



31st Marine Corps Marathon • October 29, 2006 • www.marinemarathon.com

Press Release

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Marine Corps Marathon Searches for Fastest Units in the Military with the Squad Challenge

Active Duty Military Registration available online at www.marinemarathon.com beginning April 1

QUANTICO, VA – Think your platoon is the fastest in the military? Think your company is up for a challenge? Think you've got more spirit than another division? Prove it by creating a team of 9-13 active duty military members and entering the Marine Corps Marathon Squad Challenge. The Challenge will be held in conjunction with the 2006 Marine Corps Marathon on October 29. Teams must have at least nine members cross the Arlington, VA finish line. The fastest ninth person on all squads to cross the finish line in the fastest time determines the winner. Teams may be all male, all female or co-ed.

“After years of seeing military units show their pride by running the MCM together, I thought it was time to showcase a little friendly competition,” said Rick Nealis, MCM Race Director. “I highly encourage participants in the Squad Challenge to wear unit clothing, carry a representative flag or even run in formation to prove not only their physical fitness, but team spirit.”

Individual and team registration is required. Individual members of a team can register in one of two ways. First, log on to www.marinemarathon.com beginning April 1 to download the active duty military discount application. Fill out the form, follow the special instructions and return to the MCM by May 16 for a guaranteed spot. Team members may also register online during general registration, opening at noon EST on May 17. One member of each team, to be recognized as the team captain, is required to download and submit the Squad Challenge Team Roster form, available for download on the MCM website beginning in June. There is no additional fee to register a squad.

Example: Team Army Ranger and Team Navy Seal both bring squads members to compete. The first eight members of Team Army Ranger cross the line at 3:00:00. The ninth team member crosses the line at 3:02:00. Team Navy Seal all cross the line together at 3:01:00. Team Navy Seal is the winner because their ninth teammate crossed a minute faster than Team Army Ranger's ninth teammate.

Voted “Best Marathon for Families” by HerSports Magazine, the Marine Corps Marathon continues a combined tradition of dedication, sportsmanship and patriotism. Since its inception, over 300,000 civilian and military runners from all walks of life have participated, deservingly earning the event its nickname “The People’s Marathon.” The 31st Marine Corps Marathon will be held on October 29, 2006. Rolling Registration opens on May 17th, 2006 at noon EST. Visit marinemarathon.com for more information.

For media information, contact Beth Cline, Marine Corps Marathon Public Relations Coordinator at (703) 432-1165, or Elizabeth.Cline@usmc.mil. No federal or Marine Corps endorsement implied.

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