



INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING



The Premier Military Training Platform for a Secure and Prosperous America

JULY 2020 | NEWSLETTER

Sustaining Military Readiness During COVID-19

New cabins for a special needs children’s camp. An improved stream habitat. Ensured cybersecurity protection. These represent diverse training opportunities executed by Servicemembers despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Protected and ready: U.S. Air Force Reserve Command at Camp Kamassa in Crystal Springs, MS

A multi-year partner of IRT, Mississippi’s Toughest Kids Foundation is a non-profit that will host children and adults with special needs at Camp Kamassa in Crystal Springs, MS. Servicemembers in the U.S. Air Force Reserve Command built two 2,700 square foot family cabins, cleared 13 acres for new ponds, and trained in additional skills including masonry, HVAC, and electrical through improvements to eight cabins. The dedication and conscientious adherence to safety protocols earned 11 mission participants special recognition by Crystal Springs Mayor Sally Garland for their work on and off duty in support of the mission and the community.

In California, Marine Corps Forces Reservists from Camp Pendleton partnered with biologists from the U.S. Forest Service on a 5-day mission to demolish 12 dams in the Cleveland National Forest. Removal of these aging manmade dams was essential to supporting a suitable habitat for reestablishment of endangered species as well as restoring stream health and function. From June 1 to 5, the Marines trained in removing buildings, structures, old mine shafts, and dams with explosives.

In June, an intensive 3-day cybersecurity partnership with the State of Michigan furnished Air National Guard units with training in planning, briefing, executing, debriefing, and checking operations for essential transportation network infrastructure. Dubbed Operational Resilience, this mission resulted in continued safe and timely commuting for more than 9.8 million Michigan residents and transiting non-residents. Said commanding officer Captain Rick Frantz, Air National Guard, “This proved to be a high-value IRT engagement with government partners that set the foundation for future training.”

During COVID-19, organizations increasingly face contingency environments. IRT’s unique ability to match Servicemember training opportunities with community proposals creates lasting partnerships that foster survivability under challenging circumstances.

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 REFORM

IRT is a collaborative program that leverages military contributions and community resources to multiply value and cost savings for participants

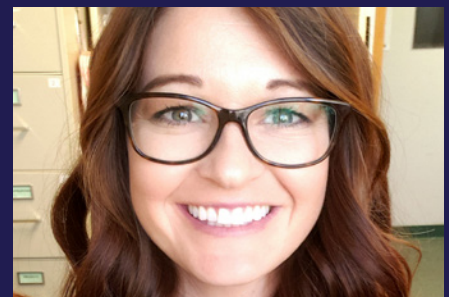
IRT TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

Mission Planning • Mission Execution
Equipment Deployment • Force Support
Contingency Operations

COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Julie Donnell

Fish Biologist
Cleveland National Forest



“It’s been an honor to partner with these incredibly skilled and talented men and women on a project that has such a meaningful impact to the forest and downstream ecosystems”

IRT leaders and staff are closely monitoring the COVID-19 public health situation. We provide updated information on our website concerning its effect on our FY 2020 mission. Please check irt.defense.gov regularly for the latest information on the IRT program.



IRT.DEFENSE.GOV



INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING



The Premier Military Training Platform for a Secure and Prosperous America

JULY 2020 | NEWSLETTER

OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE UPDATE

A MESSAGE TO THE IRT COMMUNITY FROM THE OSD STAFF

The COVID-19 pandemic has had impacts across the globe, including to the IRT program. We want to express our gratitude to our Servicemembers and community partners for their resiliency during this unprecedented time.

Fortunately, we have been able to continue missions in situations where we can practice public health safety measures and protect force readiness. We are very proud of the work our Servicemembers have done this year through the Camp Kamassa, Cleveland National Forest, and Grambling State University IRT missions.

We are looking forward to the FY 2021 mission season and our Program Managers are hard at work reviewing community applications for next year! We will be notifying selected communities later this summer.

Thank you for your continued support of and interest in the IRT program.

SERVICEMEMBER

SPOTLIGHT

1ST LT SEAN COOPER

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
7TH ENGINEER SUPPORT BATTALION
MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP, 1 MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE



“IRT provided us an opportunity to conduct top-tier training while helping the local community. Though working within the confines of ranges on Camp Pendleton gives us a solid foundation, getting off-base where there is no constructed range to fall back on is the only way to truly test skills and develop new ones. Without more opportunities like this, we will never be able to reach the fullest potential of training and readiness required for real-world operations. Furthering the symbiotic relationship with the local population is the best way to do this because in addition to helping prepare Marines for deployments today, it paves the way for more training opportunities in the future. For these reasons, projects like Cleveland National Forest are invaluable to the Marine Corps and the Engineering Community in particular.”

IRT EVENTS & MISSIONS

- Jun 15- Sep 15: Deep Water Derelict Net Removal Dive Mission, WA
- Jul 19-21: IRT PM Quarterly Workshop III
- Aug 9-13: Pima County Roadway Mission, AZ
- Aug 31: IRT PM Quarterly Workshop IV
- Sep 1-3: Annual IRT Workshop for Operational Mission Planners (Virtual)
- TBD: Mare Island Cemetery Mission, CA (Summer 2020, Dates Pending)
- TBD: Aerial Spray Mission, ND (Summer 2020, Dates Pending)
- TBD: Unalaska Qawalangin Tribe Civil Affairs Mission, AK (Summer 2020, Dates Pending)
- TBD: Tinian CE Mission, CNMI (Summer 2020, Dates Pending)
- TBD: Operation Footprint, NM (Summer 2020, Dates Pending)

2020 IRT PROGRAM MANAGERS

- First Lieutenant Jessica Campbell, Army Reserve
- Captain Jason Schwartz, Army National Guard
- Major Andrew Chrestman, Marine Corps Reserve
- Commander Kent Bubel, Navy Reserve
- Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Adamich, Air National Guard
- Major Michael McDonald, Air Force Reserve