



INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING

Premier Military Training for a
Secure and Prosperous America

APRIL 2021 | NEWSLETTER

Mississippi's Toughest Kids Camp Kamassa—Year Four

The FY 2021 mission season is in full swing and shaping up to deliver military training value across 33 civil-military partnerships occurring in 22 states and territories. This month we highlight a recurring mission in its fourth year—IRT Camp Kamassa.

Led by the Air Force Reserve in partnership with the Mississippi's Toughest Kids Foundation (MTK), this year's joint mission began March 1 and is forecast to provide training to more than 1,400 Service Members including support units from the Army National Guard, Marine Corps Reserve, Navy Reserve, and Air National Guard.

Over the course of its history, the primary mission focus has been the construction of the 326-acre Camp Kamassa, located nine miles northwest of Crystal Springs, Mississippi. Founded in 2008 by Mary Kitchens and her husband, Dan, MTK's mission is to "build and maintain the first and only year-round, fully handicap accessible camp facility in Mississippi to be used by children and adults with serious illnesses, physical and mental challenges, and other special needs."

This year's mission focus is centered around the construction of a recreation pavilion, eight duplex cabins, a maintenance barn, and additional sewage and water systems. Service Members will train in operations management, heavy equipment operation, electrical wiring, structural work, and utilities locating. These are only a snapshot of the entire body of work and outcomes this military training has, and continues to, deliver. We look forward to celebrating these accomplishments on June 24 as the Air Force Reserve and MTK Camp Kamassa host this year's Distinguished Visitor Day at the campgrounds.

Training will last until the scheduled August 21st mission completion date. Mission participants will continue to arrive in one of several 'rotations'; which can last anywhere from a few days to several weeks depending on a particular Service Member's role and individual training needs. This training is unique in DoD in that it is: hands on, simulates real tasks typically conducted on ordinary exercises, and can provide leadership opportunities for Junior Officers and Enlisted personnel within a Joint Environment.

Want to learn more about IRT MTK Camp Kamassa and the training value it delivers? Check out the project case study located on our website at: <https://bit.ly/3d3TsvR>.



Service Members celebrate four years of partnership alongside community members at Camp Kamassa in Crystal Springs, MS.

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

Civil-Engineering
Recurring Partnerships
Joint Training

IRT Leadership Team

Colonel Jaclyn Chatwick, Director
Colonel George Koklanaris, Deputy Director
Captain Jennifer Ryan, Operations Officer
Captain Kelly Machado, Public Affairs Officer
Senior Master Sergeant Alexander Wilson, Superintendent

Community Partner Spotlight

Mary Kitchens

Director and Cofounder
Mississippi's Toughest Kids

"IRT has so many important projects but in Mississippi my friend Asher cares about just one. Camp Kamassa will be his camp and he can't wait to make friends and for the adventures to begin."



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 2021 missions. Please check irt.defense.gov regularly for the latest information on the IRT program.



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OSD STAFF HIGHLIGHT

MSG JANICE C. JOHNSON

ARMY RESERVE COMMAND
NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER-IN-CHARGE



*Thank you for your service at IRT.
We wish you the best of luck in your new position!*

"I am often left speechless when reflecting on my interactions with joint service military members, this has been the most profoundly rewarding stateside assignment."

SERVICE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

SRA IQUINESHA MITCHELL

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND
ASSET MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST



"IRT has been nothing but good to me. I have met so many amazing people, gained meaningful career experience, and participated in many other amazing opportunities just by being a part of this wonderful program. While I am sad to say goodbye to my IRT family, I'm ecstatic to walk into the rest of my career."

IRT EVENTS & MISSIONS

- Apr. 4: Catalina Island Road Repair Project Mission Start
- Apr. 19: 9Health Fair Mission Start
- Apr. 28: Camp Carter Mission Start
- May 1: Belcourt IHS/OWS Mission Start
- May 3: Cherokee Veteran's Housing Initiative Mission Start
- May 3: Kodiak Island Arctic Care Mission Start
- May 3: Operation Footprint Mission Start
- May 7: Belcourt IHS/OWS DV Day
- May 10: Girl Scouts of Hawaii Camp Paumalu Year 2 Mission Start

FY 2021 IRT PROGRAM MANAGERS

- Captain Jessica Campbell
Army Reserve | Army Active Duty
- Captain Jason Schwartz
Army National Guard
- Major Andrew Chrestman
Marine Corps Reserve | Marine Corps Active Duty
- Commander Kent Bubel
Navy Reserve | Navy Active Duty
- Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Adamich
Air National Guard | Air Force Active Duty
- Lieutenant Colonel Joshua Furby
Air Force Reserve