Soldiers from the 256th Combat Support Hospital in Twinsburg traveled to Lame Deer, Montana, as part of the Department of Defense Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program. Teams spent two months rotating through the Northern Cheyenne Community Health Center, augmenting the health center’s staff of doctors, nurses and technicians.

The center requested IRT support due to an increased need for full-time medical personnel during July and August to support back-to-school physicals and outpatient care. The Soldiers provided medical support to more than 650 people residing in the Cheyenne Native American community.

While IRT missions provide an opportunity for Soldiers to improve their wartime readiness through real-world training, it also allows them to build relationships within the communities that they serve. When they were not working, the 256th CSH Soldiers were invited to experience different elements of Native American culture. They participated in sacred prayer ceremonies and walked the battlefield of Little Bighorn, which provided an opportunity for the Soldiers to interact with the local community, both professionally and personally.

Army Reserve Soldiers possess specialized professional skills that are easily transferable to the private sector. Through IRT, units can leverage those skills to support the needs of America’s communities.

Military Reserve Soldiers from the 256th Combat Support Hospital in Twinsburg provided medical support to more than 650 Cheyenne Native Americans in Montana while participating in an Innovative Readiness Training program.