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**Fort Meade to host Army Muster of Individual Ready Reserve
(IRR) Soldiers**

The U.S. Army Human Resources Command (HRC) will conduct a muster of approximately 200 Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) Soldiers at the Army Reserve Center at Fort Meade, Md., this weekend, June 29-30. This is the last readiness muster to be conducted by the Army this year.

The readiness muster is a one-day event consisting of readiness and personnel accountability tasks such as a Reserve Component orientation brief, records review, security clearance updates, required annual medical and dental screening, issuing identification cards, presentation of training and unit opportunities, and exit surveys. The readiness muster is typically conducted for Soldiers assigned to the IRR for more than 12 months.

Other aspects of the Army's muster program will continue through the end of July. Army officials anticipate reaching approximately 10,000 IRR Soldiers by the end of the program year in July. The muster program is a follow-on to the successful pilot program the Army conducted last year.

This year HRC, with support from the U.S. Army Reserve Command, is conducting three different types of one-day musters at Army Reserve Centers across the continental United States. The three types of musters are: readiness musters, personnel accountability musters, and unit affiliation musters.

Personnel accountability musters are being conducted at more than 450 Army Reserve Centers in the continental United States and abroad. This muster targets Soldiers who have been assigned to the IRR for less than 12 months. The purpose of this muster is to educate Soldiers on participation requirements, present training and promotion opportunities. They also are offered the Post Deployment Health Reassessment Program (PDHRA) and are required to update their personal information.

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New this year is a test pilot program called the unit affiliation muster, which requires an IRR Soldier to visit a Reserve unit in addition to participating in muster activities.

Orders directing the IRR Soldier to report to a local Reserve Center will be issued to the Soldier who will be paid \$190 for successfully completing the muster. IRR Soldiers who complete their muster requirement are considered satisfactory participants for the year and receive points towards their retirement.

“The muster program not only affords us the opportunity to collect required information, but also allows our Reserve Soldiers to remain IRR members. There are a lot of opportunities available to them through either more active IRR participation, affiliation with an Army Reserve Troop Program Unit (TPU), or volunteering to mobilize in support of the Global War on Terror,” said Lt. Col. Craig Smith, who is in charge of the Army’s IRR Muster Program this year.

Typically, a Soldier becomes a member of the IRR after successfully completing a tour of duty as a Regular, National Guard or Reserve Soldier. Soldiers remain members of the IRR until their total military service obligation expires. Officers are required to submit a request for resignation of their commission to be removed from the IRR rolls. Soldiers who retire after 20 years of service are not kept in the IRR unless it is of their own accord. Persons who are unsure of their status may telephone the Communications Hub Office of U.S. Army Human Resources Command in St. Louis at 1-800-318-5298.

The muster program is part of readiness screening operations undertaken by the U.S. Army as part of a seven-year Army program to optimize the operational and strategic value of the IRR by improving individual deployment readiness levels and maintaining a reliable database of IRR Soldiers who can be called upon to support the Army in the Global War on Terror.

All Services are required, by statute and Department of Defense policy, to continuously screen and provide training to members of the IRR. The Army has had the regulatory authority for many years to conduct a physical muster, but because of the lack of funding did not conduct a muster program until 2007. Historically, funding was usually very limited and the Army could only muster relatively small numbers from the IRR.

Other readiness musters conducted this year since March include: Fort Devens, Mass.; Los Alamitos, Calif.; Fort Lawton, Wash.; Fort Totten, New York; Decatur, Georgia; Arlington Heights, Ill.; and Grand Prairie, Texas.

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