



INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING

Premier Military Training for a
Secure and Prosperous America



JANUARY 2024 | NEWSLETTER

IRT 2025 Support Activity Planning Takes Shape

The planning season for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) support activities is in full swing! Eight service components—Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Marine Corps Reserve, Navy Active Duty, Navy Reserve, Air Force Active Duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve—are set to execute 36 support activities this year, training 3,418 service members across 23 U.S. states and territories. These training support activities include: one aerial spray operation, one food service activity, two civil affairs activities, four transportation activities, five cybersecurity activities, 10 medical activities, and 13 civil engineering activities. Additional non-Office of the Secretary of Defense-funded support activities will expand this portfolio as the year progresses.



U.S. Marine Corps GySgt Tyler Brookbank, a combat engineer for the 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, Marine Forces Reserve, consults construction plans while supervising earthwork operations at Shepard Point near Cordova, Alaska, Aug. 21, 2024. Alaska National Guard photo by Alejandro Peña.

This support activity season features total joint participation from nearly all service components in each department. Service members will train in a diverse range of skill sets, including healthcare, construction, logistics planning, communications, operations, cybersecurity, civil affairs, and leadership in a joint deployment environment.

IRT leaders hold initial, mid, and final planning meetings throughout the year. This three-part planning process mirrors deployment planning, ensuring the success of essential readiness training for participants. Leaders address all planning elements to uncover and resolve issues while identifying locations for bed-down, clinic sites, and food services. They also review site concerns, including challenges related to communications and transportation.

IRT's civil military partnerships continue to strengthen relationships between military members and American communities, enhance unit and deployment readiness for service members, and provide essential services to local communities. To learn 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
- Forward Planning
- Looking Ahead

IRT LEADERSHIP TEAM

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Colonel Stephen Rubright
Deputy Director, IRT



As we embark on a new year, I look forward to a period of significant growth and meaningful impact. The IRT program remains dedicated to delivering hands-on training opportunities for our Service members while addressing critical needs in our communities. I am excited to visit IRT support activities this year and witness the incredible work in person. Thank you for your continued support to make these efforts possible. Happy New Year!



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IRT LEADER OF THE YEAR (O4 AND ABOVE)

MAJOR MU ZHANG

AIR FORCE RESERVE
OFFICER IN CHARGE, FY24
U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS WELLNESS



IRT Leader of the Year was awarded to Major Mu Zhang for her outstanding leadership as officer in charge during the FY24 U.S. Virgin Islands Wellness support activity. The Leader of the Year award recognizes individuals who plan and execute an IRT support activity while displaying exemplary leadership in identifying opportunities to increase readiness and encourage collaboration and innovation. Major Zhang exemplified these accomplishments by managing the movements, training, and data collection from five sites spread over three islands, and scheduling and executing 28,967 hours of valuable readiness training. Her dedication toward support activity success was exemplified in the seamless execution of 14,256 procedures for 2,112 patients. Major Zhang's efforts contributed to an overall savings of \$2.3 million in no-cost healthcare services to residents of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

IRT LEADER OF THE YEAR (E5-E6)

EQUIPMENT OPERATOR SECOND CLASS (EO2)

MONICA VINCENT

NAVY RESERVE
IRT RESOURCE ADVISOR



IRT Leader of the Year was awarded to Equipment Operator Second Class (EO2) Monica Vincent for her excellence in leadership as the Navy's IRT Resource Advisor. The Leader of the Year award recognizes individuals who plan and execute IRT missions while displaying exemplary leadership in identifying opportunities to increase readiness and encourage collaboration and innovation. EO2 Vincent exemplified these accomplishments through her management of \$1.4 million in Pay and Allowances and Operations and Maintenance funds while achieving a 94% execution rate. Her ability to effectively allocate and expend these funds ensured training opportunities for 267 Active and Reserve Navy personnel throughout 9 missions resulting in increased readiness requirements. While acting as the Deputy IRT Program Manager during a billet gap, EO2 Vincent developed a 65-page turnover document, was a member of the planning team for 60 Distinguished Visitors, and supported Public Affairs during the Tropic Care and Kodiak Care 2024 missions.

IRT EVENTS & SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

- Jan 7: Operation Healthy Delta 2025, Initial Planning Meeting
- Jan 7: Operation Healthy Delta 2025, Mid Planning Meeting
- Jan 7: Rhea County Cares, Initial Planning Meeting
- Jan 13: Operation Footprint, Mid Planning Meeting
- Jan 14: Redwoods Rising, Mid Planning Meeting
- Jan 14: Shepard Point, Mid Planning Meeting
- Jan 20: Cyber Fortress, Initial Planning Meeting
- Jan 23: Hidalgo County IRT Civil Affairs, Mid Planning Meeting
- Jan 28: Operation Arctic Care, Mid Planning Meeting
- Jan 28: FY25 Salud En Tu Pueblo, Mid Planning Meeting
- Jan 29: Cyber Tatanka, Mid 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

Captain Emanuel Mendez
Marine Corps Reserve | Marine Corps Active Duty

Lieutenant Commander Shaun Shillady
Navy Reserve | Navy Active Duty

Major Nathaniel Horwitz-Willis
Air National Guard | Air Force Active Duty

Major Michael Nordin
Air Force Reserve