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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 2015 Best Ranger Competition kicks off with 51 teams

FORT BENNING, Georgia – U.S. Army Ranger teams from around the world began the grueling David E. Grange Jr. Best Ranger Competition today at 6 a.m., when 51 Ranger teams completed the Ranger Physical Assessment at Malvesti Field here.

The competition challenges two-man Ranger teams in events that test their physical conditioning, Ranger skills and team strategies. Events are purposely scheduled back-to-back and around the clock for 60 hours, allowing little time for rest and meals.

Though all teams may hope to win it all, making it to the finish line is considered a great accomplishment.

“I’m humbled and honored to be given the opportunity to compete this year,” said 1st Lt. Conner A. Lott of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). The Fort Campbell, Kentucky-based Soldier and his partner, 1st Lt. Dalton Fuss, are both first-time competitors. They worked with trainers and coaches from the 101st to prepare for the event – often taking in two or three training sessions per day.

Though they may have added to their workout routine for BRC, the men said the event demonstrates how those who have earned the Ranger Tab live up to the Ranger Creed, by keeping themselves “mentally alert, physically strong.”

Competing in BRC is, “my way of fulfilling that creed,” Fuss said. “It is a method of bearing the tab, not just wearing the tab.”

As day 1 continues, competitors will tackle the Malvesti Obstacle Course – with its cargo net climbs and worm pit crawls – an urban assault course, a parachute jump, marksmanship events and a land navigation course. The last event of the day, an unknown distance road march, will be the deciding factor for which teams will move on to day 2, and which teams go home. Typically, only half the teams who start the competition will remain at the end.

For those who do, the formal awards ceremony will be held 10 a.m. April 13 in Marshall Auditorium at McGinnis-Wickam Hall. Competition events continue through Sunday. The competition is open to the public, as many of the events are spectator friendly.

A schedule of events is available at www.benning.army.mil under the announcements section.

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