



AFROTC Detachment 415

STORYBOARD



29th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March

White Sands Missile Range, NM

25 March 2018

White Sands Missile Range, NM - Congratulations to University of MN Air Force ROTC (AFROTC) Teams for their remarkable performance at the 29th Annual Bataan Memorial March/Marathon at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. A record of 8,471 participants raced against the backdrop of the San Andreas Mountains, the AFROTC Team was the first to cross the finish line out of 272 total teams. They placed 1st out of 88 Academy & ROTC teams. Cadets Evan Wigham, Phillip Harris, Kyle Wipf, Dakota Birkholz and Robert Sommers made up the AFROTC Elite Team. In addition, a stellar group of cadets also took 1st place in the Civilian Co-ed Division. Cadets Taylor Lyons, Samantha Maddox, Joseph Bailey, Julio Najarro and Tyler Johnson comprised the Detachment 415 Co-ed team. Also, completing this grueling marathon were Cadets Ewa Oszajec and Ellie Bemis in the civilian individual category and Cadets Connor Amundson and Gabriel Yeske in the Individual ROTC Heavy division.

Teams and individuals participate in the Bataan Memorial Death March for many reasons: personal challenge, the spirit of competition, or to foster esprit de corps in their unit. Some march in honor of a family member or a particular veteran who was in the Bataan Death March during WWII or who was taken as a prisoner of war by the Japanese in the Philippines. Many of these veterans were from New Mexico and the Minnesota National Guard Brainerd's based 34th Tank Company.



Cadets and Cadre from Detachment 415 at the 29th Bataan Memorial Death March



Cadets Dakota Birkholz, Kyle Wipf, Phillip Harris, Robert Sommers & Evan Wigham
U of MN Air Force ROTC Team
1st Place - 4:21:41



Cadets Joseph Bailey, Tyler Johnson, Taylor Lyons, Samantha Maddox & Julio Najarro
U of MN Air Force Co-ed Team
1st Place - 4:59:44



Cadets from Detachment 415 proudly hold the ROTC Light Division trophy.