

2016 IRT Summary



INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING

Manpower & Reserve Affairs | Department of Defense

irt.defense.gov | osd.irt@mail.mil

2016 IRT Summary

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Approved for public release; distribution not limited.

Cover photo by SPC David Alexander.



Forward



THE HONORABLE TODD A. WEILER
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE FOR MANPOWER &
RESERVE AFFAIRS

I am honored to write about Innovative Readiness Training's (IRT's) impact on the readiness of our armed forces for the national security mission, American prosperity, and DoD's ability to attract new talent to military and community service.

IRT is a cornerstone program in reaching out to the American public. I established the External Outreach Cell in 2016 with a vision to create opportunities for all American citizens to connect with the military. Our mission is to leverage existing outreach programs across diverse demographics, geographies, and generations to connect Americans to the people, roles, and missions of the military and communicate the value and benefits of service.

Outreach programs like IRT contribute directly to the strategic priorities of the Secretary of Defense to create a military that is more reflective of the society it serves. The success model for the all-volunteer military force in a great democracy such as ours is to ensure broad-based participation in the military—across our diverse geography and demographics—and shared values between civil society and those who serve in the military. DoD must expand its external reach efforts to communities that do not traditionally serve in our armed forces, and IRT is at the forefront of this effort. Programs like IRT create lasting impacts on communities and kindle a spirit of service. When IRT's Service members visit American towns and cities and build affordable housing, restore bridges, or provide medical care, the citizens in those communities remember that work. They share their positive memories of our uniformed men and women with their children and neighbors. Connecting DoD with new ponds and creating the Force of the Future starts with programs like IRT.

I am proud of IRT's program managers, project leaders, and community partners. Their hard work is critical to healthy civil-military relations that serve as a foundation for our democracy and our all-volunteer force.

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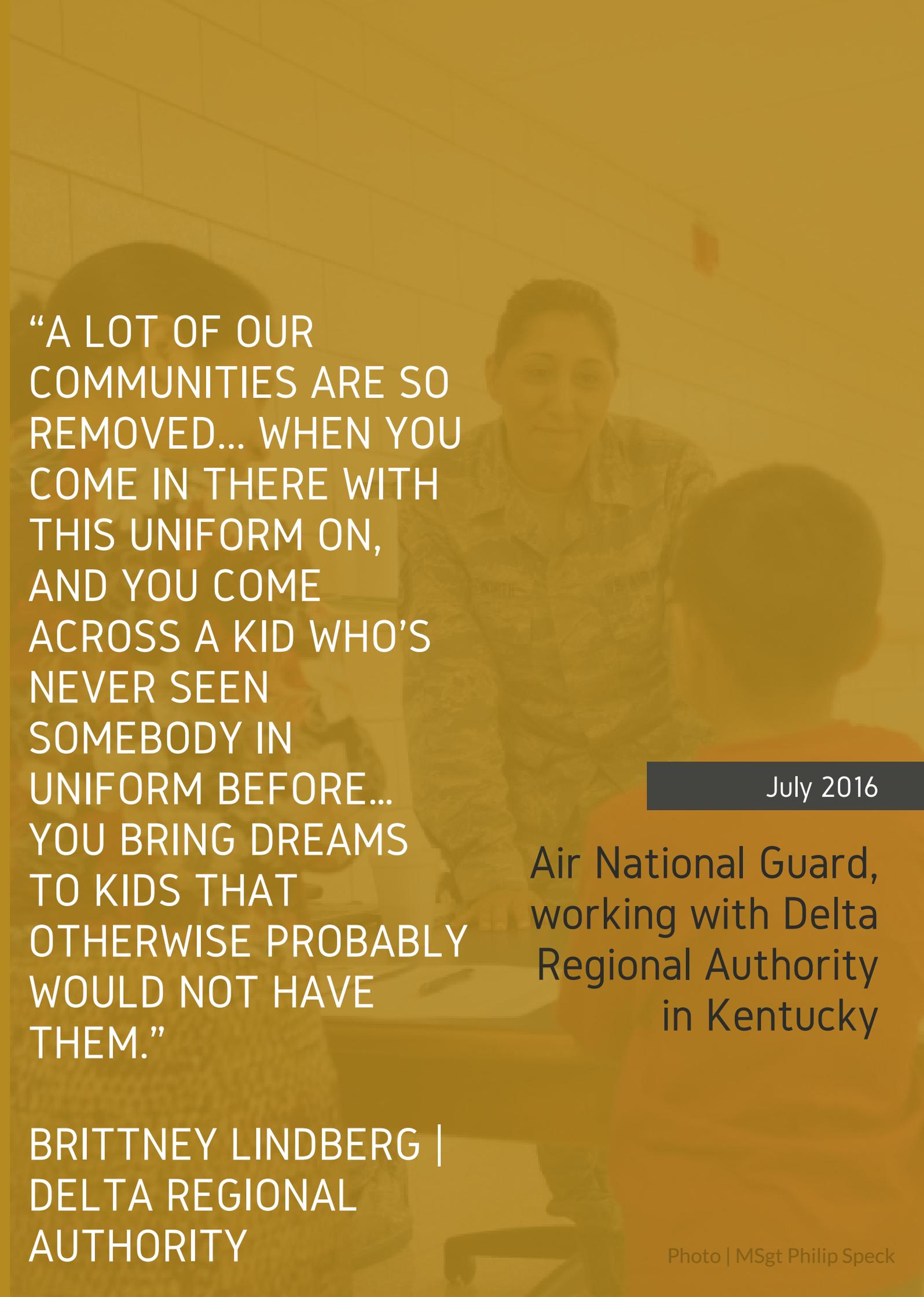
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A woman in a military uniform is standing and talking to a young child who is sitting at a desk. The background shows a classroom with a whiteboard and other students. The image has a warm, orange-toned overlay.

“A LOT OF OUR
COMMUNITIES ARE SO
REMOVED... WHEN YOU
COME IN THERE WITH
THIS UNIFORM ON,
AND YOU COME
ACROSS A KID WHO’S
NEVER SEEN
SOMEBODY IN
UNIFORM BEFORE...
YOU BRING DREAMS
TO KIDS THAT
OTHERWISE PROBABLY
WOULD NOT HAVE
THEM.”

BRITTNEY LINDBERG |
DELTA REGIONAL
AUTHORITY

July 2016

Air National Guard,
working with Delta
Regional Authority
in Kentucky

Photo | MSgt Philip Speck

MISSION

Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) builds mutually beneficial civil-military partnerships between US communities and the DoD to:

- Provide high quality, mission-essential training for Active, Guard, and Reserve support personnel and units
- Deliver military readiness and partnership capacity to serve when the nation calls, at home or abroad
- Contribute to American prosperity by meeting public and civil-society needs
- Strengthen the bond between American citizens and the US military
- Kindle a spirit of service and volunteerism among all partners and the communities they serve

VISION

To realize the full potential of leveraging taxpayer investments in military training & readiness in order to triple contribute to:

- **National Security**
- **Prosperity** of American communities
- **Democracy** through strengthening civil-military relations

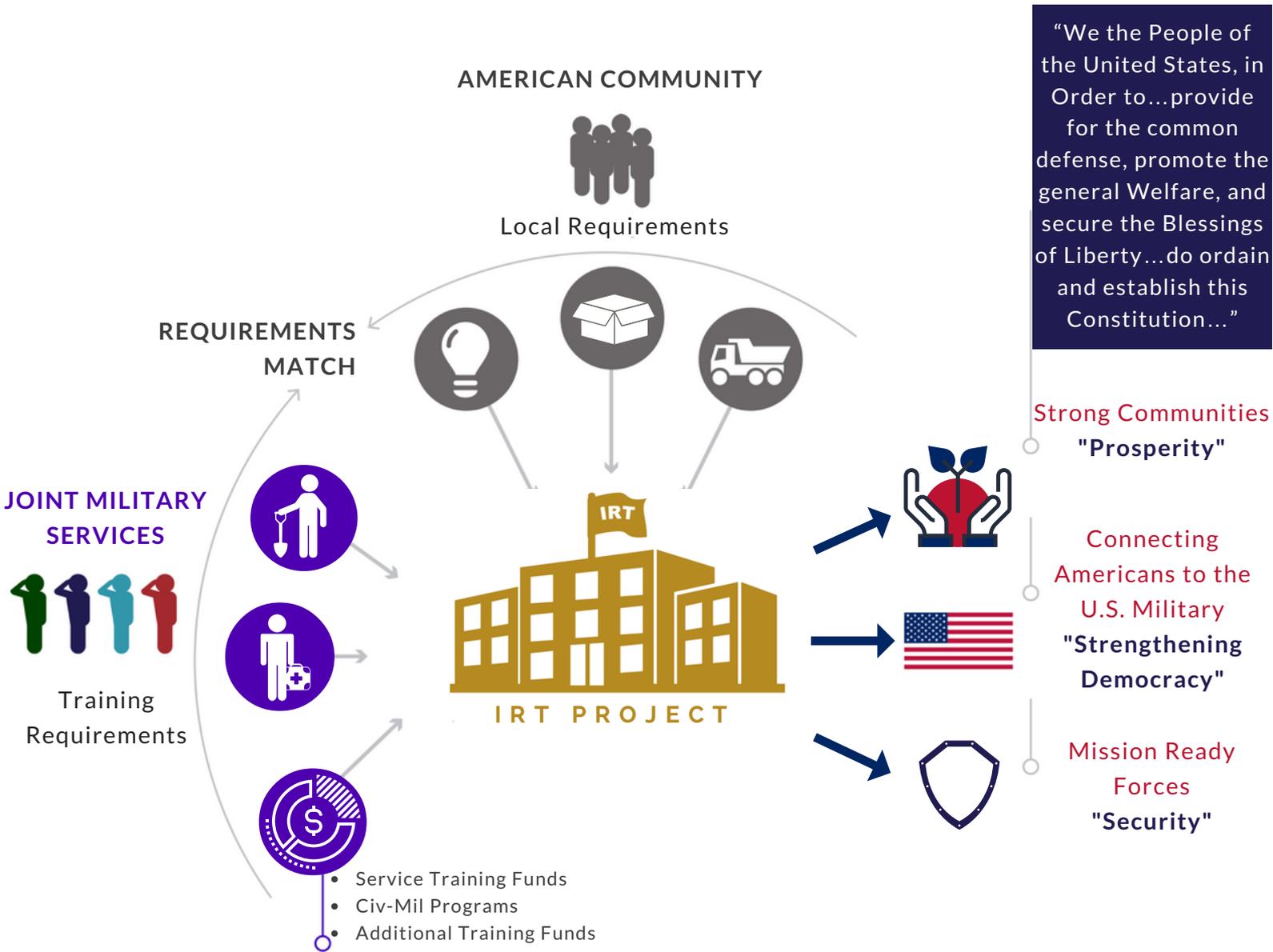
OUR PURPOSE

Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) produces military readiness while simultaneously providing quality services to communities throughout the United States. The Military Services have always brought to bear their resources to help meet some of the country's civil needs. With IRT, the Department of Defense (DoD) realizes simultaneous benefits for military training and readiness.

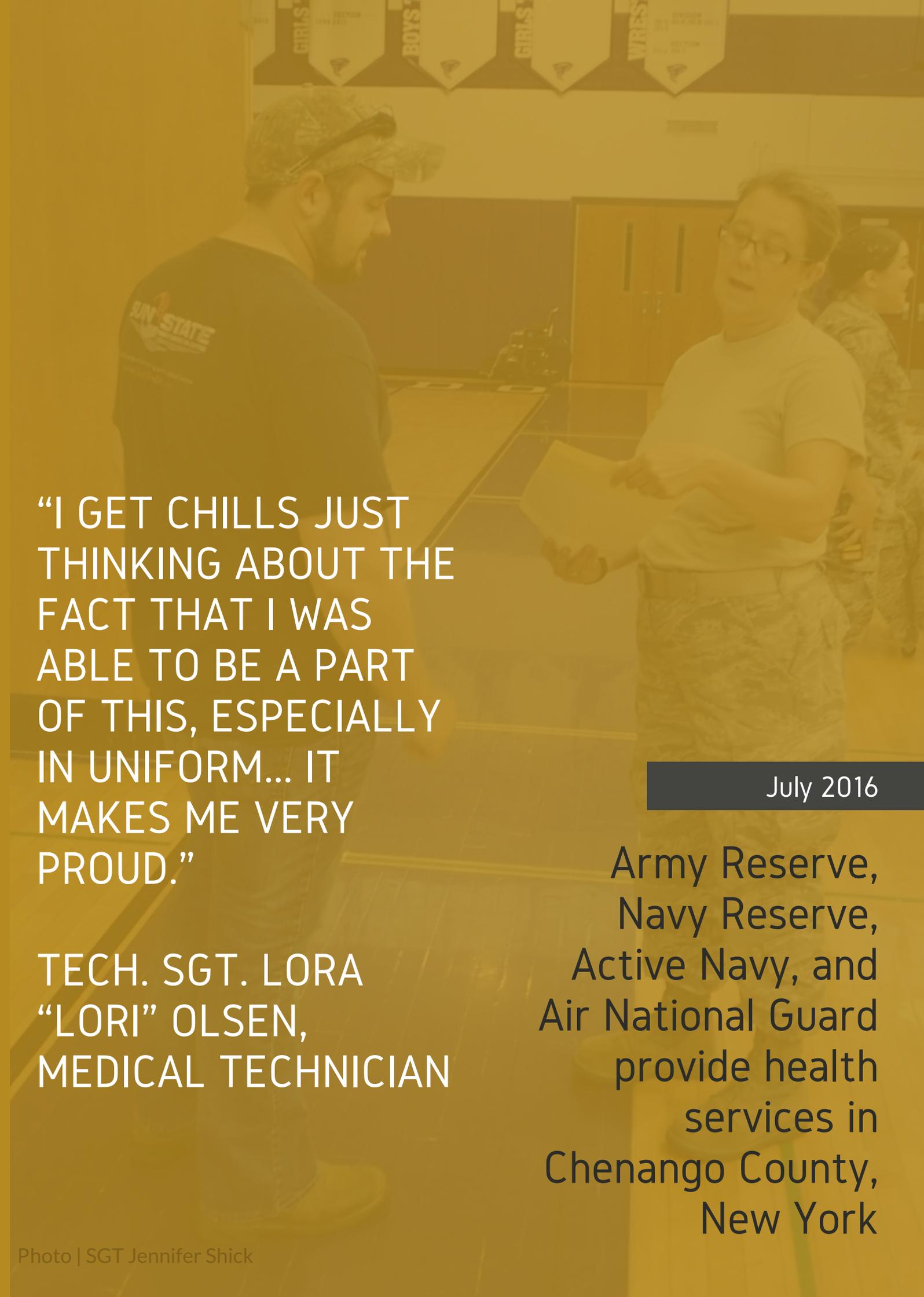


About IRT

IRT CONCEPT & VALUE



IRT projects start with the alignment of community needs and the training requirements of the Services. Communities provide the ideas, supplies, and equipment, while military units contribute construction capacity, medical capacity, and funding. IRT projects produce stronger communities, connections between Americans and DoD, and mission ready forces.



“I GET CHILLS JUST THINKING ABOUT THE FACT THAT I WAS ABLE TO BE A PART OF THIS, ESPECIALLY IN UNIFORM... IT MAKES ME VERY PROUD.”

TECH. SGT. LORA
“LORI” OLSEN,
MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

July 2016

Army Reserve,
Navy Reserve,
Active Navy, and
Air National Guard
provide health
services in
Chenango County,
New York

Looking Back



IRT HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2016

IRT's successes could not have been accomplished without the hard work and dedication of IRT's program managers, project managers, community partners, and the many Service members who participated in FY16 IRT projects.

With the IRT civil-military programs appropriation, the Military Services partnered with communities in 24 states and 2 territories to carry out 30 military training projects with incidental value that directly benefited American citizens. We provided veterinary services and no-cost medical and dental care; we constructed airstrips, affordable homes, and recreational facilities; and we transported medical supplies. We marked a 20% increase in the number of communities we interacted with we received 50% more community requests than in 2015.

IRT marked several milestones in 2016. We celebrated streamlined access to IRT authorities, directly resulting in 12 projects without the need for DoD-wide appropriation funding. The Military Departments also made over \$13M in IRT investments from their internal training appropriations, on track for a goal of a one-to-one match between OSD funds and Military Department funds in 2017. We created Joint or Total Force training opportunities for 45% of OSD-funded projects. We also marked a milestone with more Active Component units leveraging IRT authorities for high quality training than ever before with 10 IRT projects. As we continue growing in partnership capacity and capability, we also hosted the first ever national IRT project manager workshop.

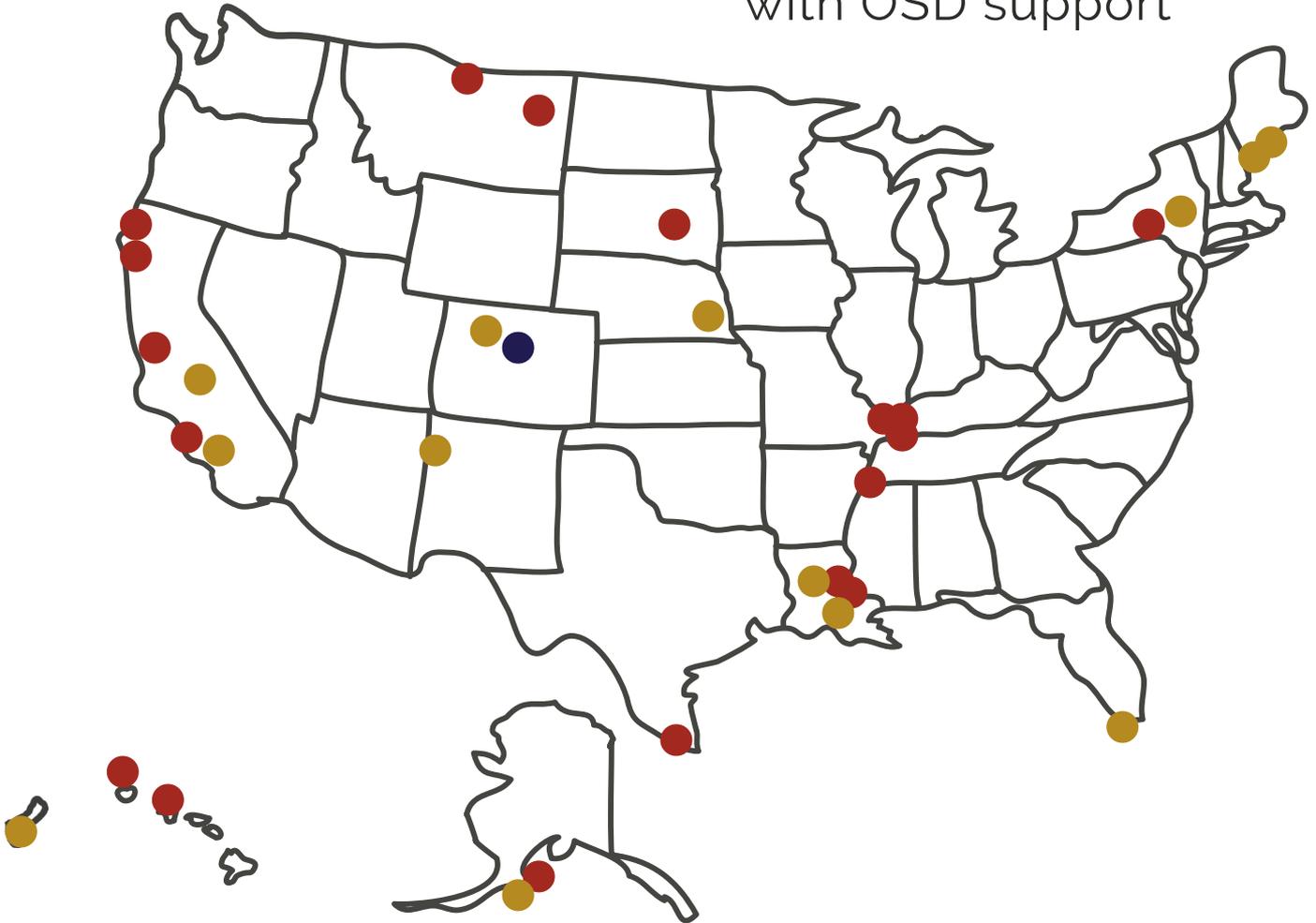
IRT's impact in 2016 was coupled with increased accountability. In April, 2016, we published "IRT Training Program Procedures and Guiding Principles" to ensure broad and consistent access to domestic civil-military partnership opportunities that provide high-quality training.

As 2016 drew to a close, the Secretary of Defense recognized citizen outreach programs like IRT as critical to developing the Force of the Future. Secretary Carter announced that civil-military programs like IRT are strategic priorities that create positive engagements between Americans and the military, and awareness of who we are, what we stand for, and what we do.

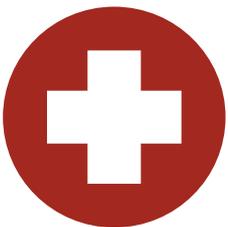
Looking Back

IMPACT IN 2016

The Services led **30** IRT projects in communities across the United States with OSD support

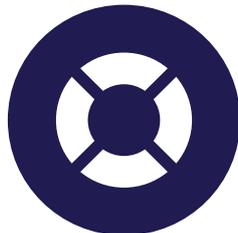


MEDICAL
PROJECTS



15

TRANSPORTATION
PROJECTS



1

CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS

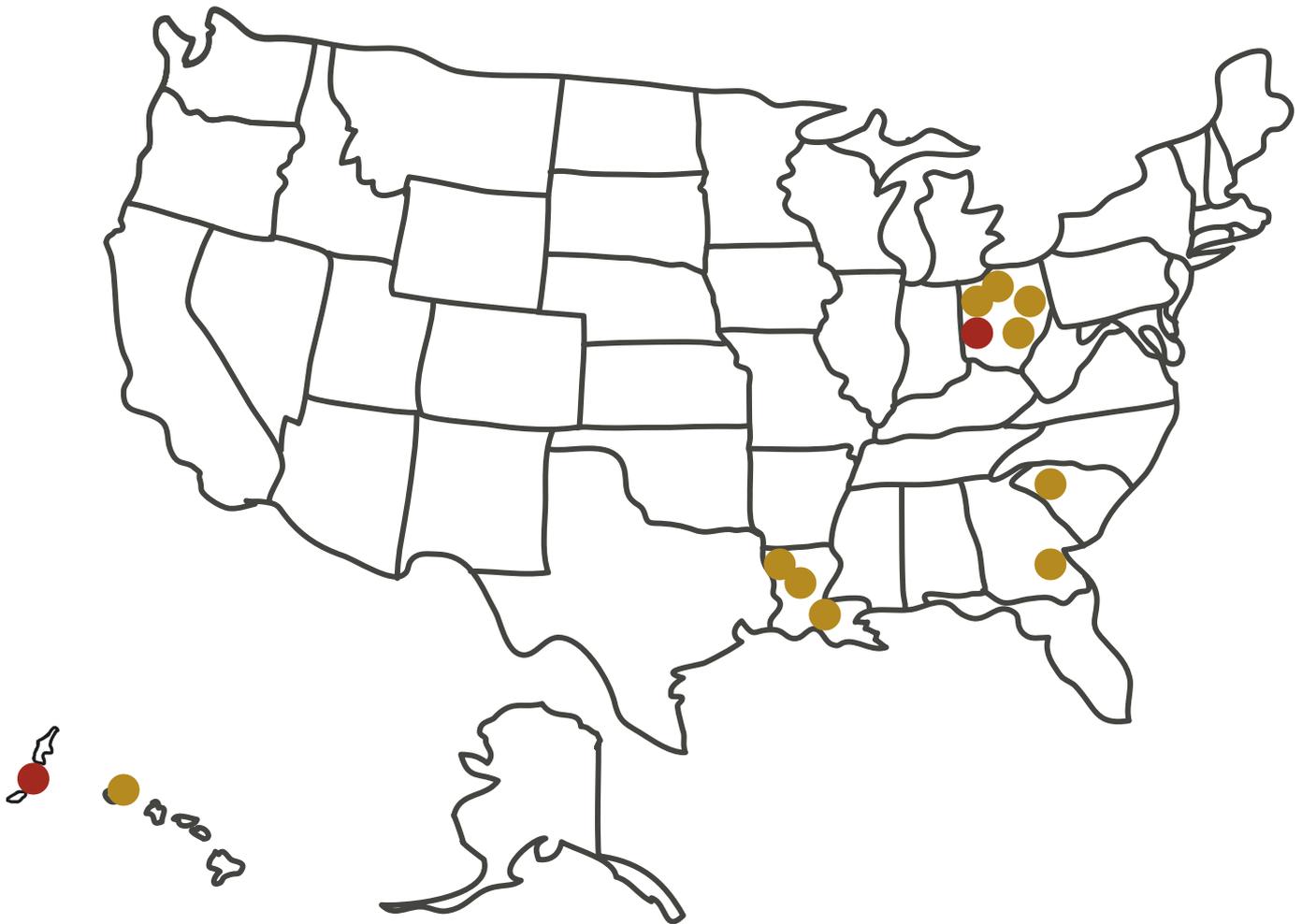


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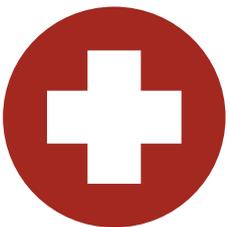
Looking Back

IMPACT IN 2016

The Services led an additional **12** IRT projects without OSD support



MEDICAL
PROJECTS



2

CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS



10

Looking Back

SNAPSHOT OF THE SERVICES



Department of the Air Force

OSD INVESTMENT: \$7 MILLION

Photo | 1st Lt Steven Lewis



U.S. AIR FORCE

- Program Manager: Maj Nicholas Anderson
- Total 2016 IRT Projects: 1



U.S. AIR FORCE RESERVE

- Program Manager: Maj Anna Hill
- Funds Invested by Air Force Reserve: \$3,136,535
- Total 2016 IRT Projects: 9



AIR NATIONAL GUARD

- Program Manager: Capt David Moore
- Funds Invested by Air National Guard: \$4,037,242
- Total 2016 IRT Projects: 21

Looking Back

SNAPSHOT OF THE SERVICES



Department of the Army

OSD INVESTMENT: \$5.5 MILLION

Photo | SPC David Alexander



U.S. ARMY

- Program Manager: LTC Milton Ortiz
- Funds Invested by Army: \$154,613
- Total 2016 IRT Projects: 3



U.S. ARMY RESERVE

- Program Manager: LTC Milton Ortiz
- Funds Invested by Army Reserve: \$3,524,653
- Total 2016 IRT Projects: 10



ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

- Program Manager: CPT David Dixon
- Total 2016 IRT Projects: 12

Looking Back

SNAPSHOT OF THE SERVICES



Department of the Navy

OSD INVESTMENT: \$6 MILLION

Photo | MSgt Philip Speck



U.S. MARINE CORPS

- Program Manager: LtCol Fran Ippolito-Bennett
- Funds Invested by USMC: \$979
- Total 2016 IRT Projects: 1



U.S. NAVY

- Program Manager: CDR Colette Grail
- Funds Invested by Navy: \$95,395
- Total 2016 IRT Projects: 5



U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES RESERVE

- Program Manager: MSgt Marcelino Marquez
- Funds Invested by USMC Reserve: \$71,711
- Total 2016 IRT Projects: 5



U.S. NAVY RESERVE

- Program Manager: CDR Colette Grail
- Funds Invested by Navy Reserve: \$1,904,682
- Total 2016 IRT Projects: 8

Field Stories

Photo | TSgt Bryan Hull

IRT Project: Operation Footprint

Summer | 2016



Photo | TSgt Bryan Hull

Air Force and Navy Reservists traveled to Gallup, New Mexico to build and place modular homes for the Navajo Nation. The training allowed airmen and sailors to gain practical experience constructing homes from start to finish for fellow citizens. DoD partnered with the Southwest Indian Foundation (SWIF) and Navajo Nation. The Navajo Housing Authority (NHA) provided funding for building materials, while the Reservists assisted SWIF with constructing the housing units. According to NHA, 34,000 homes are needed on the Navajo reservation to support all of its families. More than half of the community lives below the poverty line. Reservists helped build the modular homes in a warehouse, including finishing electrical, plumbing, and sheetrock; adding home appliances and fixtures; texturing and priming walls; and laying flooring. "This selected community benefits from our skills," reflected Senior Master Sgt. Ralph Peck, 302nd CES Operations Superintendent, "And we get to hone our wartime skills."

HIGHLIGHTS

Joint Force: Air Force and Navy Reserve

Community Partners: Southwest Indian Foundation and Navajo Nation

IRT has built over 250 homes for low-income families in New Mexico since 1997

Master Sgt. Jorge Alcala

"This training has been important because it provides an opportunity for McChord Reservists to practice their skills and obtain new ones that would not normally be available at Joint Base Lewis-McChord."

Field Stories

Photo | MSgt Shannon Bond

IRT Project: Camp Hinds

Summer | 2016



Maine community leaders invited Service members from the Air Force, Navy, and USMC Reserve, as well as the Air Guard, to partner with the Boy Scouts of America for an IRT project at Camp Hinds in Maine. The project included the construction of a parking area, rifle range, covered pavilion, sport clay course, gravel roadway, staff cabins, ranger residence, recreation hall, and training center, in addition to a trestle bridge repair. The Boy Scouts provided equipment and the direction for the IRT project. "A lot of times on Guard drills we don't get the opportunity to actually get the guys out there to get hands on materials," said Master Sgt. Erin Pearl, 139th CES Operations. Over the course of IRT, Service members received real-world experience completing construction from start to finish and operating heavy machinery in a joint and total force environment.

HIGHLIGHTS

Joint & Total Force: Air Guard, Air Force Reserve, Navy Reserve, USMC Reserve

Community Partners: Boy Scouts of America

Camp Hinds is a 5-year project benefiting the 1,300 Boy Scouts who attend annually

Eric Tarbox | Boy Scouts of America

"The much longer term impact is that the physical items that are left are going to impact generations of people that are going to come in this facility ... Generations of kids are going to know that the U.S. military came and built something for us."

Field Stories



Photo | HMC Ken Staatz

IRT Project: Arctic Care

Spring | 2016



Photo | Bo Joyner

Over 100 active and reserve components met in Kodiak, Alaska for Arctic Care 2016. "IRT is all about total force," noted Maj. Anna Hill, Air Force Reserve Command's IRT program manager. "We work hand in hand with active, Guard and Reserve service members from the Army and Navy on these IRT projects, and this year with Arctic Care we had the opportunity to work closely with the Coast Guard and Canadian service members as well." The Services partnered with the Kodiak Area Native Association to provide free veterinary, dental, optometry, and medical care to communities with limited access. The town of Port Lions celebrated the IRT project by hosting a feast for the Service members and community partners who made Arctic Care possible.

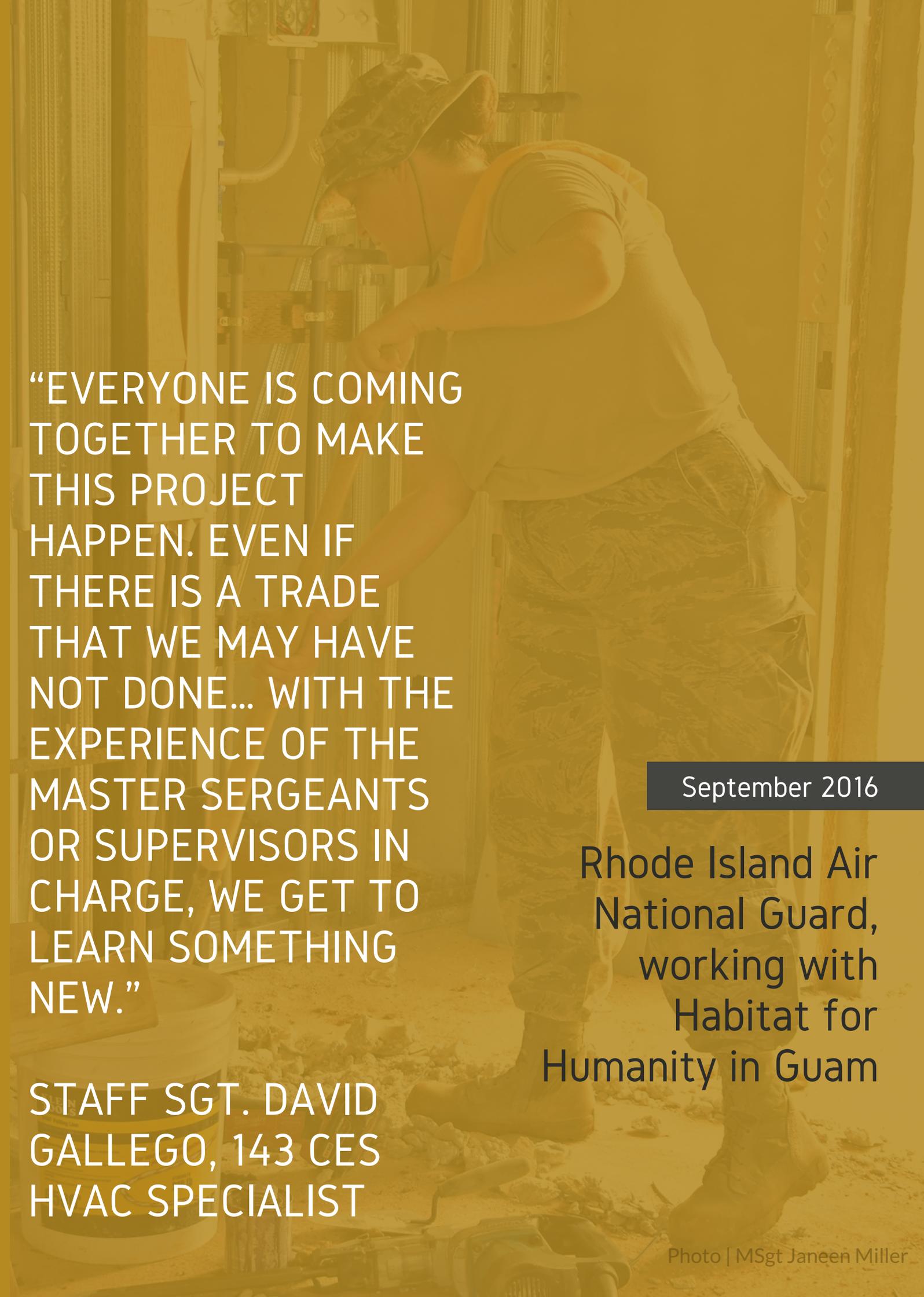
HIGHLIGHTS

Joint & Total Force: Air & Army Guard, Air Force & Navy Reserve, Active Army

Community Partners: Kodiak Area Native Association

A health clinic visit is typically a day's journey by air or boat for Kodiak residents

Senior Airman Jesse Craig
"You do see a lot of different uniforms here, but every uniform has 'U.S.' on it, so we're really all on the same team."



“EVERYONE IS COMING TOGETHER TO MAKE THIS PROJECT HAPPEN. EVEN IF THERE IS A TRADE THAT WE MAY HAVE NOT DONE... WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF THE MASTER SERGEANTS OR SUPERVISORS IN CHARGE, WE GET TO LEARN SOMETHING NEW.”

STAFF SGT. DAVID GALLEGRO, 143 CES HVAC SPECIALIST

September 2016

Rhode Island Air National Guard, working with Habitat for Humanity in Guam

Photo | MSgt Janeen Miller

IRT WAY AHEAD

The vision for IRT is to realize the full potential of leveraging taxpayer investments in military training & readiness in order to triple contribute to:

- **National Security**
- **Prosperity** of American communities
- **Democracy** through strengthening civil-military relations

To reach this vision, in 2017, the IRT program will continue improving its efficiency, effectiveness, and capacity resulting in growing impact to more communities and the highest-quality, most cost-effective, and most inspiring mission support training to more Service members.

IRT GOALS

- Develop robust metrics and assessments to evaluate the program's impact and to measure its outcomes
- Adopt a funding model that incentivizes the Services to achieve Department priorities such as joint cooperation, total force integration, building partnership capacity, and diversifying DoD's geographic and demographic engagements with American citizens
- Develop more program flexibility with more formal accountability mechanisms
- Continue empowering the Military Departments for program management and shifting OSD's focus toward policy, oversight, building capacity, and facilitating broader collaboration in the joint, total force, and interagency communities

INVITATION



We invite you to be part of shaping the Force of the Future by partnering with American cities and towns to build awareness of who we are, what we stand for, and what we do as a DoD community. IRT affords an opportunity to deliver real-life, rigorous training for Service members while benefiting their fellow Americans. Visit our website and contact your Service program manager to learn more. Join us!

irt.defense.gov | osd.irt@mail.mil

