

# A Review of the United States Innovative Readiness Training Program: Operation Healthy Delta 2017

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** A major challenge of each military medical service is to maintain properly trained forces ready to provide medical treatment in a deployed environment. In the past, military medical services provided this readiness training through different methods, all of which have inherent limitations. The Innovative Readiness Training Program (IRT) is a unique program that seeks to provide military readiness training through providing patient care to domestic communities in a simulated deployment environment. Operation Healthy Delta (OHD) 2017 is an example of readiness training in a domestic environment.

**Situation and Mission:** In OHD 2017, two clinics were set up in two southeastern Missouri cities. The goals of OHD were fourfold: to provide hands-on readiness training, to provide medical, dental, and optical services, to promote total force integration, and to develop community involvement.

**Results:** The two OHD clinics operated for nine days, seeing a combined total of 2,251 patients, generating 4,546 patient encounters, and accounting for 15,887 procedures at a value of \$1,411,208. Total training amounted to 10,196 hours, from 202 classes developed and presented by attached personnel within the units.

**Discussion:** Nearly every aspect of this venture developed the readiness skillset. Medical, dental, and optometry treatments were offered, and the IRT is one of few environments in the US military medical services that allows superimposition of all three aspects of the total force. Further, a collaborative relationship was developed between the community organizations and the military personnel.

**Conclusions:** The IRT program, exemplified by OHD 2017, provides the ability for the US military to produce mission-ready forces by integrating readiness and medical preparedness with civilian partnerships and community engagement, and is a model program for a military medical service.