

# INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING



July 2018 | NEWSLETTER

## South East Illinois Providing Lasting Benefits for the Community



More than 50 Active Duty and Army Reserve Soldiers joined the Delta Regional Authority and other community partners, June 18-27, to lead South East Illinois IRT, a medical Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) mission in Harrisburg, IL. South East Illinois IRT provided training

opportunities for the military's medical providers, while simultaneously delivering basic medical, dental and optometry services at no cost to community members.

The mission presented unique opportunities for Soldiers to practice medicine in settings with limited infrastructure. The participating units traditionally work in established hospitals and clinics, but this change of mission required Soldiers to set up temporary centers with transportable medical equipment in community buildings. "Limited resources and time forces our providers out of their comfort zone, and to learn by facing new challenges," said First Lieutenant Cassie Donahue, the mission's Field Medical Assistant. In these clinics, doctors and nurses provided medical exams, health education, referrals and prescriptions. The optometry clinic provided eye exams and prescription glasses, while dentists and dental technicians provided general exams, cleanings and extractions.

Although the mission is over, the broad reach and impact in the region is enduring. Ms. Kari Lane, a South East Illinois volunteer coordinator and staff member from Egyptian Health, saw patients coming from over 100 miles away to access the medical, dental and optometry services. "Our population's quality of life has improved because of the IRT mission," said Ms. Lane. "The care people received, whether from removing a painful tooth or seeing with a new pair of glasses, is something that they feel grateful for and will remember."

#### MISSION STATISTICS

**10 DAYS OF CARE**

**1183 PATIENT ENCOUNTERS**

**596 OPTOMETRIC SERVICES**

**366 DENTAL SERVICES**

**221 MEDICAL SERVICES**

**TOTAL ESTIMATED COST SAVINGS TO THE  
COMMUNITY \$269,090**



<http://irt.defense.gov/>



**IRT: Bringing Value to DoD**

#### ENHANCE MILITARY READINESS

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

#### STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS

IRT builds and strengthens partnerships with culturally complex populations, often in remote areas

#### BRING BUSINESS REFORMS

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

#### COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



**Ms. Kari Lane (Left)**

**SE Illinois Volunteer Coordinator  
Environmental Health Practitioner, Egyptian  
Health**

"Meeting the Army and Army Reserve gave our community a new perspective on the variety of work done by the military and allowed them to experience first-hand how the military supports communities at home."

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## NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR IRT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Do you know someone who went above and beyond to implement IRT's mission? The 2018 IRT Joint Workshop for Operational Mission Planners features an annual awards ceremony recognizing exceptional IRT staff, communities and participants. Awards include: Leader of the Year, Participant of the Year, Civil- Military Partnership of the Year, Champion of the Year, Advocate of the Year, and Project Manager of the Year. The deadline is extended to **July 27**. Visit <https://public.huddle.com/b/vDOMKZ/index.html> to learn more about the nomination process.

## IRT'S ONLINE COMMUNITY APPLICATION SUBMISSION PORTAL

Are you interested in applying for an FY20 IRT partnership opportunity? The online submission portal makes it easy and includes information for military members and non-DoD entities. FY20 applications are due September 30, 2018. Visit [irt.defense.gov](http://irt.defense.gov) for more information, or to apply for an FY20 mission.

## SERVICE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

1LT CASSIE DONAHUE

**7456TH MEDICAL BACKFILL BATTALION**  
**FIELD MEDICAL ASSISTANT, SOUTH EAST ILLINOIS**

"The South East Illinois medical mission provided phenomenal health care to residents while providing great training value for our providers. Our providers were fully invested in serving their patients while simultaneously facing new challenges they didn't encounter in their daily practice. IRT is the best opportunity stateside to prepare for deployment overseas."



Photos by Lt. Col. Angel Wallace, U.S. Army Reserve



### 2018 IRT PROGRAM MANAGERS

**Captain Zachary West, Army National Guard**

**Major Cletis Derek Butler, Army Reserve**

**Major Lisbeth Andriessen, Marine Corps Reserve**

**LCDR Joshua Strubeck, Navy Reserve**

**Captain Jennifer Fagan, Air National Guard**

**Major Michael McDonald, Air Force Reserve**



### IRT CALENDAR

**June 4 – September 8** Puerto Rico Habitat for Humanity

**June 10 – August 5** WV Schools for the Deaf and Blind

**August 28 – September 11** Puerto Rico Medical Mission

**August 8-22** Tropic Care Kahului, Hawaii

**Sept. 18-20** Annual Training Workshop, Virginia

We accept applications for non-OASD funded missions all year! <http://irt.defense.gov/FAQs/>

Read about last year's IRT projects!  
<http://irt.defense.gov/Projects/>

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