



INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING

Premier Military Training for a
Secure and Prosperous America

DEFEND THE NATION

IRT provides hands-on, real-world training to improve readiness and survivability in complex contingency environments

SUCCEED THROUGH TEAMWORK

IRT is a collaborative program that leverages military contributions and community resources to multiply value and cost savings for participants

TAKE CARE OF OUR PEOPLE

IRT strengthens and builds partnerships, while providing key services for American communities utilizing joint training operations



MARCH 2024 | NEWSLETTER

Army National Guard Delivers Training Value in Michigan

1430 Engineering Company partnered with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Parks and Recreation Division between 13 October and 30 November 2023, to support the MDNR’s ongoing infrastructure construction project at Young State National Park (the Park). Prior to this mission, Park employees were unable to conduct necessary



Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Successfully Completes Another Phase of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Gaylord District Parks and Recreation Division Ongoing Construction Project

The Army National Guard (ARNG) constructed a 920-square-foot enclosed maintenance bay with an ingress/egress partition wall to separate hot and cold storage areas, and added insulation, ceiling lights, heaters, and thermostat equipment, improving the Park’s infrastructure for public use, benefiting Park employees and visitors. This mission fostered positive community relations while training 46 ARNG soldiers with gaining mission-essential task proficiency and individual readiness training in construction, including framing, plumbing, electrical work, heavy equipment operations, and motor transport operations.

The Park, located in Otsego County, Michigan, spans 563 acres on the eastern shore of Lake Charlevoix. The Park was established in 1921 and the day-use building was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. IRT and the MDNR Parks and Recreation Division have partnered in prior missions to improve entrance roads, service areas, and recreational facilities at Craig Lake State Park and Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. Additionally, the ARNG constructed a shooting range in MDNR’s Richmond Township.

IRT NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

Collaboration | Policy | IRT Spotlights

IRT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Colonel Jaelyn Chatwick, Director
Colonel Stephen Rubright, IRT Deputy Director
Major Christopher Brown, Operations Officer
Chief Master Sergeant Alexander Wilson, Superintendent

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT —AN INTRODUCTION

U.S. Congress enacted the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in 1969, signed by President Richard Nixon into law on January 1, 1970. NEPA followed the 1964 Wilderness Act, the 1970 Clean Air Act, and the 1972 Clean Water Act as heightened public environmental concerns increased amid industrial, urban, and suburban growth and pollution impacts. NEPA’s environmental protection policies and Council on Environmental

Quality require federal agencies to assess the environmental impact of federal action proposals before decision making on actions with environmental impacts.

IRT coordinates with community partners to ensure NEPA compliance on missions.

“Section 101 of NEPA sets forth a national policy ‘to use all practicable means and measures, including financial and technical assistance, in a manner calculated to foster and promote the general welfare, to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony, and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans.’ 42 U.S.C. 4331(a). Section 102 of NEPA establishes procedural requirements, applying that national policy to proposals for major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment by requiring Federal agencies to prepare a detailed statement on (1) the environmental impact of the proposed action; (2) any adverse effects that cannot be avoided; (3) alternatives to the proposed action; (4) the relationship between local short-term uses of man’s environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity; and (5) any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources that would be involved in the proposed action. 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C).”

IRT Leaders and staff are closely monitoring the COVID-19 public health situation. We provide updated information on our website concerning its effect on our FY24 missions. Please check irt.defense.gov regularly for the latest information on the IRT program.



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SERVICE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

CAPTAIN CHRIS PARK

AIR NATIONAL GUARD
DEPUTY PROGRAM MANAGER, IRT



My name is Capt. Chris Park from 105th Air National Guard in Stewart, NY. I am currently stationed at Andrews Air Force Base, supporting IRT full-time. I first participated in 2019 as a staff sergeant in my first IRT mission supporting the construction of Hawaii's Girl Scouts Research Center. Over the past three years, I've been extraordinarily lucky to have been part of IRT. The experience has been a highlight of my 14-year military career. As a deputy program manager helping to oversee medical training missions for the ANG, it has been rewarding to play a role in bringing medical military members to underserved communities across the country, where access to no-cost medical care is most needed. Connecting with local communities and witnessing the impact IRT makes has been an honor, and I hope more military members get the opportunity to experience this magic.

SERVICE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

STAFF SERGEANT SEAMUS MURPHY

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
DEPUTY PROGRAM MANAGER, IRT



I am SSG Seamus Murphy, a husband, father of three, and an American soldier. I have proudly served the ARNG since 2014. I began my career as a cavalry scout in the Louisiana Army National Guard and simultaneously found a home within the Military Funeral Honors Program serving as active-duty operational support regional director and funeral honors instructor. I later voluntarily re-classified my occupational specialty to combat medic and deployed to Iraq and then the Southwest Border Mission immediately after. Following my return, I became a basic leader course facilitator and later progressed to my current IRT position as deputy program manager representing the ARNG component. My experience with IRT has been nothing short of incredible. I am grateful for the unique opportunity to bolster local communities across America while simultaneously promoting joint force readiness and enabling the leaders of tomorrow.

IRT EVENTS & MISSIONS

- Mar 4: AK Area Wide Residential Construction to Invest in Communities (ARCTIC) Materials Transportation Mid Planning Meeting (MPM) and Final Planning Meeting (FPM)
- Mar 5: AK Kodiak Arctic Care Medical FPM
- Mar 13: WV Stonewall State Park Construction MPM
- Mar 18: HI Kauai Emergency Management Agency (KEMA) Initial Planning Meeting (IPM)
- Mar 18: ME Lake George West Social Hall, Road & Site Construction MPM
- Mar 18: MT Fort Belknap Indian Health Service Medical MPM
- Mar 19: AR Madison/Newton County Medical MPM
- Mar 19: VI Virgin Island Wellness Medical FPM
- Mar 19: OH Guard Care Greene County Medical MPM
- Mar 20: TN Camp Davy Crockett Construction Mission Start
- Mar 20: PR Operation Bright Creek Medical MPM
- Mar 20: Blackfeet Tribal Health/Operation Walking Shield Medical MPM
- Mar 25: GU Guam Medical IPM
- Mar 25: CA Santa Cruz Island Reserve Infrastructure Project: Housing Transportation FPM
- Mar 26: HI Ford Island Runway and Museum Entry Road Construction FPM
- Mar 28: HI Ford Island Hangar 79 Restoration and Repair (Continuation) Construction FPM

More information
on missions at:



FY24 IRT PROGRAM MANAGERS

Major Daniel LaVorgna
Army Reserve | Army Active Duty

Captain Scott Thurman
Army National Guard

Lieutenant Colonel Timothy Salvino
Marine Corps Reserve | Marine Corps Active Duty

Lieutenant Commander Shaun Shillady
Navy Reserve | Navy Active Duty

Lieutenant Colonel Steven Johnson
Air National Guard | Air Force Active Duty

Chief Master Sergeant Rebecca Coulombe
Air Force Reserve