IRT Training Value Ahead: FY 2022 Missions

The FY 2022 Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) mission planning season is in full swing. Branches of the military are on track to conduct 32 civil-military partnerships. These missions encompass 15 civil engineering projects, 15 medical missions, 1 cybersecurity opportunity, and 1 civil affairs assessment. We anticipate training 5,934 Service Members across 17 states and territories. This mission season will see solid joint participation from all service components in each of the departments. Service Members will receive training in a diverse range of broad skill sets, including healthcare, construction, logistics planning, communications, operations, computer networking, civil affairs, and leadership in a joint environment. Through the end of the year, IRT leaders are holding initial planning meetings, with mid- and final planning sessions in the spring. This three-part planning process mirrors deployment planning and goes beyond ensuring success through mission-essential training to participants. Leaders work through all elements of mission planning to uncover and resolve issues, such as pinpointing locations for bed-down, clinic sites, and food services. They also review site concerns, such as communications and transportation challenges.

Over the next year, we look forward to building on the successes of FY 2021 and sharing the training value and lasting benefits that IRT delivers to American communities through our newsletter, website (irt.defense.gov), and social media channels (@IRTsWin). Beginning this month and running through the next few months, we will highlight the recipients of the 2021 IRT Awards in the following categories: Leader of the Year (subdivided into four rank categories), Participant of the Year, Civil-Military Partnership of the Year, Champion of the Year, and Program Manager of the Year. The winners’ impressive displays of service, excellence, and commitment to training reflect the common virtues shared among IRT planners and participants.
INTRODUCING THE 2021 IRT PROGRAM MANAGERS

IRT Leader of the Year is awarded to Captain Jason Brooks for his outstanding leadership as Officer-In-Charge during the Central Delaware Partnership for Hope IRT mission. The Leader of the Year award recognizes individuals who plan and execute an IRT mission while displaying exemplary leadership in identifying opportunities to increase readiness and encourage collaboration and innovation. He exemplified these accomplishments through successful execution of this two-week mission that provided no-cost medical services across four sites of care. His planning efforts and coordination between participating units, the Medical Consumables Site, and the community partner resulted in 3,227 patients seen and 18,050 procedures completed—which provided 24,836 annual training hours to 216 Service Members.

IRT Leader of the Year is awarded to Staff Sergeant Scott Hawkins for his outstanding leadership as Site Superintendent during the Camp Kamassa IRT mission. The Leader of the Year award recognizes individuals who plan and execute an IRT mission while displaying exemplary leadership in identifying opportunities to increase readiness and encourage collaboration and innovation. He exemplified these accomplishments through effective management of more than 1,000 Joint Service Members on the mission and in volunteer efforts he undertook personally within Mississippi communities. Additionally, his expertise in modern construction techniques aided in the elimination of excess materials, labor, and maintenance that resulted in cost savings to the mission.