



INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING

Premier Military Training for a
Secure and Prosperous America



NOVEMBER 2024 | NEWSLETTER

Joint Services Leads Remote and Challenging Construction Efforts in Alaska

From June 1st to September 15th, the Army National Guard partnered with the Native Village of Eyak, Bristol Engineering, and Turnagain Construction to conduct a civil engineering support activity. They began the initial work of constructing an access road linking Cordova, AK, to the future site of the Shepard Point Oil Spill Response Facility approximately 4 miles to the north. This joint support activity was led by Army National Guard personnel from the 201st Engineer Battalion in Kentucky and was supported by additional Army National Guard personnel from the 204th Engineer Platoon in New York, Airmen from the 200th REDHORSE Air National Guard in Ohio, and Marine Reservists from the 6th Engineer Support Battalion based out of Oregon. Service members worked to cut and fill the land for the road and to build temporary maintenance structures to service the road.



U.S. Marine Corps engineers assigned to the 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, Marine Forces Reserve, board a ferry bound for Shepard Point near Cordova, Alaska, Aug. 21, 2024.

Following the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989, the community partner required a fourth and final oil spill response facility to finalize a 30-year plan to enhance oil spill response times and capabilities for the region's waterways. This facility is estimated to reduce oil spill response times by 4–6 hours depending on where the spill occurs. Faster response times will significantly minimize the adverse effects of an oil spill on the environment, wildlife, and communities in the Prince William Sound.

By the end of the support activity, Service members excavated and leveled 0.86 miles of road, including standoff and shoulder requirements on each side, in accordance with the Alaska Department of Transportation standards. Service members moved material and earth estimated to be in the millions of cubic yards and operated on slopes with an average grade of 14%.

Through the IRT Program, over 400 Service members provided their skills and services in horizontal construction with heavy equipment on tough and challenging terrain. The rocky and water-saturated terrain created situations where the ground was unstable, and sections of the road involved excavation on steep slopes in extremely confined areas. Service members worked with Turnagain Construction personnel to actively solve problems and change plans to meet requirements. This included splitting up the efforts, with the military focusing on construction efforts going north and the civilian efforts focusing southward.

By the completion of the support activity, Service members received approximately 18,000 hours of valuable real-world training across Army, Marine Corps, and Air Force training requirements. The support activity also provided a fair market value of approximately \$750,380 in construction services to the Native Village of Eyak, and by extension the City of Cordova, at no cost.

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
- Joint Support Activity

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

Mr. Luke Borer

Native Village of Eyak
Council Member

“All the benefits that you’re doing for the community with helping here with the school and the public relations with all the citizenry of Cordova, everybody has nothing but good things to say about you here. We really appreciate it.”



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PROGRAM MANAGER OF THE YEAR

CAPTAIN SCOTT A. THURMAN

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
PROGRAM MANAGER



IRT Program Manager of the Year was awarded to Captain Scott A. Thurman for his outstanding leadership as the Army National Guard IRT Program Manager. Captain Thurman's tremendous leadership resulted in the execution of 35 missions, accurate management of \$2.5 million in IRT funds, provision of medical care to over 25,000 patients, thousands of hours of labor for construction projects, and an estimated \$9.5 million in no-cost community benefits. He doubled the number of Army National Guard-led missions from FY23 to FY24 and dedicated countless hours to mentoring and educating his team while enhancing operational proficiency and imparting a foundational understanding of strategic engagements. For his dedication to IRT through periods of reduced or no staff during an intense mission season while saving the program \$850,000 in operational expenses, Captain Thurman is deserving of this award.

PARTICIPANT OF THE YEAR

SENIOR AIRMAN ANDREA PRESIDENT

AIR FORCE RESERVE



IRT Participant of the Year was awarded to Senior Airman Andrea President for her exemplary dedication and commitment as the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the St. Thomas Pediatric Clinic during the FY24 Virgin Islands Wellness mission. Identifying a need in the community, Senior Airman President immediately took it upon herself to orchestrate a fundraising campaign within the mission, raising \$700 to purchase much needed school supplies for approximately 200 children. Inspired by her efforts, the community raised additional funds, contributing toward \$1,000 worth of supplies overall. As the sole medical administrative technician, she accomplished 308 physicals, administered 51 immunizations, and performed 516 procedures, which provided the community with an overall cost savings of over \$101,000 in no-cost healthcare services. This initiative greatly contributed to the success of the mission while also addressing a critical need for the community, which has only two pediatricians.

IRT EVENTS & MISSIONS

- Nov 5: Redwoods Rising, Initial Planning
- Nov 6: Hidalgo County IRT Civil Affairs, Initial Planning
- Nov 7: FY25 Operation Footprint, Initial Planning
- Nov 11: FY25 Aloha Lives Here, Initial Planning
- Nov 12: Ellwood City Cares, Initial Planning
- Nov 12: FY25 Shepard Point, Initial Planning
- Nov 14: Cyber Guam, Initial Planning
- Nov 14: Cyber Samoa, Initial Planning
- Nov 14: Cyber Kauai, Initial Planning
- Nov 14: American Samoa Wellness, Initial Planning
- Nov 20: FY25 American Samoa Wellness, Initial Planning

More information
on missions at:



FY25 IRT PROGRAM MANAGERS

Major John Pineau
Army Reserve | Army Active Duty

Captain Scott Thurman
Army National Guard

Captain Emanuel Mendez
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