

# INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING



October 2018 | NEWSLETTER

## Annual Workshop Delivers Critical Training for FY2019 Missions

More than 100 participants attended the 2018 IRT Joint Workshop for Operational Mission Planners in Tysons Corner, VA from September 18 – 20. The purpose of the workshop was to provide mission participants and planners an opportunity to meet their Service Component Program Manager and network across the various missions and components that comprise IRT. Agenda items included information sessions, an IRT awards ceremony, community panel Q&A, and multiple



breakout exercises. Audience members received an introduction to the IRT mission planning life cycle and learned the steps to complete a successful mission. A Public Affairs briefing included instructions on how to speak publicly about IRT and garner community interest in applying for an IRT mission. A mixed audience of Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air force (Active, Guard, Reserve) received a unique opportunity to collaborate in a joint environment similar to what they can expect on their upcoming FY19 missions.

#### WORKSHOP STATISTICS

**108 ATTENDEES**

**20 SPEAKERS**

**18 HOURS OF  
TRAINING**

**12 TRAINING  
SESSIONS**

Over 23 distinguished visitors and special guests attended this year's workshop. Guests included FY18 community partners, mission participants, and their friends and family. Mr. Judd Lyons, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Integration delivered opening remarks on the importance of IRT



within DoD. Major General Mary Link, AR MEDCOM CO, expressed the positive impacts IRT has on military members and on American communities. "In planning IRT missions, [participants] have to understand the community needs, where to focus, and make sure a referral network is in

place....it all builds the planning skills and readiness that severely lack in other annual training events" MG Link presented the 2018 IRT Awards alongside Mr. Lyons.

JOINT WORKSHOP FOR OPERATIONAL MISSION PLANNERS OUTCOMES:

**EDUCATION, TRAINING, NETWORKING, AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION**



<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

**Priscilla "Kalani" Holokai**  
Logistics Chair, State of Hawaii Department of Health  
Award Recipient  
2018 IRT Champion of the Year



"The IRT mission in Maui County has been tremendous. People are still walking up to us saying what a wonderful mission it was."

# INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING



October 2018 | NEWSLETTER

Capt Jennifer Fagan, Air National Guard, moderated this year's Community Panel Q&A session. Four panelists discussed their experiences in IRT; including success stories, challenges, and recommendations for future missions. Participants gained



lessons learned to take with them into their FY19 missions based on community panel reflection as well as answers to questions posed by the audience. The discussion provided

valuable insight into the resources brought to the table by both parties in civil-military partnerships and ways to leverage them effectively. The prevailing word of advice from all panelists was that 'communication is key' to a successful mission. This includes understanding how to communicate as well as understanding what certain words, phrases, or acronyms mean. The panel frequently returned to the value of maintaining a positive spirit during missions. Panelist Mark Gandolfini, Superintendent of Administration, West VA Schools for the Deaf and Blind, talked about the value of optimism when facing challenges. "Even if only one screw got turned, it's more than we have today", said Gandolfini.

## SERVICE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**CDR SCOTT OZAKI**

**MISSION OIC, ARCTIC CARE**

**4<sup>TH</sup> DENTAL BATTALION, 4<sup>TH</sup> MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP, MARINE  
FORCES RESERVE**



The IRT Leader of the Year was awarded to CDR Scott Ozaki for his outstanding leadership in the face of fiscal constraints and environmental austerity during Arctic Care 2018. "IRT Arctic Care was a valuable operational training evolution that allowed our military providers the opportunity to provide care to a very appreciative and underserved community." – CDR Ozaki

### *A Big 'IRT Thank You' to Our 2018 Workshop Community Panelists!*

#### **Mark Gandolfini**

Superintendent of Administration, *West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind, Romney, WV*

#### **Oscar Munoz**

Director, *Colonias Program, College of Architecture, Texas A&M University*

#### **Adam Walker**

Director of Operations, *St. Joseph's/Candler Health System, Savannah, GA*

#### **Priscilla "Kalani" Holokai**

Logistics Chair, *State of Hawaii Department of Health*



### 2018 IRT PROGRAM MANAGERS

**Captain Zachary West, Army National Guard**  
Zachary.r.west.mil@mail.mil

**Major Cletis Derek Butler, Army Reserve**  
Cletis.d.butler.mil@mail.mil

**Major Lisbeth Andriessen, Marine Corps Reserve**  
Lisbeth.andriessen@usmc.mil

**Lieutenant Commander Joshua Strubeck, Navy Reserve**  
Joshua.strubeck@navy.mil

**Captain Jason Askins, Air National Guard**  
Jason.t.askins.mil@mail.mil

**Major Michael McDonald, Air Force Reserve**  
Michael.mcdonald.8@us.af.mil

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/>

IRT ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/IRT.InnovativeReadinessTraining/>



Connect with us on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/irtprogram>

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