

75TH RANGER REGIMENT TEAM TAKES TOP SPOT AT 2017 BEST RANGER

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CPT Michael Rose and MSG Josh Horsager, winners of the 2017 Best Ranger Competition, cross the finish line of the competition's final event on 9 April. (Photo by Patrick A. Albright)

After enduring and dominating three days of intense and grueling competition, the 75th Ranger Regiment team of CPT Michael Rose and MSG Josh Horsager captured the 2017 Best Ranger title on 9 April, beating out 52 other elite Ranger teams.

The team maintained the number one ranking going into the third day and during the final day of events, which included the Darby Queen obstacle course, water confidence course, and the final buddy run. The 75th Ranger Regiment team was able to slip past SSG Carlos Mercado and 2009 winner MSG Chad Stackpole of the 82nd Airborne Division who finished in second place.

"This competition was just as tough as the last one; my body is toast right now," said Rose, a member of the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Lewis, WA, and who was also part of the winning team in 2014. "I'm more proud of this win because we brought the title back to the 75th Ranger Regiment and this one is for them."

Horsager, also of 2-75th Ranger Regiment, echoed that sentiment.

"This is something I've looked forward to since I joined the Army," he said. "It's been one of my career goals, and I'm proud to represent the 75th Ranger Regiment."

Rounding out the top three teams was last year's winning team of CPT Robert Killian and SSG Erich Friedlein of the National Guard.

Of the original 53 teams to begin the competition, only 21 finished. During the awards ceremony 10 April, Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army GEN Daniel B. Allyn commended all the Ranger teams who competed.

"Each one of these great Rangers embraces the Warrior Ethos, and at the end of those few days, they will carry those values and experiences back to the units to train and develop the next generation of leaders," said Allyn.

The event challenges two-man Ranger 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 58 hours, allowing little time for rest and meals. The competition has been compared to the Ironman and Eco-Challenge competitions.

“This willingness to fight through pain, to persevere in the face of adversity and to work together to ultimately triumph, are the hallmarks every one of us holds dear and that ultimately assures success in life,” Allyn said.

Read the complete article at https://www.army.mil/article/185770/75th_ranger_regiment_team_captures_2017_best_ranger_competition.

(Keith Boydston works for the Maneuver Center of Excellence Public Affairs Office.)



A Best Ranger team jumps over the final obstacle while competing in the Spartan Race event on 8 April. (Photo by SPC Sharell Madden)



MSG Josh Horsager reaches for the Ranger tab before dropping into the water during the water confidence course 9 April, the third and final day of the competition. (Photo by Patrick A. Albright)