



Guard and Reserve Serve 3,608 Patients in Homer & Norwich IRT

IRT or Innovative Readiness Training is a Department of Defense (DoD) military training opportunity, exclusive to the United States and its territories, that delivers joint training opportunities to increase deployment readiness. Simultaneously, IRT provides key services (health care, construction, transportation, and cybersecurity) with lasting benefits for our American communities. (<https://irt.defense.gov/>)

This summer, Southern Tier 8 Regional Board, alongside Healthy Cortland and Greater Chenango Cares, hosted IRT events in Cortland and Chenango counties. The event took place in Homer and Norwich, NY from July 12th-July 20th, 2019. The event included **no-cost** Dental, Optical, Medical and Veterinary services to the local community and the surrounding regions. The missions served **3,608 patients** (both persons and animals), completed **21,281 successful procedures** and initiated **\$1,138,882** worth of **no-cost** medical and veterinary services to the region. The event provided deployment readiness medical training and allowed service members to complete thousands of additional on-site training activities including, but not limited to, active shooter training, communications training, diversity and inclusion training, medical certification programs and more.

Southern Tier 8 Regional Board was the multi-site applicant and acted as military liaison throughout the planning and implementation stages. Southern Tier 8 serves as the local partner for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). ARC understands the benefit and importance of the IRT missions and invested \$30,000 to the event for marketing/outreach and supplies. This event would not have been possible without the support of both Cortland and Chenango County, Seven Valleys Health Coalition, Chenango County United Way, the Appalachian Regional Commission and the New York State Department of State.

Additionally, over 300 volunteers provided approximately 10,000 volunteer hours during the two-week mission, posted at both sites. Volunteers provided intake and outtake services, acted as waiting room attendants, assisted with water distribution, patient runners, greeters, parking lot attendants, etc.

In planning for future missions, Southern Tier 8 is seeking community partners who are interested in hosting an IRT mission. IRT missions are not limited to medical, additional services include cyber security, engineering and transportation training missions. If your organization is interested in participating in a medical mission or has a shovel ready site in need of military-grade engineering services, we want to hear from you.

For photos and news articles, please visit:
www.dvidshub.net/feature/IRTCortlandChenango or the Healthy Cortland and Greater Chenango Cares Facebook pages.