



# INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING

Premier Military Training for a  
Secure and Prosperous America



NOVEMBER 2023 | NEWSLETTER

## Custer State Park Trails

From 9 July to 6 August 2023, the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve led a joint construction mission in partnership with Custer State Park and the Active Duty U.S. Marine Corps.



*Marines construct one of several water crossings in Custer State Park*

The mission in Custer State Park offered a unique opportunity for participants to train in various engineering tasks, such as road improvement, graveling, grading, and bridge repair. Marines felled trees, built non-standard bridges, and constructed a road from scratch. Marines operated more equipment for longer hours than they ever would in a normal drill setting or service-level exercise annual training. This mission had a positive impact on park employees and visitors. It resulted in safer access to Buffalo Corral Road and improved the safety of the Mickelson Bridge for cyclists, runners, and walkers. The park's trail enhancements enable visitors to access previously unreachable areas, and the newly constructed picnic pavilion provides protection from inclement weather. Tree clearing and vegetation land improvements mitigated Firewise forest-fire brush and vegetation fuel removal.

The services rendered to the park had an estimated value of over \$600,000 and included a range of notable accomplishments. These included operating engineering equipment for 475 hours, grading 140 miles, moving 6,500 cubic feet of earth, installing 2,100 tons of rock, removing 3,000 trees and 9 acres of vegetation, enhancing 10 miles of trails, and constructing 12 water crossings.

This successful collaboration exemplifies how IRT partnerships benefit communities and contribute to unit readiness through real-world mission training. Learn more about our program at [irt.defense.gov](http://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
- Joint Mission Planning
- Medical Training

### 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

#### Hawai'i Special Olympics IRT Mission Update



The Air Force Reserve Command, in collaboration with Special Olympics Hawai'i spearheaded the joint mission "Fulfilling a Dream...Special Olympics Hawai'i 2022." The goal of this ongoing civil-military partnership is to construct a state-of-the-art Sports Training & Wellness Center in Kapolei, spanning 5,000 square feet. Over the course of several mission years, the partnership has continuously enhanced the capabilities of the facility. While a soft opening took place in 2021, the official public opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held on 1 December 2023. Keep an eye out for future updates on this incredible IRT mission and partnership.

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 FY23 missions. Please check [irt.defense.gov](http://irt.defense.gov) regularly for the latest information on the IRT program.



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## IRT FIRST FY24 QUARTERLY MEETING NEW ORLEANS, LA



The Innovative Readiness Training Working Group (IRT-WG), along with IRT leadership, program managers, and staff, met for the inaugural quarterly meeting of Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) in New Orleans, Louisiana, 8 to 10 November 2023. The primary objectives of the meeting were to review past year performance, discuss upcoming exercise plans using best practices, and identify new training approaches to benefit Service Members. This event encouraged camaraderie among new members and provided a valuable opportunity for participants to share experiences and perspectives, paving the way for another successful year for the IRT program.

## FY23 ANNUAL AWARD WINNER, E7-E9 LEADER OF THE YEAR

**MSGT BRENDAN DOHN**  
U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE



“The camaraderie and network of relationships I have forged will continue beyond my time in the program. I am grateful to be part of this program where I can observe the coordination of resources founded on my work having a tangible, meaningful impact on units and communities.”

### IRT EVENTS & MISSIONS

- Nov 4: FY24 NM Gallup SW Indian Foundation Construction Initial Planning Meeting
- Nov 7: FY24 Mountain Medical Initial Planning Meeting
- Nov 7: FY24 TX Nueces County Cyber Initial Planning Meeting
- Nov 7: FY24 Virgin Island Wellness Medical Initial Planning Meeting
- Nov 13: FY24 GA East Central Medical Initial Planning Meeting
- Nov 14: FY24 AK Kodiak Arctic Care Medical Initial Planning Meeting
- Nov 14: FY24 DC Federal Judiciary Cyber Initial Planning Meeting
- Nov 14: FY24 HI Ford Island Runway and Museum Entry Road Construction Initial Planning Meeting
- Nov 14: FY24 MS Camp Kamassa Construction Initial Planning Meeting
- Nov 15: FY24 MO Otterville R-VI School District Athletic Field Construction Initial Planning Meeting
- Nov 16: FY24 HI Ford Island Hangar 79 Construction Initial Planning Meeting
- Nov 27: FY24 MT Fort Belknap Indian Health Service Medical Initial Planning Meeting
- Nov 27: FY24 ME Veterans Memorial Cemetery Construction Initial Planning Meeting
- Nov 28: FY24 NE Tatanka Cyber Initial Planning Meeting
- Nov 28: FY24 CA Hoopa Operation Walking Shield Construction Initial Planning Meeting
- Nov 28: FY24 HI Kauai Tropic Medical Initial Planning Meeting

More information  
on missions at:



### FY24 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