

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release No.

Date: February 16, 2016

STORY ONLINE AT: Bataan 2016: Who will you march for?

<http://www.missileranger.com/2016/02/12/bataan-2016-who-will-you-march-for/>

FULL-SIZED PHOTOS AT: 2015 Bataan Photos at <http://www.bataanmarch.com>

ONLINE VIDEO AT: Bataan 2016 Video at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttoRKiMjcZw>

White Sands Missile Range, NM – **ATTENTION: News and Sports Editors**

**News Media invited to cover
Bataan Memorial Death March
Sunday, March 20, 2016
At White Sands Missile Range, N.M.**

Thousands of Soldiers and civilians will converge at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., March 20 to share the common experiences of blisters, sore muscles and exhaustion as they undertake the Bataan Memorial Death March.

Now entering its 27th year, the memorial march honors the Soldiers who defended the islands of Luzon, Corregidor and the harbor-defense forts of the Philippines at the onset of World War II. They fought in a malaria-infested region, surviving on half- or quarter-rations, with little or no medical care, outdated equipment and virtually no air support. April 9, 1942, tens of thousands of American and Filipino Soldiers surrendered to Japanese forces. They were marched for days in the scorching heat through the Philippine jungles. Thousands died. Those who survived this forced march faced death or years of hardship in prisoner-of-war camps.

The 26.2-mile Bataan Memorial Death March is considered by many to be one of the toughest marathon-length events in the nation. Marchers compete in

teams or individually. Some compete in the “heavy” division carrying 35-pound rucksacks. There is also a 14.2 mile non-competitive honorary route.

Limitless story and photo opportunities

The Bataan Memorial Death March offers limitless stories and photo opportunities:

- An expected 7,000 plus marchers representing a cross-section of America as well as several foreign countries
- Marchers from all the Armed Services
- Participation by Wounded Warriors
- World War II Bataan veterans watching the event and greeting participants
- Hundreds of volunteers supporting the event
- A moving opening ceremony that should not be missed
- Opening ceremony begins at 6:35 a.m., march continues throughout the day

The White Sands Public Affairs Office provides a shuttle service for news media representatives to several locations along the route to include the start and finish lines. Shuttle service starts immediately after the start of the march. FOR THE SAFETY OF THE PARTICIPANTS AND WORKERS, PRIVATELY-OWNED VEHICLES ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THE MARCH TRAIL.

Reporters/photographers planning to cover the march must call the White Sands Missile Range Public Affairs Office at (575) 678-1134 to register and for specific instructions.

Bataan Memorial Death March

March 20, 2016

Registration/details at www.bataanmarch.com

**\$110 - Individual \$500 - Team \$110 - Honorary
until Feb. 28 , 2016 - midnight MST**

**\$125 - Individual \$600 - Team \$125 - Honorary
Feb. 29, 2016 to March 12, 2016**

On-line Registration closes: Midnight (MST) - March 12, 2016

Registration for the 2016 Bataan Memorial Death March

Registration for the 27th Bataan Memorial Death March to be held March 20, 2016, at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, closes March 12, 2016. Training recommendations can be found at www.bataanmarch.com.

The Bataan Memorial Death March is a challenging trek through the high desert terrain conducted in honor of the heroic service members who defended the Philippine Islands during World War II, sacrificing their freedom, health and, in many cases, their lives. Participants may choose either the 26.2 mile route or the 14.2 mile route.

Registration deadlines

Deadline for on-line registration is midnight (MST) March 12. **No on-site registration or late registrations will be accepted after this date.**

All registered participants will receive a commemorative t-shirt, a commemorative dog tag, a commemorative timing chip, certificate, and post-event meal.

For more information

For more information about the march call the White Sands Missile Range Community Events Office at (575) 678-1590 or (575) 678-1256. Questions to frequently asked questions may be found at www.BataanMarch.com