

25TH ID TEAM WINS BEST RANGER TITLE

NICK DUKE

For the first time since 1995, a team representing the 25th Infantry Division took home top honors at the David E. Grange Jr. Best Ranger Competition (BRC), which was held 11-13 April at Fort Benning, Ga.

The two-Soldier team of 2LT Michael Rose and 2LT John Bergman were able to come from 13th place after Day 1 to win the BRC.

Fifty teams started the competition, but roughly half of those teams were still standing at the end. At the conclusion of the event, 26 teams were able to cross the finish line that marked the end of nearly 60 consecutive hours of physical activity.

This year's event included numerous challenges, including some that competitors said almost took them out of the competition.

"That road march on Day 1 was the most challenging event that we had," said SFC Steven Sparks, who represented the National Guard as part of Team 35. "By the time we got done with day land navigation, I was already

cramping. My partner looked at me and told me we had to get through it to get to Day 2, so we just kind of put our head down and got to the finish line."

The competition challenges two-man teams in events that test their physical conditioning, Ranger skills and team strategies. The events are purposely scheduled back-to-back and around the clock for 60 hours, allowing little time for rest and meals. The road march was just one event in a competition that also included buddy runs, obstacle courses, a 200-meter swim, a combat water survival assessment, stress shoots, night stakes, day stakes, night orienteering, and a spot jump.

Read more about the 2014 BRC at http://www.army.mil/article/124103/25th_Infantry_Division_team_wins_Best_Ranger_Competition/.

(This article was adapted from two articles by Nick Duke, who is a staff writer for Fort Benning's Bayonet & Saber newspaper.)



Photo by SGT Daniel P. Shook

BRC winners 2LT John Bergman and 2LT Michael Rose run between obstacles on the Darby Queen Obstacle Course during the third day of the grueling competition.



Photo by Patrick A. Albright

2LT Michael Rose, left, and 2LT John Bergman hold their Colt pistols after the 2014 Best Ranger Competition awards ceremony.

2014 BRC FINAL STANDINGS

1. Team 20 — 2LT Michael Rose and 2LT John Bergman — 25th Infantry Division
2. Team 32 — CPT Robert Killian and 1LT Nicholas Plocar — National Guard
3. Team 45 — SSG Christopher Broussard and SFC Charles Cogle — 75th Ranger Regiment
4. Team 46 — SFC Justin Glaubitz and SSG Kelly Davis — 75th Ranger Regiment
5. Team 7 — SSG Benjamin Sievert and SSG Michael Phillips 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne)
6. Team 19 — 1LT Kyle Cobb and 1LT Kevin Higuchi — 25th Infantry Division
7. Team 4 — SSG William Haney and SGT Brendon Wellendorf — 7th Infantry Division
8. Team 47 — CPL Daniel Puckett and SSG Eric Adams — 75th Ranger Regiment
9. Team 25 — 1SG. Joshua King and SFC Robert Jackson — 5th Special Forces Group
10. Team 26 — CPT Steven Crowe and SSG Matthew Boesch — 5th Special Forces Group
11. Team 33 — SFC Jason Broyles and SSG Erich Friedlein — National Guard
12. Team 37 — CPT Phil Divinski and CPT David Gardner — 199th Infantry Brigade
13. Team 29 — SFC Brook Redding and SSG Charles Hannan — 316th Cavalry Brigade
14. Team 23 — SSG Adam Davila and 1LT Gregory Scheffler — 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade

See the complete list of finishing teams at <http://www.army.mil/ranger/teams.html>.