



INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING

Premier Military Training for a
Secure and Prosperous America



MAY 2026 | NEWSLETTER

IRT Training Season Launches with 38 Support Activities

The Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program is proud to announce the start of the 2026 training season. Over the past year, Service members and community partners have collaborated to prepare a range of support activities that will enhance military readiness and provide no-cost services to communities across the nation.

This year's IRT training season features 38 support activities, providing hands-on, real-world training across various disciplines while addressing critical needs in local communities. This year's portfolio features 11 joint activities incorporating multi-branch collaboration, alongside 27 single-service-led operations.

Disciplines Covered: The 2026 training season covers a wide variety of project types, highlighting the versatility of IRT training activities and the breadth of training offered by the program:

- **15 Civil Engineering Activities:** Addressing vital community needs, such as building and repairing infrastructure in underserved areas.
- **9 Medical Projects:** Offering no-cost medical services such as optometry, health screenings, dental, veterinary care, and public health education.
- **9 Cybersecurity Trainings:** Supporting community and governmental agencies with advanced cyber defense and training to protect valuable data and systems.
- **2 Civil Affairs Activities:** In coordination with the community partner, Service members conduct surveys and community needs assessments.
- **1 Transportation Project:** Transporting people, supplies, and outsized expeditionary forces via military cargo aircraft.
- **1 Dive Training:** Using specialized underwater operations training to clear debris, support environmental management, and promote maritime safety.
- **1 Aerial Spray Activity:** Designated military aircraft spray insecticides over communities to control or reduce the number of mosquitoes.

Follow our social media channels for the latest updates on these projects and all things IRT related! Hyperlinks are available on the footers of each page of every newsletter.

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://visit.irt.defense.gov).



A medic with the 319th Medical Care Detachment, conducts a medical assessment on a resident during Innovative Readiness Training Healthy Broome.

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
- Military Training
- New Training Season

IRT LEADERSHIP TEAM

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

MESSAGE FROM THE IRT DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Colonel Stephen Rubright
IRT Deputy Director



"The IRT program is excited to embark on another season of delivering premier training while meeting critical needs in communities across America. The teamwork and resilience demonstrated during the planning for Kodiak Arctic Care is an inspiration to us all.

Despite unexpected transportation challenges, the team showcased extraordinary collaboration across military components, overcoming obstacles and ensuring mission success. Their unwavering commitment has set a powerful example for the season ahead, proving that, together, we can achieve tremendous outcomes for the communities we serve."



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IRT STAFF SPOTLIGHT

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT CASSIE BEAUCHENE

AIR FORCE RESERVE
IRT AIR FORCE RESERVE CYBERSECURITY PROJECT LEAD



“As the Air Force Reserve’s only cyber IRT planner, I’ve had the privilege of witnessing firsthand how Innovative Readiness Training transforms both our service members and the communities we support. From enabling cyber defense training with Apache and Pueblo tribal telecommunications partners in New Mexico to strengthening critical infrastructure across Guam, Kaua’i, Nueces County, Georgia, the U.S. Courts and beyond, IRT has provided unmatched real-world experience for Airmen, Guardians, and our Joint Total Force. These missions sharpen technical expertise, leadership, and expeditionary problem-solving while delivering meaningful cyber resilience to underserved communities and critical infrastructure partners. IRT bridges operational readiness with service, creating mission-focused professionals capable of defending networks in today’s contested environments while building trust and lasting partnerships at home.”

IRT STAFF SPOTLIGHT

STAFF SERGEANT MICHAELA ROGERS

ARMY RESERVE
IRT MEDICAL CONSUMABLES SITE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER



“I’ve served in the Army for 7 years, with 4 of those spent with IRT, and it’s truly been an honor. Being part of a program that not only trains our Service members but also offers invaluable services to communities in need is something I’m incredibly proud of. IRT allows Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Guardians, and Soldiers to develop their skills in their Military Occupational Specialty while working in a deployment-like environment, all while making a positive impact on communities that rely on our support. There’s simply no other program like it. I’ve always been passionate about what I do, and the opportunity to do so while helping others makes it even more rewarding.”

IRT EVENTS & SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

- May 1: Nimiipuu Cyber, Start Date
- May 1: Cyber Tatanka, Final Planning Meeting
- May 1: Orman Reclamation, Start Date
- May 1: Shepard Point, Start Date
- May 1: Task Force Reef Rescue, Distinguished Visitor Day
- May 1: Michigan Scout Camps, Start Date
- May 1: NC Community Outreach Program, Start Date
- May 2: Northern Water, Start Date
- May 3: Homeland Defender 2026, Start Date
- May 4: Operation Healthy Nueces, Final Planning Meeting
- May 5: Nueces County Community Needs Assessment, Final Planning Meeting
- May 6: Kodiak Arctic Care, Start Date
- May 8: Pronghorn Crossing, Start Date
- May 8: Task Force Reef Rescue, End Date
- May 10: Operation Colonia Improvement, Final Planning Meeting
- May 11: Nimiipuu Health, Start Date
- May 11: Operation Forest Sentinel, Final Planning Meeting
- May 14: Kodiak Arctic Care, Distinguished Visitor Day
- May 17: Pronghorn Crossing, Distinguished Visitor Day
- May 20: Kodiak Arctic Care, End Date
- May 21: Nimiipuu Health, Distinguished Visitor Day
- May 22: Pronghorn Crossing, End Date
- May 22: Nimiipuu Health, End Date
- May 30: Redwoods Fish Hatchery, Start 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

Commander Shaun Shillady
Navy Reserve | Navy Active Duty

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

Lieutenant Colonel Edward Brouch
Air Force Reserve