



INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING

Premier Military Training for a
Secure and Prosperous America



OCTOBER 2024 | NEWSLETTER

Joint IRT Annual Workshop 2024: Fueling Innovation and Leadership

The annual Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Joint Workshop for Operational Mission Planners, held in Tysons, VA, from August 27 to 29, 2024, kicked off preparation for the fiscal year (FY) 2025 mission season. Attendees included Active Duty Service members, Reservists, and Guardsmen from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force. Mission planners, unit representatives, and upcoming mission participants met with their IRT program managers and participated in topical briefings, networked across Service components, and gained valuable knowledge, strengthening their teams to prepare for upcoming civil military training opportunities throughout the United States and its territories.



IRT Annual Award winners pose for a photograph with Mr. Ted A. Graham, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Reserve Integration, Brigadier General Valerie Jackson, Commanding General 4th Marine Logistics Group, and Sergeant Major Steve Minyard, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs

During the workshop, over 100 attendees celebrated the success of the FY24 mission year and explored tools and resources to strengthen the program's operational excellence in FY25. The workshop included breakout sessions on best practices and logistical considerations for cybersecurity, medical, civil engineering, and other specific mission types. Planned breaks throughout the day and specific time allocations for each Service component provided networking opportunities among the Service components.

Distinguished guest, Mr. Ted A. Graham, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Reserve Integration, was joined by Brigadier General Valerie Jackson, Commanding General 4th Marine Logistics Group, to present this year's IRT Annual Awards to deserving recipients whose significant contributions in FY24 delivered lasting benefits to the program and the Joint Service members it serves. Major Christopher Brown, former IRT Operations Officer, moderated the ceremony that celebrated IRT participants' hard work and success over the past year.

We would like to thank our community partners who attended this year's annual workshop, traveling from near and far to be with us. Your active participation is essential to the success of the program's mission, and we deeply appreciate your continued support. Together, we are making a lasting impact, and we look forward to building on this year's momentum in the coming year.

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
- Lessons Learned
- Joint Mission Planning

IRT LEADERSHIP TEAM

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

THANK YOU FROM COLONEL HOGAN

Colonel Hogan
Innovative Readiness Training
Director



"Thank you to all the Service members and community partners who traveled to join us for this annual workshop. Your dedication and invaluable contributions have been instrumental in positioning our program for an exceptional year of support activities ahead. We are deeply grateful for your continued support and hard work."



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CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

DR. TAI HUNTE-CEASAR

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER



IRT Champion of the Year was awarded to Dr. Tai Hunte-Cesar, the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) Department of Health's Chief Medical Officer, for her involvement in the FY24 Virgin Islands Wellness mission. As the primary community partner for the mission, she collaborated extensively with other U.S. Virgin Islands government departments to gather support from the Schneider Regional Medical Center, police and fire departments, and the USVI Army National Guard. Dr. Hunte-Cesar's coordinated efforts helped overcome logistical challenges such as interruptions in the power supply, limited provider capacity, and supply shortages. As a result, Service members received 28,967 hours of valuable training and provided over \$2 million in fair market value of no-cost medical care to the residents of the Virgin Islands.

CIVIL MILITARY PARTNERSHIP OF THE YEAR

MR. GARLAND STIFFARM

BLACKFEET TRIBAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



IRT Civil Military Partnership of the Year was awarded to Mr. Garland Stiffarm, CEO of the Blackfeet Tribal Health Department, and the Air National Guard for their joint success in executing the Blackfeet Tribal Health mission in Browning, Montana. This partnership collaborated tirelessly to deliver no-cost medical, dental, optometric, behavioral health, and veterinary care to the Blackfeet Nation. Service members saw 3,100 patients, provided over \$1.3 million in no-cost healthcare services, and completed 11,356 military readiness training requirements. Throughout the planning process, Mr. Stiffarm raised important concerns regarding the insufficient availability of emergency medical personnel and the lack of effective communication systems within the reservation. His inquiry initiated a large-scale emergency response exercise that involved various local police, fire, and emergency medical services, as well as Malmstrom Air Force Base's Emergency Management team and the Indian Health Service. This exercise resulted in the identification of a \$40,000 solution to a potentially life-threatening issue and strengthened the relationship between the military and the local community.

IRT EVENTS & MISSIONS

- Oct 1: Idaho Community Outreach Program, Initial Planning Meeting
- Oct 1: Idaho Community Outreach Program, Mission Start Date
- Oct 2: Idaho Community Outreach Program, Mid Planning Meeting
- Oct 3: Idaho Community Outreach Program, Final Planning Meeting
- Oct 30: United Front 2025, Initial Planning Meeting
- Oct 30: Cyber Tatanka, Initial Planning Meeting

More information
on missions at:



FY25 IRT PROGRAM MANAGERS

- Major John Pineau
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
- Captain Heather Edsall
Air Force Reserve