performs 21 percent of those missions for the Air Force.

Roughly half of all the members of the Air Force Reserve are in some way involved in the Airlift Mission, moving people and equipment around the world. Aircraft utilized for this mission are the C-5 Galaxy, one of the largest aircraft on Earth, and the C-17 Globemaster, one of the most versatile. Most Tactical Airlift missions are performed by the venerable C-130 Hercules.



Aerial Fire Fighting

Wildfires are a seasonal burden, particularly to the western United States and throughout the national parks. If local volunteer and civilian resources cannot contain such fires, the Air Force Reserve may be called in to spray fire retardant or drop massive quantities of water on particular sites, often using Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems (MAFFS) installed in C-130 aircraft. The 731st Airlift Squadron, assigned to the 302nd Airlift Wing, primarily handles this mission, and is based at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado.



Personnel Recovery (Pararescuemen)

Elite units of the Air Force Reserve, Pararescue units are comprised of a small group of men who are intensely trained to execute conventional and non-conventional rescues. Their primary mission: rescuing air crews downed behind enemy lines.

Para-jumpers - known as PJs - began the tradition of the Pararescuemen in 1943 when an aircrew was forced to bail out of a C-46 above the jungle along the China-Burma border. A few medical corpsmen spent months voluntarily parachuting into the desolate region to find and care for the crew until they were led to safety. Still known as the PJs, these men operate around the world, and live by the motto "That others may live."

Pararescue is one of the most exciting jobs in the Air Force Reserve. Outside of times of conflict, the PJs assist during natural disasters (such as Hurricane Katrina), and

have contributed to rescues at sea, in deserts, and on mountains across the nation. They work with HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters and the HC-130P/N tankers that refuel them in mid-air.

While Pararescuemen requirements are stringent, the most important attribute is ambition. Training, including a paramedic course, is long and intense, and can take the better part of two years. Pararescuemen typically live and work (many are paramedics and firefighters) in their local communities and serve as needed.

As part of the 920th Rescue Wing of the Air Force Reserve, the PJs primarily operate out of Patrick Air Force Base in Florida near the Kennedy Space Center (where they assist during every launch from Cape Canaveral) and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona.



Tanker (Inflight Refueling)

In-flight refueling maximizes the reach of the U.S. military. In this mission scenario, tankers - such as the KC-135 Stratotankers (cargo tankers) and KC-10 Extenders (advanced cargo tankers) - fly a pre-arranged, circling route in the sky. An aircraft approaches a tanker at a scheduled time, and the tanker's Boom Operator threads a fuel line into the waiting aircraft as both tanker and receiving plane are flying at hundreds of miles an hour. A refueling option may be used by most military aircraft, from the giant C-5 Galaxy to the HH-60 Pave Hawk Helicopters. The number of aircraft that can be refueled per tanker depends on the size of the planes being serviced.



Intel (Intelligence Support)

The Intelligence Utilization Field encompasses a number of responsibilities:

- Formulating programs, policy planning, and command or direction of activities involved in comparing United States and foreign overall air potential
- Intelligence operations and application activities to prevent strategic, tactical or technological surprise, and to participate in planning or conducting aerospace operations
- Responsibility for mapping, charting, and geodetic policy, objectives, requirements, guidance and oversight as they apply to planning and programming support for military operations

To accomplish these functions, intelligence personnel are tasked with the following:

- Directing, planning, managing and conducting activities to collect, analyze, exploit, produce and disseminate intelligence information, including human, signal, imagery, and measurement and signature intelligence
- Assessing industrial, technological, geographical and sociological factors
- Using processed intelligence information to support military operations
- Preparing intelligence assessments
- Providing input to national, Department of Defense (DoD) and Air Force plans and programs
- Providing support to air operations, special missions, and weapon system acquisition, and to force structure planning and international security assistance plans and programs
- Performing special security officer functions
- Providing security guidance and functions for Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI) programs and activities
- Using and managing intelligence data handling systems
- Exchanging information and intelligence with other services, agencies and governments.

For intel operations, flight crews are briefed on the nature of the area into which they are flying based on landmark descriptions. With this foreknowledge, personnel can assist in identifying objectives related to the safety of the airspace as well as possible obstacles that may be encountered. Intelligence support exists at every base.



Pilot Training

The Air Force Reserve is specifically involved with training pilots for the Reserve and the Active Duty Air Force. This training is conducted in the T-1, T-6, T-37 and T-38 Aircraft. The Air Force Reserve also trains F-16 pilots at Luke Air Force Base. Training, the hallmark of

the Air Force Reserve, takes place continually at all bases.



Security Forces

Security Forces support exists at every base. These Reservists are responsible for "force protection" - they secure the perimeter of the base and act against any threat attempting to enter the base. The Security Forces share some similarities with civilian police forces, including duties such as writing parking tickets

and investigating crimes. There are more than 45 security-force organizations in the United States. They also have been deployed to protect bases in areas of operation. Security Forces support exists at every base.



Air Operations Center

Multiple sources contribute information to the Department of Defense. Data must be sorted and evaluated, and then formulated into action plans via systems that enable commanders to manage massive amounts of data. Those systems are the Theater Battle Management Control System and the Falconer Air and Space Operations Center (AOC). The AOC is the senior element of the Theater Air Control System that provides the Combined Forces Air Component Commander with the capability to direct and supervise the combat operations of assigned and attached forces and to monitor the actions of both enemy and friendly forces. The AOC develops strategy and planning documents, monitors the execution of all air, space and information operations and provides combat assessment in support of the Combatant Commander's guidance and objectives.

The Air Force Reserve 710th Combat Operations Squadron at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, the 701st Combat Operations Squadron at March Air Reserve Base, California, and the 713th Combat Operations Squadron at Beale AFB, CA are involved in this task.



Space

Working with Air Force Space Command based at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado, reservists in the 310th Space Wing use printouts of orbital parameters to assist in constructing command format and mission objectives. Space Command also transmits and verifies commands using aerospace ground equipment, receives, analyzes, processes, stores and relays data received from spacecraft/ground systems, and advises supervisors of operational problems. The 310th Space Wing is located at Schriever Air Force Base in Colorado.



Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS)

AWACS is a 24/7 flying command center that captures all the action over a prescribed air space and reports the data in real time to the Joint Air Operations Center. These airborne command posts control everything military in the sky and are constantly searching for unidentified aircraft or missiles. They can coordinate information about weather, air traffic, unidentified aircraft, and more.

The E-3 Sentry and C2BM form the AWACS. The E-3 Sentry is a highly modified Boeing 707 easily identified by the large, top-mounted, disc-like dome mounted near its fuselage - the C2BM. Thirty feet in diameter and about six feet thick, the dome houses the radar system which the crew uses to conduct surveillance from the

stratosphere to the surface of the Earth over a range of 250 miles. These "systems" can fly for eight hours at a time, or longer with in-air refueling. The Air Force Reserve's 513th Air Control Group operates out of Tinker Air Force Base near Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



Special Operations Forces

The 919th is the only Special Operations Wing in the Air Force Reserve. The U.S. Special Operations Command primarily involves this wing in supplying special operations forces and in the re-fueling of helicopters via MC-130E and MC-130P aircraft. The 919th Special Operations Wing is based at Duke Field, a field adjacent to Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.



Bomber

The B-52 Stratofortress has been in the U.S. Air Force inventory since the 1950s, a massive bomber that has undergone numerous upgrades and weapons capability improvements since its inception. The skill and experience level of Air Force Reservists keeps this high-altitude, long-distance bomber an operational and highly effective weapon that is still in use today in the War on Terrorism, capable of dropping massive bomb payloads in a single run and surveying large areas. The Air Force Reserve aerial precision bombing mission operates at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana.



Unmanned Aerial Surveillance/Interdiction

The Air Force Reserve Command plays a daily role in the support of various Unmanned Aerial Surveillance/Interdiction vehicles including the RQ-4 Global Hawk, a UAV designed for long-range, high-altitude surveillance missions. Reserve units also operate and support the more commonly known MQ-1 Predator, a lightweight, small, unmanned aircraft that provides interdiction as well as surveillance capabilities. The Predator routinely surveys the area ahead of ground troops in Iraq for Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and then explodes these devices or alerts the troops to their presence. In addition to the Predator, the Air Force Reserve is also playing an integral role in the deployment of the newest UAV, the MQ-9 Reaper Unmanned Aerial Vehicle. Primarily intended to destroy targets, the Reaper is much heavier and larger than the Predator and can fly at high altitudes. This aircraft has a sophisticated sensor package to gather information and identify targets.

RQ-4 missions derive from Beale Air Force Base in California. The MQ-1 Predator and the MQ-9 Reaper are both in inventory at Creech Air Force Base in Nevada.



Fighters

The F-22 Raptor, the most sophisticated jet fighter in the military, is part of the Air Force Reserve mission at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska. The Reserve operates the F-16 Fighting Falcon out of Homestead Air Reserve Base in Florida, the NAS Ft. Worth Joint Reserve Base in Texas, and Luke Air Force Base in Arizona. The versatile A-10 Thunderbolt operates at Moody Air Force Base in Georgia, Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, and Whiteman Air Force base in Missouri.

HOW TO JOIN

The Air Force Reserve is open to officers and enlisted personnel, as well as to those with no prior military service.

Applicants without prior military service must be 17 to 34 years old (enlisted prior to 35th birthday), in good health, and of strong character. The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB), a comprehensive written test, will help determine your eligibility. Those without prior military experience will go through Basic Military Training, an eight and a half week course that combines intensive physical conditioning, academic courses, and rigorous military training.

If you have previously served in the military and want to join the Air Force Reserve, your adjusted age must be less than 40. Subtract your years of active duty and/or active reserve from your age, and if the result is less than 40, you may be eligible for the Air Force Reserve. You can also join regardless of the U.S. military branch in which you previously served, including other Reserve and National Guard components. Individuals who have previously completed a U.S. military basic training program will generally not have to attend Air Force basic training. Also, those entering with experience in other branches of the military typically retain their rank once they join the Reserve.

All officers in the Air Force Reserve must hold a college degree and be selected to hold a commission. An enlisted man or woman may become an officer if he or she earns a bachelor's degree.

For more information, talk with an Air Force Reserve Recruiter at 1-800-257-1212

QUALIFICATIONS

If you have never served in the military and wish to join the Air Force Reserve, you must:

- Be 17 to 34 years old.
- Be in good health.
- Be of strong character.

Another important pre-requisite is the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB), a comprehensive series of academic and psychological tests.

A timed multi-aptitude test, the ASVAB is administered at over 14,000 schools and Military Entrance Processing Stations (MEPS) nationwide, and is developed and maintained by the Department of Defense.

Your scores in four critical areas - Arithmetic Reasoning, Word Knowledge, Paragraph Comprehension and Mathematics Knowledge - count towards your Armed Forces Qualifying Test (AFQT) score. Your AFQT score, in turn, determines whether you're qualified to enlist in the U.S. military.

Your scores in the other areas of the ASVAB will determine how qualified you are for certain military occupational specialties and Enlistment Bonuses. A high score will improve your chances of getting the specialty/job and signing bonus you want.

BASIC TRAINING

Basic Training is an eight and a half week course for new Reservists that combines intensive physical conditioning with a crash course in military culture. It is conducted at Lackland Air Force Base, Joint Base San Antonio in San Antonio, Texas.

You must complete Basic Training if you have never served in the military. To do so, you'll be required to pass a number of physical fitness tests. For that reason, it's a good idea to prepare for Basic Training by exercising three to five times a week for at least six weeks in advance of your session.

BENEFITS

When you join the Air Force Reserve, you are entitled to a wide range of benefits similar to benefits you would receive if you were on Active Duty.

Get an education

The Air Force Reserve constantly stresses education, and encourages Reservists to continue to learn throughout their lives. To help facilitate those ambitions, the Reserve offers a non-contributory GI Bill, and another program that pays as much as 100% Tuition Assistance, free credits at the Community College of the Air Force, and specialized technical training that leads to certifications and licenses. Bonuses and incentives are also available to those pursuing roles in critically needed areas.

The Post-9/11 GI-Bill

The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides financial support for education and housing to individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after September 11, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. You must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

As of August 1, 2009, the Post-9/11 GI Bill is effective for training. Approved training under the Post-9/11 GI Bill includes graduate and undergraduate degrees, and vocational/technical training. All training programs must be offered by an institution of higher learning (IHL) and approved for GI Bill benefits. Additionally, tutorial assistance, and licensing and certification test reimbursement are approved under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill will pay your tuition based upon the highest in-state tuition charged by a public educational institution in the state where the school is located. The amount of support that an individual may qualify for depends on where they live and what type of degree they are pursuing.

This Post 9-11 GI Bill will provide eligible individuals with the following:

- Tuition and fees directly to the school not to exceed the maximum in-state tuition and fees at a public Institution of Higher Learning
- A monthly housing allowance based on the [Basic Allowance for Housing](#) for an E-5 with dependents at the location of the school
- An annual books and supplies stipend of \$1,000, paid proportionately based on enrollment
- A one-time rural benefit payment for eligible individuals

The Post 9-11 GI Bill benefit is payable only for training at an Institution of Higher Learning (IHL). If you are enrolled exclusively in online training, you won't receive the housing allowance. If you are on active duty, you won't receive the housing allowance or books and supplies stipend.

Providing up to 36 months of education benefits, the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit is generally payable for 15 years following your release from active duty. The Post-9/11 GI Bill also offers some service members the opportunity to transfer their GI Bill to dependents.

Loan Payment / Tuition Assistance (TA)

Tuition assistance is available to participating Reserve and IMA students for both distance learning and on-campus courses. It's offered each fiscal year (Oct. 1 - Sept. 30) as long as funding is available. In addition, enrollments may be stopped when funds are depleted during a fiscal year, and then resumed when additional/new funding is made available.

Although funding must be requested before the start of class, TA is paid on a reimbursable basis after a student successfully completes the course(s) for which TA was requested and approved. Successful course completion is defined as C or better.

Students who request TA must meet the following eligibility criteria before application for TA reimbursement can be made:

1. Students must be actively participating (for pay and points) and be in good standing (does not have a UIF, not placed on a control roster, not pending or issued an Article 15, and/or not pending court martial) from the time the Airman applies for and completes the course(s).
2. Enlisted students' retainability must extend beyond the course end date of the last course approved for TA, or the individual must extend or re-enlist.
3. Commissioned officers must have a mandatory separation date of not less than 48 months of service commitment starting at the end of the last course completed. In addition, officers incur a four-year Reserve Service. Each time an officer applies for TA, he or she must sign a Contract for Air Force Selected Reserve Service Commitment.
4. Students must provide a degree plan to ARPC/DPSVN no later than 9 semester hours. They'll no longer be eligible for tuition assistance until the plan is on file with DPSVN. Note: All courses submitted for TA approval must be on the degree plan.
5. Student must have a high school diploma or equivalent.

Airmen will receive 100% for undergraduate or graduate study up to \$4,500 per fiscal year. Department of Defense imposes additional limits of no more than \$250 per semester hour or \$166.66 per quarter hour.

Tuition assistance is only available for courses leading to a degree at a level not already held by the Airman or higher. For example, Airmen who already possess a bachelor's degree cannot apply for an associate's or second bachelor's degree (education levels must be progressive and not equivalent). However, Airmen pursuing an associate degree from Community College of the Air Force in their primary controlled Air Force Specialty Code are authorized tuition assistance regardless of any other degrees held.

TA shall be provided only for courses offered by post-secondary institutions accredited by a national or regional accrediting body recognized by the Department of Education. Certification or vocational courses are not funded. Students are responsible for paying all costs up front prior to attending an institution.

[Low-cost health and dental insurance](#)

The Air Force Reserve offers inexpensive health care insurance for Reservists and members of their immediate families. This can be a significant cost savings through TRICARE, a program offered to those on Active Duty as well.

[Plan for the future](#)

The military offers excellent retirement benefits, inexpensive life insurance, and a reserve health care plan. These benefits make it very easy to build security.

[Earn a second paycheck](#)

The Air Force Reserve offers quality part-time jobs with great benefits and competitive pay. If you're a full-time student, you'll have the time to study while you serve in the Reserve. If you have a job, you'll enjoy the extra income earned as a member of the Reserve.

[Keep your rank](#)

In most cases, you retain the rank earned in your previous branch of service when you join the Reserve.

[Save through the Commissary and BX Privileges](#)

Reservists are eligible to use military bases which offer tax free department store shopping and supermarket shopping at great savings, and there is the opportunity to rent recreational equipment at discounted rates.

[Don't move](#)

When you join the Air Force Reserve, you can continue to live at home and serve, or you can move and serve in the city of your choice.

Transfer directly from active duty

Continue serving your country while accruing years towards your retirement

Do the extraordinary

You'll go places and do things that are just not possible as a civilian. And you'll meet people and make lifelong friendships that are only possible through joining the Air Force Reserve.