



# INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING

Premier Military Training for a  
Secure and Prosperous America



FEBRUARY 2024 | NEWSLETTER

## A Legacy of Leadership: Celebrating the Journey of Colonel George Koklanaris, USA, Retired

This month, we recognize the career of our esteemed former IRT Deputy Director, Colonel George Koklanaris, who retired on February 1. We highlight and celebrate the remarkable legacy he leaves for the Innovative Readiness Training program as well as in numerous military and civilian assignments prior.

COL Koklanaris joined IRT in early 2017 as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee supporting the Reserve Integration office in the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense/Manpower & Reserve Affairs and has since been an integral part of the office's success in executing Civil Military Programs (CMP). His dedication, expertise, and leadership have been instrumental in shaping the direction and growth of the CMP portfolio. COL Koklanaris has served at the pleasure of the IRT Director, most recently as the IRT Deputy Director.



*COL George Koklanaris addressing IRT team at the annual FY23 workshop*

In this role, he has demonstrated exceptional skills and commitment through transformative efforts to impart operational effectiveness throughout the IRT program. He inarguably provided continuity of leadership by assuming this role during the COVID-19 pandemic. In support of these efforts, he instituted business rhythm processes, such as the biweekly status report (WSR) and accompanying biweekly meeting series between OSD leadership and the IRT Joint Service Program Managers. These tools increased internal communications and transparency between IRT program management staff while directly benefitting mission outcomes. In addition, he created and championed an enhanced Managers' Internal Control Program framework, effectively managing and mitigating risks for use of program resources by implementing a rigorous set of control factors. Through his exemplary leadership, COL Koklanaris set a high standard for quality, accountability, and audit readiness for those who will follow.

Another pursuit about which COL Koklanaris has been passionate is the portfolio's expansion into the Indo-Pacific theater. Through his shepherding of this theater's strategic importance, the IRT program has several recently completed, as well as ongoing, applications for upcoming civil military training opportunities in the Indo-Pacific area of operations, including a medical training mission in Guam in FY23, medical and civil engineering missions in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in FY23, multiple missions in Hawaii, and forthcoming prospective missions in American Samoa. These training activities are a priority in IRT as they support strategic objectives around coalition building and provide joint-training opportunities, including logistical and environmental factors that mimic deployment conditions.

Beyond his professional achievements, COL Koklanaris has been a mentor and friend to many. His presence will be greatly missed but his legacy will continue to inspire the mission, community partners, and Service Members of many more IRT civil military partnerships to come. As we bid farewell to COL Koklanaris, we express our deepest gratitude for his invaluable contributions to our organization. We wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

### 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 LEADERSHIP TEAM

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

### COLONEL GEORGE KOKLANARIS "THANK YOU IRT"

"I want to thank everyone for the incredible work that you all put into IRT over the past several years, but especially the last three. We did a lot of great things together in IRT and we set several program records along the way. We reached deeper into Alaska than before, and we are now a mainstay in the Pacific. So



much so, that the Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) Commander allegedly asked Office of the Chief of Army Reserve and US Army Reserve Command

(Chief of the Army Reserve) if INDOPACOM had a role in bringing these missions to our insular territories in the Pacific. The answer, as you already know, was no. They originated in IRT, and they were executed by the talented Officers, NCOs, civilians, and contractors who make our program so special. Indeed, from the Pacific and Alaska to our Indian reservations and unique communities throughout the United States, each of you has touched countless people and helped to improve their lives. This is something that you should be proud of, and I want you to know how grateful I am for your efforts and your service. Thank you."

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 FY24 missions. Please check [irt.defense.gov](http://irt.defense.gov) regularly for the latest information on the IRT program.



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## FY23 PM OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT JAMES PEGG

AIR FORCE RESERVE | CAMS IRT PROGRAM MANAGER



Joined and presented by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Integration, Mr. Judd Lyons, (pictured above, left) with IRT Director, Colonel Jaclyn Chatwick (pictured above, right).

Program Manager of the Year is awarded to Air Force Reserve Senior Master Sergeant (SMSgt.) James Pegg for his outstanding leadership as the Consolidated Asset Management Site's Officer in Charge. SMSgt. Pegg led coordinated efforts for all service components to receive functional and service ready assets. Under his leadership, SMSgt. Pegg spearheaded a \$190,000 design for additional non-functional food service trailers that improved feeding capabilities on missions that resulted in \$2 million in savings for military department funding. His strategic thinking helped transform the IRT program by instituting a more streamlined and standardized asset request process. This award was presented by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Integration, Mr. Judd Lyons, joined by IRT Director, Colonel Jaclyn Chatwick.

### IRT EVENTS & MISSIONS

- Feb 6: FY24 GU Guam Medical
- Feb 6: FY24 HI Ford Island Runway and Museum Construction
- Feb 6: FY24 MS Crystal Springs Camp Kamassa Construction
- Feb 6: FY24 KY Green River Medical
- Feb 6: FY24 DC Federal Judiciary Cyber
- Feb 7: FY24 HI Ford Island Hangar 79 Construction
- Feb 12: FY24 ME Maine Veterans Memorial Construction
- Feb 12: FY24 MD Mountain Medical
- Feb 13: FY24 PA Outdoor Odyssey Construction
- Feb 13: FY24 ND Quentin Burdick Hospital Medical
- Feb 13: FY24 TX Nueces County Cyber
- Feb 13: FY24 HI Kauai Medical
- Feb 14: FY24 MO Otterville R-VI School District Construction
- Feb 19: FY24 GA East Central Medical
- Feb 19: FY24 ID Nimiipuu Medical
- Feb 20: FY24 MT Fort Peck Medical
- Feb 22: FY24 NC White Oak Kelly Community Levee Construction
- Feb 22: FY24 NM Gallup SW Indian Foundation Construction

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