



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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By Lt. Francine St. Laurent  
168th Wing

**Sailors and Airmen provide care while enriching skills during IRT Sanadora**

GUAYNABO, Puerto Rico — More than 200 Air National Guardsmen and Navy Reservists representing 27 states and territories arrived in Puerto Rico over the past week in support of Innovative Readiness Training Ola de Esperanza Sanadora.

The mission, whose name translates to “healing wave of hope,” provides medical, dental and optometry care to assist local municipal authorities in addressing underserved and unmet community health and civic needs while performing joint military humanitarian operations.

No-cost care will be provided at four community locations through Sept. 7.

“Communities that receive IRT missions are posed to receive first-class clinical services that immediately have a positive impact on each participant and the community,” said Col. Victor Torano, Puerto Rico Air National Guard State Air Surgeon.

Torano is also the State Medical Director for Substance Abuse Services with the Puerto Rico Mental Health and Anti-Addiction Service Administration.

“It is a privilege and honor for me to be part of this initiative on both the military and civilian side, as a member of the Puerto Rico Air National Guard and the Puerto Rico Mental Health and Anti-Addictions Service Administrations,” Torano said.

Airmen and Sailors are also coordinating all of the meals, communications, transportation and lodging needed to support the IRT.

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**180829-Z-ZA470-0016**

Airmen and Soldiers are served breakfast inside the dining hall in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, by Alaska and Illinois services Airmen from the 176th and 183rd Wings, Aug. 29, 2018. More than 200 Air National Guard and Navy Reserve Airmen and Sailors are in Puerto Rico in support of Ola de Esperanza Sanadora, Innovative Readiness Training, providing medical, dental and optometry care assisting local municipal authorities in addressing underserved community health and civic needs while performing joint military humanitarian operations. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Paul Mann/released)



**180829-Z-ZA470-0010**

Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Tobin, services Airman assigned to the 183rd Wing, Illinois Air National Guard, finds a new way of making toast for service members staying in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, Aug. 29, 2018. Tobin is one of more than a dozen "services" Airmen providing meals to over 200 Air National Guard and Navy Reserve Airmen and Sailors who are working at four separate locations in Puerto Rico while supporting Ola de Esperanza Sanadora, Innovative Readiness Training 2018. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Paul Mann/released)



**180829-Z-ZA470-0008**

Master Sgt. Carter Williams, services noncommissioned officer in charge, 176th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, cooks up scrambled eggs for the service members staying in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, Aug. 29, 2018. Carter is one of more than a dozen “services” Airmen providing meals to over 200 Air National Guard and Navy Reserve Airmen and Sailors who are working at four separate locations in Puerto Rico while supporting Ola de Esperanza Sanadora, Innovative Readiness Training 2018. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Paul Mann/released)



**180829-Z-ZA470-0001**

Airman 1st Class Kua Xiong, a services Airman assigned to the 176th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, prepares breakfast for service members staying in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, Aug. 29, 2018. Xiong is one of more than 200 Air National Guard and Navy Reserve Airmen and Sailors who are in Puerto Rico in support of Ola de Esperanza Sanadora, Innovative Readiness Training, providing medical, dental and optometry care assisting local municipal authorities in addressing underserved community health and civic needs while performing joint military humanitarian operations. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Paul Mann/released)