



# INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING



The Premier Military Training Platform for a Secure and Prosperous America

January 2019 | NEWSLETTER

## Marines to Improve Catalina Island Runway

U.S. Marines (Marine Wing Support Squadron (MWSS), Marine Wing Support Group (MWSG) 37, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW)), and Navy Seabees (Naval Construction Group 1 (NCG1), 1st Naval Construction Regiment (1NCR), Naval Mobile Construction Battalions 5 and 18 (NMCB 5, NMCB 18)) have begun an IRT mission in partnership with the Catalina Island Conservancy to make critical improvements to Catalina Island's 75 year old runway. The Marines and Navy Seabees will repave the 3,000 foot-long runway with concrete.<sup>1</sup> The project is scheduled to finish by April 2019.



Marine trucks parked at the Catalina airfield. Photo by Tim Kielpinski, courtesy of Catalina Island Conservancy

The project brings significant value to the local community as well as to the Marines and Seabees. During the project, the military personnel operate out of an austere tent camp, just as they would during an expeditionary military operation. "The repair of the Conservancy's Airport in the Sky runway project offers an incredible training opportunity to the Marines," U.S. Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel Duncan Buchanan, a spokesperson for the I Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF), the higher headquarters for the 3rd MAW, said in a statement on Oct. 30, 2018. "This challenging project allows Marines to gain valuable experience in repairing damaged runways, and increases our capabilities and readiness to tackle a range of military operations across the globe. It also ensures that the community benefits from a fully operational airport for daily provisions as well as to aid in any potential recovery efforts after natural disasters."<sup>2</sup>

"Our collaboration with the U.S. Marines is a rare opportunity to maintain the proud history we share on Catalina," Tony Budrovich, Catalina Island Conservancy's President and CEO, said in a statement on Oct. 30, 2018. "We invite Island residents and visitors to come to the airport during construction to observe this exceptional military exercise and enjoy the beauty and the open spaces of Catalina's interior."<sup>3</sup>



Marines weigh themselves with their equipment prior to departure to Catalina Island. Photo by Lance Cpl. Julian Elliott-Drouin

### 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

### IRT TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS— CATALINA ISLAND

Expeditionary Operations, Engineering

### COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Cynthia Fogg

Assistant to the President  
Board & Government Liaison  
Catalina Island Conservancy



"We are thrilled to be partnering with the DOD through the IRT program and appreciate the hard work of the Marines and Navy personnel involved in the project."

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



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2019/01/08/marines-invade-catalina-island-fix-crumbling-airstrip.html>, accessed January 14, 2019

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/24636/catalina-islands-famous-cliffside-airport-to-get-rebuilt-in-marine-training-exercise>, accessed January 14, 2019

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/24636/catalina-islands-famous-cliffside-airport-to-get-rebuilt-in-marine-training-exercise>, accessed January 14, 2019



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## OSD UPDATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The official IRT social media sites are up and running and we welcome your likes, tweets, and shares! We are working to connect the IRT community and share good news stories widely. Please include #IRTswin and or @IRTswin in your social media messages.

Contact Capt Machado at [kelly.m.machado.mil@mail.mil](mailto:kelly.m.machado.mil@mail.mil) or text 240.532.9608 today with any public affairs questions.

**CAPTAIN MACHADO, AIR NATIONAL GUARD  
IRT OSD PAO**



*Captain Machado (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) tours Turtle Mountain, ND during 2017 IRT IPM*

## SERVICE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT LCDR NORMAN JACINTO, NAVY RESERVE OPERATIONS OFFICER, EMF BETHESDA NAVY OIC, EAST CENTRAL GEORGIA IRT



“The IRT in East Central Georgia will bring another amazing opportunity for my fellow sailors and our other service members. Like every community I served in, each IRT is uniquely different with its challenges. Being able to adapt our readiness training capabilities to serve these communities is the common goal and when you see the teamwork among the military branches, and civic organizers come together to achieve the goal of providing much needed medical and dental services to the community, it gives all of us a feeling of accomplishment all around.”

### UPCOMING IRT EVENTS

Ongoing – Mid-Planning Meetings with military units and communities:

- Jan 28 – Feb 1: Ola de Esperanza Sandadora (PR)
- Feb 4 – 8: East Central Georgia (GA)
- Feb 4 – 8: Camp Paumalu (HI)
- Feb. 4 – 8: Tri-State Medical – DAEOC (MO)
- Feb. 4 – 8: Appalachian Care (VA)
- Feb 11 – 15: Healthy Cortland & Tioga (NY)
- Feb. 18 – 22: Coal County Health Care (KY)
- Feb. 18 – 22: Newtok Relocation (AK)
- Feb. 18 – 22: Habitat for Humanity (PR)

### 2018 IRT PROGRAM MANAGERS

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