

USASMDC/ARSTRAT REPRESENTED @ ARMY TEN-MILER

By MAJ Mike Russell,
1ST SPACE BATTALION EXECUTIVE OFFICER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command showed its colors well this year in Washington, D.C. Twenty one Soldiers assigned to the command ran in the physically challenging Army Ten-Miler race on Sunday, Oct. 5. The Army Ten-Miler is America's largest ten-mile race, held every October in Washington, D.C., and sponsored by the U.S. Army Military District of Washington. There were over 18,000 participants in this year's run. The 1st Space Brigade sponsored two teams, the Space Sentinels and the Mercury's Minions, and the 100th Ground-based Midcourse Defense Brigade sponsored five individuals in an unofficial team named Team America.

The USASMDC/ARSTRAT Commanding General, LTG Kevin T. Campbell and CSM Ralph Borja, were both present at the Redstone Arsenal Hooah Tent and start line to wish the team members a speedy race. Race Day was a beautiful day in Washington D.C., with a slight chill in the air at the 8 a.m. start time and warm temperatures throughout the race. The USASMDC/ARSTRAT runners demonstrated great drive and motivation for the train up and performed well during the actual event as they ran the ten-mile course surrounded by one remarkable monument after another. The three team captains, Bortolutti, Russell and Wheeler encourage and challenge others within the command to come out next year and represent the command as well.

In the week following the Army Ten-Miler race, eight Soldiers and a dozen government civilians and contractors manned the USASMDC/ARSTRAT exhibit at the Association of the United States Army Annual Meeting and Exhibition at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in D.C. The USASMDC/ARSTRAT team was responsible for conveying the commanding general's mission, vision, and responsibilities to visitors from the Army and other organizations around the world. In this task, the Soldiers and civilians did a superb job of telling visitors what USASMDC/ARSTRAT does to contribute to the Army, both in Space support to the Warfighter and to research, development and acquisition of Space and missile defense systems.

The 24 USASMDC/ARSTRAT participants and their respective times for the Army Ten-Miler are as follows:

Mercury's Minions

SPC Christopher Saylor - 1:08:41; SSG Corey Wilson - 1:10:40; SPC Travis Parsons - 1:12:24; SGT Matthew Caple - 1:17:53; MAJ Randy Wheeler - 1:21:40; CPT. Carlos Santana - 1:23:05; 2LT Mathew Songy - 1:23:08; and SPC Ryan Shea - 1:33:36.

Space Sentinels

SSG Randolph Brown - 1:17:43; MAJ Michael Russell - 1:18:44; SGT Lamario Harris - 1:19:33; CPT Allyn Ruckdeschel - 1:27:48; SSG David Rodgers - 1:21:17; SGT Michael Landry - 1:31:12; SSG Stephanie Weber - 1:36:32; and SFC Dustin Swinney - 1:42:19.

Team America

MAJ Martin Bortolutti - 1:16:34; 2LT Jeremiah VanDorsten - 1:16:43; CPT Orlando Cobos - 1:21:16; CWO 3 Matt Betzmer - 1:26:39; and CPL Grant Henne - 1:23:19.



Members of USASMDC/ARSTRAT pose with Commanding General, LTG Kevin T. Campbell (in black shirt) and CSM Ralph Borja (wearing hat) prior to the 2008 Army Ten-Miler. Photo by Dottie White