WHO: Cowboy Battalion Cadets
WHAT: Bataan Memorial Death March
WHEN: 17MAR2013
WHERE: White Sands, New Mexico
SUMMARY: The University of Wyoming Army ROTC “Cowboy Battalion” had several Cadets participate in the Annual Bataan Memorial Death March Marathon.

Each year, the Cowboy Battalion sends a select group of Cadets to participate in the Annual Bataan Memorial Death March. The Bataan Memorial Death March is a challenging 26.2 mile marathon through the high desert terrain of White Sands Missile Range, conducted in honor of the heroic service members who defended the Philippine Islands during World War II, while sacrificing their freedom, health and in many cases, their very lives. Each year, the grueling event attracts thousands of participants from around the world.

The day before the race, the Cadets had an opportunity to meet the survivors from the Bataan Death March, providing the Cadets with a sense of gratitude towards these brave soldiers, as well as motivation for the demanding race.

This year, the Cowboy Battalion sent a female civilian light team, two male light individuals, and one male heavy individual. The heavy and light participants ran the same course, but the heavy participant wore a 35 pound rucksack. The grueling terrain is part of what makes this such a unique race. The course follows an uneven dirt path and includes an impressive ascent between miles 6 and 14, and a “sand trap” from miles 20 through 22.

The UW participants not only ran 26.2 miles, but they also gained a once-in-a-lifetime experience by meeting the survivors of the Bataan Death march and hearing their stories. It was a humbling experience to honor the memories of those that lost their lives.