

ARTB Team Wins 2018 BRC

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From a field of 51 teams, Team 23 from the Airborne and Ranger Training Brigade (ARTB) won the 2018 Best Ranger Competition (BRC) on 15 April at Fort Benning, GA.

SFC Anthony Allen and SFC Joshua Rolfes completed three days of events that tested their physical endurance, mental agility, and technical and tactical skills from 13-15 April.

The David E. Grange Jr. Best Ranger Competition, organized annually by ARTB, was founded in 1982 to determine the best Ranger in the Ranger Department; it has since expanded to include all Ranger-qualified Soldiers throughout the entire Army and other willing Ranger-qualified service members from sister services.

Competitors were scored on many events, including a buddy run, a body armor run, obstacle courses, weighted carries, a swim, weapon ranges, and more on the first day. After a night of road marching, the teams were cut to 24, and those remaining teams competed in night stakes, the Spartan Run at Dekkar Strip, and in day stakes at Todd Field for the second day of competition.

After the day stakes, the 24 teams were cut down to 16, and those teams were flown by helicopter to Camp Frank D. Merrill near Dahlonega, GA, where the 5th Ranger Training Battalion runs the mountain phase of the Ranger School. There they performed night orienteering, finishing to return by bus to Camp Darby at Fort Benning, where they competed in the Darby Queen obstacle course.

Their final competitive events were a combat water survival assessment at Victory Pond and a final buddy run back to Camp Rogers where the event began.



SFC Joshua Rolfes (left) and SFC Anthony Allen of the Airborne and Ranger Training Brigade pose at the Ranger Monument on 16 April at Fort Benning, GA. (Photo by Markeith Horace)

The other teams that made the top five are:

- Team 32: CPT Matthew Thwaites, 1LT Kendall Ward, 75th Ranger Regiment
- Team 33: 1LT Jeremy Dettmer, CPL Tyler Taormina, 75th Ranger Regiment
- Team 22: SFC Michael Roggero, SSG Michael Browne, ARTB
- Team 41: 1LT Chris Smith, SGT Aditya Singh Sehrawat, 25th Infantry Division

GEN Mark A. Milley, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, was part of the official party during the BRC awards ceremony and spoke during the event.

“Every one of these competitors on these 16 teams, every one of the competitors in all 51 teams, every single one of them is a winner,” Milley said during the ceremony, and then turning to the competitors, “You represent all that is good about the American Soldier, about the American citizen, and about our entire country.

“It’s an incredible test,” continued Milley. “It’s a test of teamwork, and it’s a test of endurance. It’s a test of resilience, and it’s a test of perseverance. It’s a test of all the things you think of when you think of the word ‘Ranger.’”

“They are the 100th of a percent of the top one percent our greatest nation has to offer,” said COL Douglas G. Vincent, ARTB commander, during the awards ceremony. “What a truly inspiring performance by these Rangers from all across the Army and the nation, who had the intestinal fortitude to accept this challenge and compete to be the best Ranger in the world this weekend!”

More photos from the Best Ranger Competition can be viewed at www.fortbenningphotos.com/Infantry-Brigades/Airborne-Ranger-Training-Briga/Ranger-School/Best-Ranger-Competition/2018-Best-Ranger.

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