Community Application Process and Significance

Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) delivers training opportunities across the Joint Services to increase deployment readiness for the military. Simultaneously, IRT furnishes key services with lasting benefits to American communities. Examples of these services include no-cost medical care, civil engineering, transportation, cybersecurity, aerial spray, diving operations, and civil affairs. These civil-military partnerships provide Service Members with hands-on, real-world training to improve readiness and survivability in contingency environments while leveraging diverse military capabilities to address entrenched challenges of American communities.

IRT missions arise from Military Applications paired with Community Applications with a proposed scope of work which satisfies military training need and value. Through these applications, requests for civil-military partnerships may come from Federal, State, local, or regional government entities, certain youth and charitable organizations, Indian or Tribal governments, and other organizations as reviewed for eligibility by the Department of Defense upon request by the applying Military Service.

Fill out a Community Application to participate in this valuable partnership. The following list offers some tips for drafting a thorough and standout application:

• Fill out all forms completely. Do not leave out points of contact, signatures, or required documents.
• Focus the application on training. Missions must fit the training needs for military personnel. An application can list multiple training opportunities. A strong application offers a flexible scope and level of complexity.
• Due to the preparation required, choose a mission with a low risk for schedule changes.
• Send the application on time and as soon as possible. Missions funded by OSD require more preparation than non-OSD-funded missions.

For more resources about IRT and how you can become part of this program for military and communities, visit the IRT website. Read testimonials on the impact of IRT missions in communities and review our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Interested communities are encouraged to explore the IRT website and apply. Visit irt.defense.gov. Access the IRT Application Portal by going to the Community menu item and clicking the ‘Apply Now’ button.

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 2022 missions. Please check irt.defense.gov regularly for the latest information on the IRT program.
CELEBRATING PUBLIC AFFAIRS EXCELLENCE
THANK YOU, CAPT KELLY MACHADO!
AIR NATIONAL GUARD

We recognize the accomplishments of a staff member whose dedicated service has made a difference to all of us and to this program. From October 2018 through January 2022, Captain Kelly Machado of the Air National Guard (ANG) served as the IRT Public Affairs Officer (PAO). As she fondly reflects on her time in IRT, she shares her memories: “Innovative Readiness Training has been an amazing experience. IRT has enabled me to work with the most talented sailors, soldiers, airmen, and marines in the service. My favorite part was seeing our military participants light up when witnessing firsthand the benefits their training provides to their fellow Americans. Most people join the military to give to their communities, and there is no better way to experience this than through an IRT mission. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this incredible program.”

As the IRT PAO, Capt. Machado worked across digital platforms to mature IRT’s website, social media presence, stakeholder engagement, and print artifacts (brochures, posters, and fact sheets). In 2020, her creative direction garnered the attention of Graphics Design USA’s 57th American Graphics Design Awards, winning not one, but two, prestigious awards in the categories of Branding & Identity for IRT’s design portfolio and Motion Design for the Strength Starts at Home promotional video.

Capt. Machado created resources for public affairs staff to utilize during IRT missions, including a Joint Mission Planners Toolkit and public affairs guidance documents. Her work transformed IRT’s social media presence, increasing engagement significantly since she came onboard. In the past 12 months, Capt. Machado’s social media management resulted in over 15,000 total engagements, more than 12,000 video views, and a 320% increase in total net audience growth. Capt. Machado connected communities and other stakeholders to IRT through social media, directly contributing to the program’s continued success.

Please join us in thanking Capt Machado for her outstanding contributions. We wish her all the best in her current and future endeavors.