



INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING



The Premier Military Training Platform for a Secure and Prosperous America

July 2019 | NEWSLETTER

IRT Delivers Critical Relocation Support to Remote Alaskan Community

On June 10, Military Service members (Marine Forces Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard) began delivering construction and engineering services to residents of the village of Newtok, AK—an effort which will provide valuable training to the military personnel participating. The mission will provide an estimated \$1.6M in value to the community from June 10 through August 27.

Due to rising sea levels and erosion, the entire village must be relocated.

The Newtok to Mertarvik relocation project began in 1994 when an official

decision was made to relocate the village. Ongoing efforts through the subsequent 25 years have included identifying an alternate site, transferring land ownership, acquiring funding, and designing the site. IRT missions in prior years have prepared and established the Mertarvik site. During this 10-week IRT mission, Service members will construct a gravel road, landfill, heavy equipment shop, and four homes in Mertarvik, AK. Service members will provide logistics support, military airlift, force support, public affairs, contracting, finance, and medical support while participating in this mission.



Severe erosion in Newtok, AK led to a decision in 1994 to relocate the village.

The hands-on training in this austere environment offers a unique opportunity for the National Guard and Reserve Service member participants. The mission will include a total of 187 personnel and is projected to deliver 25,000 hours of training. Key areas of training include: cross-training, project management, leadership, standard joint construction training, and cultural immersion.



The village of Newtok greets every rotation of Service members to share their traditions and customs.

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

COMMUNITY RELOCATION

Modern construction techniques and procedures

COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Andrew John

Newtok Village Tribal Administrator



Pictured Above: Newtok Village Council (Andrew John pictured second row, second from right) and community members with the IRT ADVON team

“Each of you (IRT) are here as a beacon of hope, because our people see you, the men and women in uniform, building our future homes. To us, having roads is a huge change. When our people see each and every one of you (IRT), there is a sense of pride, because you represent that hope. Thank you for coming.”

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





INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING



The Premier Military Training Platform for a Secure and Prosperous America

July 2019 | NEWSLETTER

OSD UPDATES

CALL FOR IRT AWARD NOMINEES!

All are welcome to nominate individuals who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the IRT mission. Nominations are due August 6. Download the nomination form [using this link](#) and submit to OSD by August 6 for consideration.

IRT WELCOMES NEW ARMY NATIONAL GUARD (ANG) IRT PROGRAM MANAGER CAPTAIN MORGAN SHEPARD-VIERRA



Captain Shepard-Vierra speaking at an IRT event

"I work for the moment when Soldiers come up to me and say 'this is what I signed up to do.' Ensuring units have the opportunity to get excellent training in a way that can also be of service to the community is a perfect combination and I'm happy to be a part of the team making it happen."

SERVICE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

CAPTAIN ALYSON WHITE

**147TH ATTACK WING, AIR NATIONAL GUARD (ANG)
MISSION OFFICER IN CHARGE (OIC)
COMMUNITY RELOCATION IRT**



(From L to R): SMSgt Denver Long, Sgt Alexander Wiese, Capt Alyson White, MSgt Ken McNulty, MSgt Jerrod Walp, MSgt Dawn Porter

"The Newtok to Mertarvik training mission offers troops a great opportunity to sharpen their proficiency and broaden their depth of operational experience. It gives us the opportunity to strengthen our communities, while preparing us for any contingency environment."

IRT EVENTS & MISSIONS

- Mar 4 – Jul 28: MTK Camp Kamassa, MS
- Apr 1 – Sept 15: Operation Footprint Mission, NM
- Apr 8 – Sept 15: Girl Scout Camp Paumalu, HI
- June 1 – June 30: Pima County Roadway, AZ
- June 11 – June 25: East Central Georgia Medical, GA
- June 12 – June 25: Tri-State Medical, DAEOC
- June 10 – Aug 27: Community Relocation, Newtok, AK
- July 1 – July 29: Colonias Mission, TX
- July 9 – July 22: Healthy Cortland and Healthy Chenango
- Sept 17 – Sept 19: Joint IRT Workshop for Operational Mission Planners, VA

2019 IRT PROGRAM MANAGERS

- Major Cletis Derek Butler**, *Army Reserve*
cletis.d.butler.mil@mail.mil
- Captain Morgan Shepard-Vierra**, *Army National Guard*
vierra.m.shepard-vierra.mil@mail.mil
- Major Lisbeth Andriessen**, *Marine Corps Reserve*
lisbeth.andriessen@usmc.mil
- Lieutenant Commander Joshua Strubeck**, *Navy Reserve*
joshua.strubeck@navy.mil
- Capt Allison Hartsfield, Acting**, *Air National Guard*
allison.d.hartsfield.mil@mail.mil
- Major Michael McDonald**, *Air Force Reserve*
michael.mcdonald.8@us.af.mil

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

