



INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING



The Premier Military Training Platform for a Secure and Prosperous America

February 2019 | NEWSLETTER

Mississippi's Toughest Kids Camp Kamassa

From March 4 through July 28, 2019 Service Members from units across the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserves, U.S. Air Force Reserve, and the Air National Guard will continue work begun in 2018 to support the construction of [Camp Kamassa](#), Mississippi's first and only year-round handicap accessible camp facility for children and adults with serious illnesses, physical and mental challenges and other special needs, in Crystal Springs, Mississippi. This three-year IRT project began in 2018 when Service members cleared approximately 50 acres of land, laid site utilities, built a maintenance pole barn, and prepped for the construction of a recreation building and cabins. The 2019 project will include construction of a bridge over a small creek, laying additional site utilities, and construction of eight duplex cabins and construction of a multipurpose building (which will include a dance hall, indoor rock climbing wall, teaching kitchen, library, and classrooms).



Arlie (pictured above) is one of the children who will benefit directly from the construction of Camp Kamassa. She cannot wait to ride the horses at camp.

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

IRT MTK CAMP KAMASSA

Bridge Construction, Engineering Infrastructure

COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Tanya Mohawk

MTK Director of Development



Tanya Mohawk (center) at the Annual IRT Leadership Workshop, Sept 2018. Also pictured: (left) Jessica Gottesman (LMI), (right) SMSgt Gillman (IRT)

“Our partnership with the IRT was the push we needed to get construction underway. The work the IRT is doing at Camp Kamassa will have a generational impact on Mississippi’s families and individuals affected by special needs.”



USAFRC and USMC mission participants toured the Camp Kamassa site to see firsthand the scope of work for FY19. Photo Credit: SMSgt Michael Turgeon

During three planning meetings conducted between 2018 and 2019, Joint Force IRT Managers and Unit leaders from across the nation met for planning and to conduct visits to the Camp Kamassa construction site. Camp Kamassa IRT provides unparalleled construction training opportunities for participants.

THE KAMASSA, A CHOCTAW WORD MEANING “TOUGH AND PERSEVERANT,” DESCRIBES THE ONES THE CAMP WILL SERVE—CHILDREN LIVING WITH DISABILITIES, LIFE-THREATENING ILLNESSES, OR OTHER HARDSHIPS.

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





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OSD UPDATE

COLONEL JAMAR D. SCOTT

DIRECTOR, CIVIL MILITARY PROGRAMS



We begin the 2019 IRT season with amazing training opportunities that will significantly improve our communities. Please follow us on social media to track our whereabouts and latest progress @IRT'sWin.

SERVICE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

SSGT JOSEPH CASTELLUCCI, AIR FORCE RESERVES
LODGING SHIFT SUPERVISOR, 482ND FSS

SERVICES NCOIC, MTK CAMP KAMASSA



“The overall experience at Camp Kamassa is amazing. It’s not just about training our Airmen for deployments. Camp Kamassa helps to enhance the service before self-concept. You leave feeling your part of the community.”

UPCOMING IRT EVENTS

Ongoing – Mid-Planning (MPM) and Final- Planning Meetings (FPM) with military units and communities:

- Feb. 11 – 15: Healthy Cortland (NY) (MPM)
- Feb. 12: OWS Kima:w (MPM)
- Feb. 19 – 22: Coal County Health Care (KY) (MPM)
- Feb. 25 – Mar. 1: Habitat for Humanity (PR) (MPM)
- Feb. 25 - Mar. 1 Ola de Esperanza Sanadora (FPM)
- Mar. 4 – 8: Appalachian Care (VA) (MPM)
- Mar. 4 – 8: Girl Scout Camp Paumalu (FPM)
- Mar. 4: Camp Kamassa Mission Start

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