



INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING

Premier Military Training for a
Secure and Prosperous America



MAY 2023 | NEWSLETTER

Operation Footprint

From 01 March to 30 April, the Navy Reserve led a civil-military partnership with the State of New Mexico for construction services to assist Navajo families with housing challenges. Dubbed “Operation Footprint,” this civil engineering mission trained 194 Navy Reserve sailors, supported by 168 Army National Guard members in Gallup, New Mexico.



Service Members perform a walkthrough of a Navajo family house constructed during IRT's Operation Footprint mission in Gallup, New Mexico

Civil engineering missions train military units while delivering benefits to communities via infrastructure construction and improvements from vertical and horizontal construction. During vertical construction, the team erects buildings, while in horizontal construction, team members install utilities, lay roadways, and perform other paving activities, such as runway improvements. Civil engineering missions also involve HVAC, plumbing, and electrical work.

The partnership between the Navajo Housing Authority and Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) has spanned decades and addresses housing challenges for local Navajo Nation residents. For this mission, the Navajo Housing Authority furnished building materials while the lead and supporting military service components supplied the labor and skill sets. This year's efforts focused on home and water well construction. Service Members trained on floor framing, wall sheathing, and truss installation as well as preventative maintenance, construction management, and facilities operation. Heavy equipment operators and numerous other occupational specialists received valuable readiness training while constructing single- and multi-bedroom wooden structures, pouring foundation, clearing brush, grading land, and more.

Through these efforts, the military received real-world training while providing sustainable, lasting construction benefits to the Navajo community. This combination of training with assistance to America's communities is unique to IRT. Learn more about our program at irt.defense.gov.

DEFEND THE NATION

IRT provides hands-on, real-world training to improve readiness and survivability in complex contingency environments

SUCCEED THROUGH TEAMWORK

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

TAKE CARE OF OUR PEOPLE

IRT strengthens and builds partnerships, while providing key services for American communities utilizing joint training operations

IRT TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

- Civil-Military Partnerships
- Vertical Construction
- Horizontal Construction

IRT LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Colonel Jaclyn Chatwick, Director
- Colonel George Koklanaris, Deputy Director
- Major Christopher Brown, Operations Officer
- Chief Master Sergeant Alexander Wilson, Superintendent

COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Jeremy Boucher
Director of Operations
Southwest Indian Foundation



Our experience with IRT over the years has been exceptional! The hard work the reservists do is critical to meet our goal of building homes for homeless Navajo families. The reservists' presence in Gallup, NM, has had a positive effect on the whole community. We are immensely grateful to be an IRT partner.

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 2023 missions. Please check irt.defense.gov regularly for the latest information on the IRT program.



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OSD STAFF MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

MASTER SERGEANT TERRI BAKER

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

RESOURCE ADVISOR, INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING



This is my first year as the Air National Guard resource advisor. I'm thrilled and honored to be a part of the IRT team. Working together with the other service resource advisors to serve our community partners has been great. I'm awe-inspired with all the work that goes into these missions. Now that the tempo to execute missions has picked up, it's a very exciting time. I'm looking forward to seeing everything through.

CALL FOR IRT LEADERSHIP AWARD NOMINATIONS

Do you know someone who has been exceptional in implementing IRT's mission? Every year, IRT recognizes individuals who have exhibited outstanding work ethic, innovation, and dedication toward completing an IRT mission and presents them with leadership awards during the IRT Joint Workshop for Operational Mission Planners award ceremony. Nominees can include OSD staff, Service Members, community partners, and other military and non-military supporters and participants.

Call for nominations begins on 26 June 2023. To nominate, visit <https://public.huddle.com/b/PnEzY/index.html> and download a nomination form with instructions. Award categories are Leader of the Year, Participant of the Year, Civil-Military Partnership of the Year, Champion of the Year, and Project Manager of the Year.

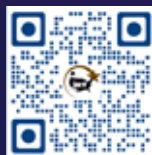
IMPORTANT 2023 DATES

- 26 June:** Call for IRT leadership award nominations
- 28 July:** Final day to submit award nomination forms for individuals
- 31 July:** Award nominations and ranking criteria submitted to program managers and asset site managers for review
- 2 August:** Program managers and asset site managers vote on and select award winners
- 9 August:** Award winners notified of selection results
- 29–31 August:** Awards presented during the 2023 IRT Joint Workshop for Operational Mission Planners in-person award ceremony

IRT EVENTS & MISSIONS

- May 1: Freedom Park Center Mission Start
- May 1: Ford Island Hangar 79 Mission Start
- May 1: Hoopa IRT Final Planning Meeting (FPM)
- May 1: Northwest Arkansas Wellness FPM
- May 2: Camp Kilohana FPM
- May 2: Kauai Emergency Management Agency (KEMA) Emergency Shelter Survey Mission Start
- May 7: Cherokee Veterans Housing Initiative 2023 Mission Start
- May 8: Monroe/West Monroe Wellness FPM
- May 8: Operation Healthy Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) FPM
- May 15: Custer State Park Trail 2023 FPM
- May 15: Idaho Nimiipuu Health 2023 Mission Start
- May 15: Round Valley Indian Health: Operation Walking Shield FPM
- May 16: Hell Creek Road Mission Start
- May 17: Outdoor Odyssey Leadership Academy Distinguished Visitors (DV) Day
- May 18: Idaho Nimiipuu Health 2023 DV Day
- May 20: Mississippi's Toughest Kids (MTK) Camp Kamassa 2023 Mission Start
- May 22: Idaho Nimiipuu Health 2023 DV Day
- May 26: Idaho Nimiipuu Health 2023 Mission End
- May 29: Cass Lake Indian Health Service (IHS): Operation Walking Shield 2023 FPM

More information
on missions at:



FY 2023 IRT PROGRAM MANAGERS

Major Daniel LaVorgna
Army Reserve | Army Active Duty

Captain Scott Thurman
Army National Guard

Lieutenant Colonel Timothy Salvino
Marine Corps Reserve | Marine Corps Active Duty

Lieutenant Commander Shaun Shillady
Navy Reserve | Navy Active Duty

Lieutenant Colonel Steven Johnson
Air National Guard | Air Force Active Duty

Chief Master Sergeant Rebecca Coulombe
Air Force Reserve