



# INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING

Premier Military Training for a  
Secure and Prosperous America



JULY 2025 | NEWSLETTER

## Service Members Give Scouting America's Camp Tamarack Ability to Expand

From March 3 to June 5, 2025, the Marine Corps Reserve, with support from the Army National Guard, partnered with Scouting America to conduct Operation Build Michigan, a construction training activity at Camp Tamarack in Jones, Michigan.

Service members from the Engineer Services Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 25, and the 1436 Engineer Company, 507 Engineer Battalion participated in this training. The Scout camp required additional space to expand the activities offered and update existing buildings. As part of their mission, the Marines expanded Camp Tamarack's usable land, clearing more than six acres of land by felling trees. They trenched and reburied 48,000 cubic feet of soil to emplace 3,200 linear feet of electrical, water, and data conduits, and cleared more than six acres of land by felling trees. After the Marines departed, Soldiers expanded the main driveway by 13 feet in width and 500 feet in length, placed 375 cubic yards of crushed asphalt, and conducted a site survey to assist in future camp infrastructure planning.



*Marines from the Engineer Services Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 25, Red Bank, New Jersey, lay conduit at Camp Tamarack in Jones, Michigan.  
(Courtesy photo)*

With these significant efforts, Camp Tamarack is now set to build a new dining facility and shotgun trap range, enhance its outdoor classrooms, and accommodate more Scouts. This expansion means the Scout camp can provide enriching experiences for hundreds of visitors each year.

"The LaSalle Council, Scouting America, is truly appreciative of the continued partnership with the United States Marines, specifically providing support for new facilities at the Scout reservation, Camp Tamarack," said John Cary, Scout Executive. "The work being accomplished is vitally important in the long-range strategy of creating safer and exciting program spaces for all who will enjoy Camp Tamarack."

Service members faced several challenges during the mission, including a strict timeline, inclement weather, and the constraint of conducting their training only during drill weekends. Any delays could have jeopardized the project deadlines. Despite these obstacles, the Service members collaborated with the Scout camp to actively solve problems and worked diligently to complete the project on time.

"They worked with the Scout camp to actively problem-solve and industriously worked towards on-time completion," said 2nd Lt. Cordell Cox, Operation Build Michigan Officer in Charge. "By the end of the mission, Service members conducted 21,600 manhours of valuable training across 26 Training and Readiness standards. The mission also provided approximately \$98,000 of estimated fair market value to Camp Tamarack."

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](http://irt.defense.gov).

### UNITY OF PURPOSE

IRT strengthens joint coordination and hands-on military training that ensures real-world readiness and mission success in complex contingency environments.

### ACCOUNTABILITY & INNOVATION

IRT increases fiscal discipline, ensuring best use of DoD resources for cutting-edge military training and threat resilience for American communities.

### READINESS & LEADERSHIP

IRT develops strong military leaders who are prepared to meet the challenges of deployment, mission success, and deterrence abroad.

### IRT TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

- Civil Military Partnerships
- Civil Engineering
- Joint Mission Planning

### IRT LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Colonel James Hogan, Director
- Colonel Stephen Rubright, Deputy Director
- Major Melford Simpson, Operations Officer
- Chief Master Sergeant Mathew Forster, Superintendent
- Master Sergeant Rachelle Morris, Public Affairs Manager

### COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

#### John Cary

Crossroads of America Council,  
Scouting America Scout Executive



"The LaSalle Council, Scouting America, sincerely appreciates the ongoing partnership with the United States Marines, particularly in their support for the new facilities at Camp Tamarack, our Scout reservation.

The work being done is crucial to our long-term strategy of creating safer and more engaging program spaces for everyone who will enjoy Camp Tamarack."



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## IRT STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### MAJOR MICHAEL NORDIN

AIR FORCE RESERVE  
PROGRAM MANAGER



“IRT has been an eye-opening experience since I began in October 2024. The AFRC-led medical mission, Salud en Tu Pueblo, showcased the achievements possible in a joint medical mission. Both officers and enlisted personnel stepped up to overcome challenges. Hearing stories from grateful patients and community partners about the life-changing medical care they received was extremely touching. I wish I had known about the IRT program years ago; it is an amazing initiative that allows service members to enhance their communities and impact many American lives.”

## IRT STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### MASTER SERGEANT COURTNIE CLARK

IRT CONSOLIDATED ASSET MANAGEMENT SITE  
ASSET MANAGER

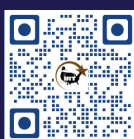


“Serving as the Asset Manager for the CAMS site has been one of the highlights of my military career. The IRT program has broadened my knowledge in ways I never expected and shown me just how impactful our behind-the-scenes role is to the greater mission. I’m proud of the work my team does—supporting both the communities we serve and the joint service members who gain invaluable training and readiness. It’s incredibly rewarding to be part of something that truly makes a difference.”

## IRT EVENTS & SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

July 1: Cyber USVI, Final Planning Meeting  
July 1: Operation Healthy Virgin Islands, End Date  
July 2: Operation Outreach Unangan, DV Day  
July 7: Operation Outreach Unangan, End Date  
July 8: Operation Build North Carolina, Start Date  
July 9: Operation Healthy Tennessee, Start Date  
July 9: Operation Smithsonian, DV Day  
July 12: Operation Build Eyak, End Date  
July 13: Operation Outreach Nueces, Start Date  
July 14: Operation Build Akuligaq, Final Planning Meeting  
July 15: Cyber USVI, Start Date  
July 17: Operation Healthy Tennessee, DV Day  
July 20: Operation Healthy Ellwood, Start Date  
July 21: Operation Build Puerto Rico, Start Date  
July 21: Operation Bite Back Minot, Start Date  
July 23: Operation Healthy Tennessee, End Date  
July 24: Cyber USVI, End Date  
July 24: Operation Build North Carolina, DV Day  
July 24: Operation Footprint, End Date  
July 25: Operation Outreach Nueces, DV Day  
July 25: Operation Bite Back Minot, End Date  
July 26: Operation Outreach Nueces, End Date  
July 30: Operation Build Hawaii, DV Day  
July 31: Operation Healthy Ellwood, DV Day

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