

INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING



September 2018 | NEWSLETTER

IRT Missions in the Pacific Provide Care While Conducting Training

Aloha Gardens

Approximately 200 Air National Guardsmen and Marine Corps Reservists spent the months of May and June partnering with Helemano Plantation, a not-for-profit organization that provides recreational and residential support to the elderly and individuals with developmental disabilities. This mission served to conduct construction and electrical training and provide communal housing to the plantation employees. Led by the Air National Guard, this training mission completed three 2,500 square foot duplex structures, collectively referred to as "Anuenue Hale", translated from the Hawaiian language to mean "Rainbow House". According to the plantation director, Susanna F. Cheung, Helemano offers training, employment opportunities, and a "real-world work environment for the developmentally disabled." IRT training assists the Helemano Plantation in realizing its vision to provide housing for individuals with disabilities, who are at-risk of being homeless.



Tropic Care Hawaii

More than 80 Soldiers from the Army Reserve's 1984th US Army Hospital (USAH), based in Honolulu, Hawaii, partnered with the Hawaii County Department of Health, Kea'au High School, and the local Lions Club, to host the Tropic Care Hawaii medical mission on Hilo, the "Big Island", June 18-28th. Soldiers conducted hands-on medical, dental, and optometry training while providing services at no cost to residents of the island.

The mission was a success, completing nearly 1,100 hours of training. Tropic Care Hawaii was the first IRT experience for many members of the 1984th USAH, but according to Captain Zachary Van Zanten, Operations Officer, the mission was threatened by, and almost cancelled because of volcanic activity less than 12 miles from the training site. "Due to challenges with the lava flow, original plans to stage the mission at the Kilauea Military Camp had to be scrapped and an alternate location utilized". Captain Van Zanten and his team coordinated and executed a contingency plan to partner with the University of Hawaii at Hilo, which provided meals and lodging for mission participants, allowing the Tropic Care Hawaii IRT to train and serve the community uninterrupted.

KEY TRAINING ELEMENTS OF THESE HAWAII MISSIONS:

CONTINGENCY PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION, COMMUNITY OUTREACH



<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 civil-military partnerships, 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. Adria Mederious
Vice Principal, Kea'au High School



"This is my third time being involved with the IRT mission, and each time I'm amazed at the level of care, support, and professionalism the service men and women show my community while providing for their needs. As an educator, the IRT is one of the most rewarding events I have ever participated in."

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Tropic Care Maui County

Nearly 400 service members established six medical care sites across the islands of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai during the Tropic Care Maui County IRT, August 8-22nd. In partnership with Maui County, the Air National Guard, supported by the Army (Active Duty), Marine Corps (Reserve), Navy (Active Duty & Reserve), and Air Force (Active Duty), conducted more than 18,000 medical, dental, and optometry procedures via 5,600 patient encounters. The mission was bookended by hurricanes Hector and Lane, respectively, delaying mission participants' arrival to Maui, and forcing them to depart the island ahead of schedule. Emergency response planning and operations added value to the training during the mission. According to Captain Jennifer Fagan, OSD IRT Operations Officer, "Members participating in this mission received training in leadership, unit tasks, and individual tasks. In addition to the standard training, two hurricanes threatened the island and mission, giving members an opportunity to manage real-world threats in a greater capacity than a normal annual training would require."

Adverse weather and other natural occurrences are typical considerations in contingency planning, but the steps necessary to overcome the challenges to the Tropic Care Maui County mission are generally outside the scope of a medical planner. Real-world occurrences required real-world responses, and according to Captain Fagan, "Members went above and beyond by staying mission-focused while preparing for potential natural disasters."

SERVICE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

CPT ZACHARY VAN ZANTEN

OPERATIONS OFFICER, TROPIC CARE HAWAII

"This has been an irreplaceable and humbling learning experience. It truly was a pleasure to work with the organizations and the general public of the Big Island of Hawaii, who emulated the spirit of Aloha to us all. It invigorated my sense of pride as a Soldier and a leader."



2018 IRT PROGRAM MANAGERS

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2018 IRT AWARD RECIPIENTS

IRT Leader of the Year

CDR Scott Ozaki, *United States Marine Corps*

IRT Participant of the Year

HMC Elizabeth Haen, *United States Navy*

IRT Civil-Military Partnership of the Year

St. Joseph's/Candler in partnership with 165th Airlift Wing

IRT Champion of the Year

Priscilla "Kalani" Holokai

IRT Paragon of the Year

SMSgt Stacy Gilman, *Air Force Reserve*

IRT Program Manager of the Year

Capt Jennifer Fagan, *Air National Guard*

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