

INTRODUCTION TO RESERVE OPPORTUNITIES

To name just a few options, a reserve Marine can serve part time with an active-duty unit, serve full time in a unit while remaining close to home, or serve on a special task for 179 days or less. Service, of course, must satisfy Corps needs, and the possibility of mobilization to active duty always exists. Still, there is much more flexibility in reserve duty than most people realize.

Generally, reserve duty entails drills and annual training – a drill being a general period of service, a minimum of four hours not to exceed two drills per day. Each year, a typical reserve Marine performs about 24 drill days, plus two weeks of annual training. However, as an examination of the various reserve programs shows, Marines can perform the requisite number of drills and the two-week annual training in many ways. What's more, there are some arrangements that don't involve the usual drills and annual training.

Direct Affiliation into the SMCR:

Direct Affiliation provides transitioning AC Marines seamless continuation of their careers as reservists and an opportunity to guarantee a reserve billet prior to reaching EAS. Direct Affiliation provides Marines with a six month extension of their existing Tricare benefits with the opportunity to enroll into Tricare reserve select at the conclusion of the six month extension. **MARADMIN 419/13.**

Selected Marine Corps Reserve (SMCR)

The Selected Marine Corps Reserve offers the most traditional form of reserve duty. The SMCR is the "main effort" of the Marine Corps Reserve and is the best place to begin your search for reserve opportunities.

A typical unit in the Selected Marine Corps Reserve has a designated drill weekend each month. Also, the unit typically performs its two weeks of annual training as a group; very little is done on an individual basis.

A Selected Marine Corps Reserve unit offers a good way for a reservist to experience that "band of brothers" camaraderie without being on active duty. Also, Selected Marine Corps Reserve units offer the most opportunities to train in your primary MOS, or retrain to a new primary MOS.

Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMA)

Another option is the Individual Mobilization Augmentees program. In this program, a reservist who can fill a particular need with an active-duty unit performs reserve duty with that unit. The ability of the reservist to fill the need is the deciding factor, and it doesn't matter whether that ability is the result of military training, civilian education, work experience, or something else.

While everything hinges on what works for the sponsoring unit, IMA reservists commonly perform their drills and annual training on schedules that create minimal friction with civilian-world obligations. There are IMA Marines who do all of their drills and their two-week annual training consecutively. As long as the sponsoring unit is getting what it needs and the reserve Marine is meeting annual drill and training requirements, it doesn't matter whether the work is done on particular days, weeks or months.

Active Reserve (AR)

The Active Reserve program, which may sound like an oxymoron, allows a reserve Marine to serve on a full-time basis and serve in their MOS or possibly retrain into another. AR Marines have the opportunity to pursue an active duty career with an active duty retirement. This is a good option for Marines who wish to remain on active duty, or return to active duty after leaving the active component.

Active Duty Operational Support (ADOS)

Sometimes the Corps needs reserve Marines to perform active-duty tours of less than six months. Reservists seeking orders for one of these tours can contact MARFORRES Customer Service Center and request information on Active Duty Operational Support. The work can support a variety of activities, ranging from military operations to administration to training.

Individual Ready Reserve (IRR)

The Individual Ready Reserve is a pool of reservists who can be called to active duty in a time of crisis.

Marines in the Individual Ready Reserve typically report one day per year to demonstrate that they meet all requirements for physical appearance and uniforms. Most of these Marines have some time remaining on their contracts, but have fulfilled their obligations as active-duty Marines or as members of reserve entities such as the Selected Marine Corps Reserve.

Knowing Your Options

There are several ways to find out what opportunities are available in the reserves. Marines leaving active duty typically have many options in the reserves. A prior service recruiter can answer questions and help find the right fit. Any Marine who is mentally, morally, and physically qualified can find a place in the reserves. The Marine Corps Reserve can even train a Marine in a new occupational specialty if doing so is necessary to find a reserve billet.

Reenlistment of Active Marines in the Reserves (Enlisted only)

This program is a means to continue an affiliation with the Marine Corps through enlistment in the Marine Corps Reserve. Therefore it is only available to those Marines who have completed or will complete their Military Service Obligation (MSO) upon reaching their ECC/EAS. You are encouraged to contact your Career Planner have them utilize the **Total Force Retention System message (T0109)**, which will give you a one year contract in the IRR.

Officers transitioning from active duty are encouraged to read **MARADMIN 419/13**. This MARADMIN explains the process on how an Officer goes about requesting to resign their active commission and request for a reserve commission. Once request for a reserve commission is signed by the SECDEF, the officer must accept the reserve commission by signing a NAVMC 763 outlined in **MARADMIN 356/12**.

The Rewards

No one joins the Marine Corps to get rich, and the same holds true for the reserves. However, members of the Marine Corps Reserve are well compensated for their military training.

Depending on pay grade, the money is about "a car payment" a month. Reservists can also make themselves eligible for college money through the G.I. Bill and for retirement benefits that kick in at age 60. As an active component Marine, you are already well on your way towards a military retirement. Rather than forfeiting the time you have already invested in the Corps, you can complete your retirement eligibility in the Reserves. Reserve pay charts can be found at (<http://www.dfas.mil/>).

Ask reservists why they carve time from civilian life for the sake of the Marine Corps, and the answer is typically along the lines of, "The camaraderie in the Marine Corps – the sense of family – the ability to Stay Marine."

HEALTH CARE

Selected Reserve members (SMCR and IMA, not IRR) can buy Tricare coverage while drilling, if they meet the requirements for the Tricare Reserve Select program. Tricare Reserve Select is a very affordable health care plan and may offer significant savings over an employer-provided health plan.

Learn more at (<http://www.tricare.mil/>).

DENTAL

Reserve members and their families are eligible for Tricare Dental Program. Contact 1-800-866-8499 or visit (<http://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/Dental/TDP.aspx>).

EDUCATION

All Service members have access to several education benefits such as tuition assistance, the GI Bill and other programs. To see what benefits you might be eligible for, contact the MarForRes education office at 504-678-4396.

PERDIEM

Per diem is a daily tax-free cash allowance provided for meal, incidental and lodging expenses while service members are on temporary duty away from their home stations or on government business.

SPECIAL PAY

Special pays are provided for performing special duties such as diving duty, flight duty, foreign language proficiency, sea duty and hazardous duty. Pay is prorated for Reservists based on the number of days served on active duty.

INCOME REPLACEMENT

Involuntarily mobilized Reserve members who experience a monthly income differential of more than \$50 receive this pay.

TRAVEL

The government pays for official travel. Unused seats aboard a military aircraft are made available to service members on a space-available basis. Find out more about Space-A travel at (<http://www.amc.af.mil/amctravel/>).

SERVICE MEMBERS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE

Reservists assigned to units in which they are scheduled to perform at least 12 periods of inactive duty that is creditable for retirement purposes are covered 365 days a year. For more information, call 1-800-419-1473 or visit (<http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/>).

DEATH BENEFITS

Survivors of service members who die on active duty may qualify to receive a \$100,000 death gratuity, regardless of whether the death occurred while performing duty. The Pentagon also reimburses families for the money spent to transport dead service members to their final destination. The Death benefits generally are tax free.

MCBUL 1001 FY 14 INACTIVE DUTY TRAINING TRAVEL (IOTT) REIMBURSEMENT

A Marine may apply for the IDTT if his/her unit located 150 miles or more from his/her primary residence as calculated by the defense table of distances (DTOD) using PCS/TDY route type and would receive up to 300 dollars for traveling to and from. For more information refer to MARADMIN 670/13 AND CHANGE 1 MARADMIN 240/14

THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS CAN BE FOUND ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS:

Commissaries

Commissaries are military supermarkets, with products sold tax free and at reduced prices. Reservists and their families have unlimited shopping privileges in commissaries.

Exchanges

Exchanges are military department stores that sell brand-name goods as well as their own label products. Items are sold tax free.

Recreation Centers

Military bases offer indoor sports and classes. Lodging may also be reserved on a space-available basis at official travel lodging facilities.

The following are links to assist you with making a well informed decision.

Finding a Reserve BIC/Billet:

<http://www.marforres.marines.mil/About/ReserveCareerBillets.aspx>

Reserve Information:

https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/page/portal/M_RA_HOME/MRA_SubMain/

If interested in receiving an affiliation bonuses review the link below.

https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/page/portal/M_RA_HOME/RA/RCT/RIT/Bonuses

If interested in retraining/ lateral move review the link below.

https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/page/portal/M_RA_HOME/RA/RCT/RIT/Reserve%20MOS%20Retraining

Marine Corps Individual Reserve Support Activity (MCIRSA)

<http://www.marforres.marines.mil/MajorSubordinateCommands/ForceHeadquartersGroup/MarineCorpsIndividualReserveSupportActivity.aspx>