



INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING

Premier Military Training for a
Secure and Prosperous America



SEPTEMBER 2024 | NEWSLETTER

Marines Bring Training Value To Appalachia

From July 9th to August 6th, the United States Marine Corps Reserve (USMCR) partnered with the Stonewall State Park Foundation to conduct a civil engineering support activity. The support activity, named Operation Appalachian Thunder, involved relocating soil from two sites to various low spots to create areas for expanding the park in the future. As the park continues to expand, more visitors will have the opportunity to enjoy the grounds. The new areas will be used for recreational vehicles and other amenities. This training was led by Chief Warrant Officer 3 (CWO3) Kollin Craig and Gunnery Sergeant Octavio Ramirez of the USMCR, and it was supported by members of the Marine Corps and Air Force Reserve Command.



Cpl. James Ehlenfeldt from the 6th Engineer Support Battalion books up cables on a piece of heavy equipment at Stonewall State Park.

This support activity provided additional opportunities for training in surveying, general engineering, maintenance, water distribution, and communications. The distance separating the multiple worksites gave junior noncommissioned officers opportunities to exercise crucial unit leadership and communication skill sets. Additionally, Service members had the opportunity to work alongside a civilian engineering firm to learn about installing environmental controls and completing the project to exact specifications and drawings.

CWO3 Craig emphasized the importance of large joint support activities that bring together units from different services, stating “putting Airmen and Marines side by side in a controlled environment allows them to learn from each other, which will benefit the total force in future operations.”

Across 21 professional specialties, 165 Service members completed 67 training requirements. Service members operated 34 pieces of equipment for 1,500 hours and moved over 16,000 cubic yards of material in one week. Personnel also installed 5,000 linear feet of environmental controls and compacted 715,000 square feet of earth. The support activity provided approximately \$1.4 million in no-cost construction services to the Stonewall State Park Foundation. Additionally, the Food Service Specialists and Water Support Technicians attached to the support activity provided over 2,000 meals and 700 showers.

IRT civil military partnerships continue to foster strong relationships between military members and American communities, enhance unit and deployment readiness for Service members, and provide essential services to local communities. To find out more, visit 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
- Construction Training
- Project Planning

IRT LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Colonel James Hogan, Director
- Colonel Stephen Rubright, Deputy Director
- Major Melford Simpson, Operations Officer
- Chief Master Sergeant Alexander Wilson, Superintendent

COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Rudy Henley

Stonewall Resort
Project Developer & Asset Manager



“It’s a tremendous project and I know we can use the savings provided by the Service members to better improve the park for future generations. This truly exemplifies the civil military partnership model and how beneficial that can be moving forward.”



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SERVICE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

WELCOME MAJOR MELFORD SIMPSON!

AIR FORCE RESERVE

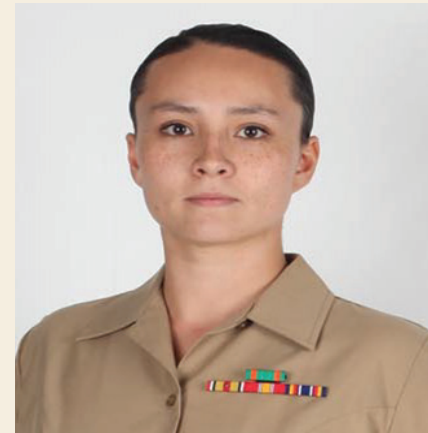


This July, we welcomed incoming IRT Operations Officer Major Melford Simpson of the Air Force Reserve. Major Simpson will serve as an advisor to program leadership, working under the IRT Director and Deputy Director and alongside numerous OSD staff and Program Managers. Major Simpson joins us from the 514th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, where he served as the Officer in Charge of Mission Management.

SERVICE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

STAFF SERGEANT ALEXIA DOE

MARINE CORPS RESERVE

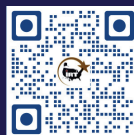


When I was at my Reserve unit, I'd so often hear Marines coming to drill already defeated and feeling their service was without purpose. IRT changes all of that. I get to hear Marines and Service members from all over talk about how not only do they get to do their jobs for real, but they can see how they're making a difference. The training matters. The results matter. But making a difference in the lives of our Service members and in the lives of American citizens has been nothing short of phenomenal.

IRT EVENTS & MISSIONS

- Sept 1: Tinian Roads End Date
- Sept 7: Arctic Haven End Date
- Sept 15: Shepard Point End Date
- Sept 30: Black Hills National Forest Transportation End Date
- Sept 30: Anne Arundel County Public Schools IRT End Date
- Sept 30: Qawalangin Needs Assessment End Date
- Sept 30: Maine Firewood Transport 2024 End Date
- Sept 30: Kauai Emergency Management Agency (KEMA) Planning Support End Date
- Sept 30: Chennault International Airport End Date
- Sept 30: Mountain Research Station Well Construction End Date
- Sept 30: Grant Parish Firing Range End Date
- Sept 30: Idaho Secretary of State Security Operations Center (SOC) End Date
- Sept 30: Mount Rushmore National Memorial End Date
- Sept 30: Manchester Oral Health End Date
- Sept 30: CyberCat End Date
- Sept 30: Idaho Community Outreach Program End Date

More information
on missions at:



FY24 IRT PROGRAM MANAGERS

Captain Penny Cannon
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