

From Sgt. John Cristiano, 82nd Airborne, Bagram Air Force Base, Afghanistan

Today was a great success. We had an interesting situation, and did not get to run the full 13.1 miles, but all the runners had a great time, and more importantly, many of the runners spoke with me personally, and expressed their interest in holding more events like this in the future.

We had 32 runners total, (some of our original runners could not run due to mission requirements, and we picked up a few extras).

Today's run was approximately 8.67 miles due to a road closure in the course. At about 0400 this morning we drove the route to set out our mile markers, and when I returned I was informed that there was the possibility of mine clearing along the route. Afghanistan is notorious for land mines that were placed here during previous conflicts, and the base we are on still is not completely cleared. I was unaware that the clearing would take place, and the road was closed just before the runners at the head of our pack approached the area.

Even though we did not get to complete the course all the runners were extremely encouraged to run "alongside" all of the other runners in PA. It was a lesson learned that 1: We are in a combat zone, and 2: You can't control everything.

To me it was a success because after the SGT Mikelis Teteris said "Today I did something I never thought I could, and I look forward to doing more of these events". SGT Teteris was one of our runners who have never run more than he had to, and while training for this race we helped him with a training plan, and have watched his progress over the past couple of months.

Even though we had our road block, comments like that from beginning runners makes it all worth while. Our times are listed below (our additional runners are marked with a "A: " before their Rank/Name), and at the bottom of the list you'll see 2 runners who managed to get through the road block when they lifted it for about 5 minutes (apparently they have extremely good luck as it opens for up to minutes about every hour).

CSM Patrick Brooks- Chesapeake Beach, MD- 1:12:08
CW3 Jeffry Larson- Marquette, MI- 1:13:40
MSG Steven Sonnen- Tonawonda, NY- 1:27:51
SFC Michael Plachinski- Virginia Beach, VA- 1:23:35
SFC Mark Regensburger- Vassar, MI- 1:23:45
SFC Daniel Wachob- Anderson, IN- 1:14:30
SFC Lalenia Maria- Trinidad, CO- 1:48:31
SSG Jeffrey Dudzienski- Valpariason, IN- 1:23:45
SSG Bradford Taylor- Lauerns, NY- 1:13:35
SSG Shelby Barber- Prattville, AL- 1:23:35
SSG John Miller- Compton, CA- 1:04:15
SSG Randy Wade Smith- Jacksonville, NC- 1:05:04
SSG Aaron Pylinski- Edmoston, NY- 1:15:24
SGT John Cristiano- Charlotte, NC- 1:10:45
SGT Ashley Sangret- Detroit, MI- 1:21:01
SGT Jackie Barrios- West Covina, CA- 1:14:55
SGT Mikelis Teteris- Wildomer, CA- 1:29:24
SGT Benjamin Lipton- Flower Mound, TX- 1:09:05
SPC Dan Stine- Ft. Lauderdale, FL- 1:16:05
SPC Thomas Bauer- Belleville, IL- 1:01:00
PFC Jason Jackson- Phoenix, AZ- 1:10:15
PFC Jeremy Ellyson- Mooresville, IN- 1:12:00

A: SPC Eric Wenner- Sioux Falls, SD- 1:01:01

A: John Herrick- Burnsville, MN- 1:29:55

A: SFC John Gloria- Sweetwater, TX- 1:48:31
A: Craig McCarter- Eatonsville, MA- 1:25:30
A: 2LT Amy Becker- Knoxville, TN- 1:25:30
A: SGT Anothony Keach- NY, NY - 1:10:55
A: MSG Wilburn Penick- Sanford, FL- 1:04:08

And our two lucky runners who some how got to run the
entire course:

A: SGT Lance Gibson- Borden, Ontario (Canadian Army)-
2:01:32
SFC Jeffrey Travers- Port Angelos, WA