

## Team NWS Earle Massa takes first place, BHC Earle Corpsmen second, at the Jersey Shore 5 Miler

On April 20, 2013, Active Duty Sailors of NWS Earle participated in the Jersey Shore Running Club's "RunAPalooza" held in Asbury Park, N.J. The event included the Asbury Park Half Marathon and the Jersey Shore Five Mile Races. The weather was on the cool side with temperatures in the 40's at the 8:30 a.m. start and some gusty swirling winds. The event coming shortly after the terrorist attack at the Boston Marathon was held with mixed emotions for many participants.

Team NWS Earle Massa was made up of Ryan Massa, Jeff Strauch, Scottie Richard, Greg Shultz, Elkin Mosquera and MWR Fitness Trainer, Gabrielle Tonkovich. Team BHC Earle Corpsmen was composed of Nathaniel Blosser, Enrique Mosquera, Jack Lo, Kevin Terront and Richard Pacheco. Both teams were categorized under the government division in the five mile team race. "I wanted to give an opportunity to the runners on base to go outside and participate in a larger event. Running in the Jersey Shore area is amazing and the community offers a variety of events that anyone can participate in," says Tonkovich who is an avid runner and participates in about 20 races a year.

The start of the race included a moment of silence for the victims of the Boston Marathon Terrorism attack. Runners started on Ocean Avenue on the side of the Berkeley Hotel and proceeded south past Asbury Park Convention Hall, The Tillie on the top of the Wonder Bar, past Madam Marie and then along Wesley Lake before returning back along Ocean Avenue heading north along the Jersey Shore to Deal for the Five Milers and into Long Branch for the Half Marathoners. Many runners wore blue and yellow the long time official colors of the Boston Marathon. Some wore their Boston Marathon finisher's shirts, which are for runners a symbol of accomplishment of participating in the elite event.

Leading the way for Team NWS Earle Massa was LTJG Shultz who completed the five mile course in 39:21. LCDR Mosquera came in second with a time of 40:16 followed by PNSN Rodriguezleon (43:17), Tonkovich (44:23) and MA1 Strauch, QM1 Richard and YMC Massa (45:16) all crossing the finish together giving the team its first place standing in the government category.

Team BHC Earle Corpsmen took second in the government division as HMC Blosser came across the finish first with a time of 40:38 followed by Enrique Mosquera (44:48) and Jack Lo (44:49). Kevin Terront (2:02:9) and Richard Pacheco (2:15:48) continued and completed the half-marathon.

The teams came together at the post-race expo held at the Berkeley Hotel to share their experiences, sample the refreshments and look for upcoming races. "I can't believe there are so many people who love doing what I love to do," said YMC Massa when observing the post-race festivities. "I just met a 77 year-old man who races every weekend," Massa exclaimed.

The next race for the runners will be the Spring Fling 5K held on base on May 8 and will be hosted by MWR Fitness. "I'm hoping these runners will take a leading role in inspiring other Sailors on base to participate," says Tonkovich. "It's sport that can be done anywhere, in any condition with little or no equipment, other than your feet and heart," she adds.



Photo L to R:  
Front Row: Glenn Riley,  
Elkin Mosquera, Jack Lo  
Back Row: Jeff Strauch,  
Ryan  
Massa, Gabrielle  
Tonkovich, Scottie  
Richard, Richard  
Pacheco, Greg Shultz,  
Kevin Terront,  
Fransisco  
Rodriguezleon.