

10TH MOUNTAIN LIFE

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POST MEMORIES

A crew from T.F. Wright & Sons places a granite slab onto the monument for the 10th Mountain Division on May 5, 2016, in Thompson Park. The monument features four sides made of granite shaped as a mountain rising from a 35-foot diameter pad at the center of Tower Square in the park. The monument's bronze reliefs were designed by Susan Grant Raymond, who sculpted the Military Mountaineers monument and the Fallen Warrior monument at Fort Drum's Memorial Park.

From the Watertown Daily Times Archive



10th Mountain Life features soldier shoutouts, photos of Fort Drum events, memories from post and more.

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2nd round of runners qualify for Army Ten-Miler

By MIKE STRASSER
Fort Drum Garrison Public Affairs

Fort Drum Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff members gave nearly 60 Soldiers a chance to join thousands more at the Army Ten-Miler in October, during the second qualifier race June 3 outside Magrath Sports Complex.

A departure from the six-mile qualifier in past years, FMWR event organizers decided to make it a full 10 miles this year to assess the candidates for the Fort Drum Army Ten-Miler Team.

"We made the shift from a six-mile qualifier to a ten-miler qualifier to better align the qualifier with the demands of the Army Ten-Miler itself," said Brittany Garnsey, FMWR fitness facility manager. "The change helps ensure those selected have demonstrated the ability to safely and successfully complete the full event. Also, there is a big difference between six and 10 miles, and a lot can change in a participant's race within those last four miles."

First Lt. Thomas Coble, with 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Mobile Brigade Combat Team, recorded the best time for both qualifiers, finishing at 1:01:38.

"I didn't even think I had it in me," he said. "I just ended up running faster because the field was running faster than I had thought it would."

This is the first time Coble has participated in an Army Ten-Miler Team qualifier.

"I just heard about it," he said. "I know some guys that did it last year, so I thought I'd try."



Soldiers from across the 10th Mountain Division (LI) competed for a spot on the Fort Drum Army Ten-Miler Team during the second qualifier run June 3 outside Magrath Sports Complex. Soldiers have a third and final chance to run the 10-mile qualifier on July 7. Photos by Mike Strasser/Fort Drum Garrison Public Affairs

Capt. Hannah Reeder, with 1st Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, ran a 1:21:23 qualifier in June and returned to improve her time to 1:19:58.

"I just wanted to see if I can get faster," she said. "I'm kind of out of the running game. So, the last one was kind of a test and I surprised myself. And for this one I just wanted to get a little bit faster."

A former Division I athlete, Reeder said she likes rekindling that competitive spirit.

"I love to push myself," she said.

Soldiers have another chance to qualify for the Fort Drum Army Ten-Miler Team on July 7.

"The goal is to field the best team possible and give Fort Drum a strong presence at the Army Ten-Miler," Garnsey said. "We're looking forward to sending a team that can be

competitive and represent the installation with pride."

For the organizers working the races, Garnsey said it is always fun to see who will deliver outstanding performances and surprise them with the fastest times. Last year, Spc. Joel Tabi clocked an average time during a qualifier to earn a spot on the mixed team. But then at the

Army Ten-Miler, he ran an impressive 49:46 to place third overall.

"One of the most exciting aspects of the qualifier process is that we don't always know where the fastest runner is going to emerge from," she said. "The qualifiers give Soldiers across Fort Drum an opportunity to compete and showcase their abilities. The hope is that the best runners will come out to these events, and in some cases, we may discover talent that wasn't previously on our radar."

The Fort Drum Army Ten-Miler Team is comprised of 18 members, with six on the men's team, six on the women's team, and six on a mixed team. Because of the 10th Mountain Division's operational tempo, there have been challenges to fielding a full team in the past, but Garnsey said she's optimistic based on participation at the races.

"It seems there is a lot of excitement surrounding the Army Ten-Miler qualifiers thus far," she said. "Our running events have performed very well in the past few months, and we've consistently seen strong engagement from Soldiers and the broader running community. Based on that momentum, we're expecting participation to remain strong going into the final qualifier next month."

To learn more about the Army Ten-Miler race, visit www.armytenmiler.com. Fort Drum community members interested in running can register as individuals or create a team of their own.



OUT & ABOUT

■ Soldiers, family members and friends joined Maj. Gen. Scott Naumann, commanding general of the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) and Fort Drum, for the division's Mountain Salute ceremony on June 1. The Mountain Salute ceremony recognized the service of Col. Jennifer A. Mykins, deputy commanding officer for support, and Col. Daniel P. Kearney, the division's chief of staff.

■ More than 1,000 airmen assigned to the 106th Rescue Wing completed a five-day combat readiness exercise, testing every element of the unit's operations and personnel recovery and combat support capabilities across two geographically separated locations May 12 to 16. Exercise Northern Horizon, which involved all subordinate squadrons of the wing, was conducted at Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base in Westhampton Beach, New York, and Fort Drum, home of the Army's 10th Mountain Division.

Planners designed the exercise to validate the wing's readiness to execute its federal combat search and rescue mission under realistic, high-stress, and operationally challenging conditions. Participants trained continuously across day and night shifts, with scenarios incorporating simulated combat environments, medical emergencies, security breaches and coordination with Army medical personnel at Fort Drum's expansive training areas.