Innovative Readiness Training

Premier Military Training for a
Secure and Prosperous America

AUGUST 2026 | NEWSLETTER

Joint Force Teams Strengthen Guam Emergency Communications During Cyber Guam 2026

From June 1–12, 2026, the Air Force Reserve, supported by the Navy Reserve and Air Force Active Duty, partnered with the Government of Guam Office of Technology for an Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) cybersecurity support activity on the island of Guam. Sixty Service members worked side-by-side with their community counterparts, continuing a multi-year effort to assess physical and virtual network limitations, uncover vulnerabilities across critical systems, share cybersecurity best practices, strengthen Guam's emergency radio network, and train jointly with military and community stakeholders.

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Marcin Drozd, communicates over an AN/PRC-163 multi-channel handheld radio during Cyber Guam 2026 in Tamuning, Guam, June 4, 2026.

The initial exercise in 2024 mapped Guam's network architecture, reviewed policies, and established centralized authentication to provide local IT teams with greater visibility and control over their systems. In 2025, the partnership shifted toward securing identified assets and reducing vulnerabilities. This third iteration modernized critical infrastructure and built more resilient network and emergency communication capabilities.

Across the island, Cyber Guam 2026 participants were organized into radio, assessment, and network teams, operating in a fully joint environment that blended the skills and perspectives of Service members from multiple components.

Throughout the training, participants decommissioned obsolete equipment, tested emergency response communications, upgraded and deployed new network hardware, and assessed future upgrade needs. The exercise offered a rare opportunity for Service members to train on live, community networks rather than closed military systems, sharpening their technical skills in real-world conditions.

On June 8, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake off the coast of the Philippines triggered two tsunami advisories for Guam in the middle of the exercise. The event reinforced the critical need for reliable communications and highlighted the relevance of the radio team's efforts. Radio teams studied topographic maps of Guam to identify the island's highest points and establish feasible repeater sites to help military bases and municipalities maintain communications during natural disasters.

By the end of the training, Service members completed more than 2,000 training tasks; delivered an estimated fair market value of over $600,000 in cybersecurity services and $200,000 in emergency radio network survey services at no cost to the community; enabled live network training valued at roughly $500,000; and plotted 520 emergency radio network sites across Guam.

Cyber Guam 2026 stands out as a clear example of how IRT advances national objectives, providing critical, real-world training to Service members while strengthening valued civil-military partnerships in the Indo-Pacific, a key strategic region under the 2026 National Defense Strategy.

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.

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 DoW 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
Communications Training
Cybersecurity Training

IRT Leadership Team

Colonel James Hogan, Director
Colonel Stephen Rubright, Deputy Director
Major Melford Simpson, Operations Officer
Chief Master Sergeant Mathew Forster, Superintendent

Community Partner Spotlight

Beatrice Santos
Guam Office of Technology
Acting Chief Technology Officer

"The IRT team [members] have become trusted resources for our team…We value the techniques we have learned from them, and we hope working with our team in real-life scenarios and systems over these last three years has provided a good learning environment for new Service members as well."

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JULY 2026 | NEWSLETTER

IRT Staff Spotlight

Lieutenant Corbin Nicholson

ARMY RESERVE
DEPUTY PROGRAM MANAGER

"To me, IRT is the ultimate opportunity to take the skills we work so hard to master and put them to work helping our communities. For many people, this is their very first time interacting with Service members. We have an incredible chance to change perceptions and make a real difference, all while delivering on the exact readiness priorities set by our senior leaders. Executing this mission and seeing that direct impact is what it's all about."

IRT Staff Spotlight

Senior Master Sergeant Spencer Shaw

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND
DEPUTY PROGRAM MANAGER

"Being part of the IRT team has proven to me just how vital practical, hands-on training is for our forces. IRT uniquely allows Service members to hone specialized skills [through opportunities] that are often unavailable at home stations, doing so in an environment that better prepares them for real-world deployments. This dedicated time away from the daily routine not only drives concrete results but also leaves the team with a profound sense of mission accomplishment and the knowledge of contributing to a much greater mission for American communities."

IRT EVENTS & SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

Aug 9: Michigan Scout Camps, End Date

Aug 13: Operation Arctic Shelter, Distinguished Visitor Day

Aug 22: Redwoods Fish Hatchery, End Date

Aug 26: Operation Arctic Shelter, End Date

Aug 28: Shepard Point , End Date

More information on missions at:

FY26 IRT PROGRAM MANAGERS

Major Penny Cannon
Army Reserve | Army Active Duty

Captain Scott Thurman
Army National Guard

Captain Emanuel Mendez
Marine Corps Reserve | Marine Corps Active Duty

Lieutenant Commander Jennie Fucaloro
Navy Reserve | Navy Active Duty

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

Lieutenant Colonel Edward Brouch
Air Force Reserve