



INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING



The Premier Military Training Platform for a Secure and Prosperous America

AUGUST 2019 | NEWSLETTER

IRT Brings Medical Services to Coal Country, Kentucky

The Air Force Reserve, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air National Guard, active duty Air Force, and active duty Navy partnered with the Kentucky Department for Local Government to deliver no-cost healthcare services to residents in eastern Kentucky from August 2 through 10, 2019. The mission delivered dental care (exams, X-rays, extractions, and fillings), optometry services (exams and glasses), medical care (exams, school/sports physicals, and health education), and pharmacy, public health, behavioral health, and dietician consultations to Webster, Leslie, Breathitt, and Knox counties. During the course of the mission, more 1,800 patients received care, at a total value of over \$1.1 Million to the community. Approximately 30,637 training hours were completed by the 155 service members.

Vice President Mike Pence, Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Alex Azar, Congressman Hal Rogers, and Senator Robert Stivers visited Operation Coal Country on August 8 to learn more about the IRT mission. In his address, the vice president remarked, “This Innovative Readiness Training program is a program that is benefitting our military, making us more prepared when the men and women who are gathered here in uniform deploy, but it’s also making a difference in the lives of the people of Eastern Kentucky and, frankly, people all across this country.” (Read the vice president’s full address [here](#).)



Vice President Pence (center) and Governor Matt Bevin (second from left) visit Operation Coal Country on August 8.

In the past three years, IRT missions have supplied training to hundreds of service members and great value to communities in Kentucky. The Air National Guard, Army National Guard, Navy Reserve, and active duty Navy furnished dental, optometry, and medical services during Operation Bluegrass in 2016, delivering \$1,531,256 in benefit to the community. The Army National Guard and Marine Corps Forces Reserve built and repaired roads for the Active Heroes Retreat Center, supplying \$170,505 in benefit to the community in 2017. The following year, the Air National Guard and Navy Reserve provided dental, optometry, and medical services during Operation Bobcat, delivering \$1,003,688 in benefit to the community.

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

COAL COUNTRY HEALTHCARE

Joint Environment and Cross Training, Specialized Education

COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Carol Juett

Special Projects Coordinator
Office of the Commissioner
Kentucky Department
for Local Government



Pictured Above: SMSgt De'Ante A. Houston (left) and Carol Juett (right)

“There is a camaraderie and respect among the military, which I love, with the added bonus that all troops involved with the IRT are medical personnel with natural care-taking sensibilities. I found the entire project, from the first outreach from SMSgt Houston to the site visit to the mission, to be a very rewarding experience.”

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





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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE STAFF FEATURE

SMSGT DEANTE' A. HOUSTON
IRT MEDICAL PROGRAM MANAGER
HEADQUARTERS (HQ) AFRC/AIKI



SMSGt DeAnte' A. Houston discussing the logistics plan for the medical project with the lead optometrist, Capt Aaron Presutto (111 MDG, Pennsylvania Air National Guard).

"As the HQ AFRC IRT medical program manager, I have the benefit of providing a joint environment to meet training and readiness requirements for active, Guard, and Reserve personnel while providing no-cost healthcare services to U.S. communities. In my 20 years of military service, this is by far the best and most rewarding position I have held within the Air Force Reserve!"

SERVICE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

CAPTAIN JONATHAN POLOS
934 ASTS, AIR FORCE RESERVE
MISSION OFFICER IN CHARGE
OPERATION COAL COUNTRY



"The Operation Coal Country medical mission was incredibly successful in providing deployment readiness training to our military members and patient care to the community."

IRT EVENTS & MISSIONS

- Apr. 1–Sep. 15: Operation Footprint Mission, NM
- Apr. 8–Sep. 15: Girl Scout Camp Paumalu, HI
- June 10–Aug. 27: Community Relocation, Newtok, AK
- Aug. 16–Aug. 29: Appalachian Care, VA
- Sep. 17–Sep. 19: Joint IRT Workshop for Operational Mission Planners, VA

2019 IRT PROGRAM MANAGERS

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