



INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING



The Premier Military Training Platform for a Secure and Prosperous America

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IRT leaders and staff are closely monitoring the COVID-19 public health situation. Over the next days and weeks, we will furnish updated information on our website concerning its effect on our FY 2020 missions, once our planners have had enough time to carefully plan and construct timelines for each of our missions. Please check irt.defense.gov regularly for the latest information on the IRT program.

IRT Delivers Sustainable Value

Long after missions end, IRT delivers lasting benefits to American communities and Servicemembers alike. The program's value is rooted in its partnerships with U.S. communities. Recent testimonials from COVID-19 response activities across the nation demonstrate the enduring value of these civil-military partnerships.

In 2019, Lieutenant Colonel Debbie Jacobsmeier gained valuable training experience during the Puerto Rico Public Health Mission, an ANG-led partnership with the Puerto Rico Department of Mental Health and Anti-Addiction Services. Her work featured geographic dispersion, immersion in communities, and collaboration with civilian agencies.

Now, in Sioux City, IA, Lt Col Jacobsmeier battles COVID-19 as the officer in charge of Regional Medical Coordination Center 3. Speaking of IRT's ability to equip Servicemembers with the skills they need to face real-world threats like the viral pandemic, Lt Col Jacobsmeier says, "IRT puts Servicemembers into real life situations. Training with real people and their real issues is more realistic and is better prep for a real-life disaster because it is real, which is the best part of the training that relates to the preparation for a disaster like COVID-19. I am getting required spreadsheets from the hospitals and long-term care facilities and compiling them for the Joint Operations Command (JOC) and ultimately the governor's office, so the process is quite like the IRT process."



Lt Col Jacobsmeier and team compile data from regional medical and long-term care facilities.

IRT community partners continue to apply their learned experience as well. Just over a year ago, the Air National Guard (ANG) led an 8-day joint medical training mission in Cortland and Chenango Counties, NY. Servicemembers delivered medical, dental, and optometry services at three sites of care. Community leaders were thrilled with their investment in the partnership, which delivered over \$1 million of benefits in 2 mission years, but none anticipated the dividends it would continue to pay during the unforeseen COVID-19 public health pandemic.



Chenango County Bureau of Fire staff sort through personal protective equipment material.

Before IRT, many civilian partners had not worked with military Servicemembers. Through partnership with Southern Tier 8 of rural New York, a regional planning agency that offers shared services to member counties, the community has adapted the incident command process learned through IRT to meet the needs of county residents during the pandemic. Says Matt Beckwith, Emergency Management Director for Chenango County: "In the early stages of this pandemic, my thoughts immediately went to the experience we gathered working with the military during the IRT. When it came time to mobilize them in our county, I used the experience and knowledge gathered during IRT and molded that into meeting our needs here in the county."

IRT provides hands-on, real-world training to improve readiness and survivability in contingency environments. As the military joins with communities across the United States during COVID-19 relief efforts, IRT participants attest to this fact each and every day.