



Space and
Naval Warfare
Systems
Command



Program
Executive
Office
C4I & Space



United States Navy

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NR-2004-008

Wednesday, May 05, 2004

PEO C4I & Space Marine Places 90th at Boston Marathon

By SUSAN E. SHARP



1st Lt. Bartle crosses the Boston Marathon finish line placing 90th out of 17,950 runners.

BOSTON – By reputation, United States Marines have always been able to conquer any physical challenge, and this year’s Boston Marathon was no exception.

Aviation Supply Officer, 1st Lt. Andrew Bartle, placed 90th out of 17,950 runners at the 108th Boston Marathon on April 19. As a member of the six-person All Marine Marathon Team, Bartle ran in 85-degree heat to complete the 26.2-mile race in 2:44:40. His average speed was 9.55 mph, and the average time it took him to run each mile was 6:17.

“This was the most challenging marathon I’ve ever run because of the heat,” Bartle said, as he described how this year’s marathon differed from his prior experience in two Boston Marathons.

Early in the race Bartle recognized that the course would present temperature challenges.

“As soon as the gun went off, I could feel it getting hotter...and hotter... and hotter, and I realized that I’d better pace myself and run a smart race,” Bartle said.

According to Bartle, the Boston Marathon is unique in its complexity and difficulty. In the oppressive temperatures, Bartle recognized that he needed to “run hard, but comfortably” in order to conserve the energy necessary to make it over “heartbreak hill” – an estimated 100-foot-incline between miles 20 and 21.

“When I saw a fellow Marine drop back and slow down, and elite runners walking and stretching out cramps due to dehydration, I knew I’d better be careful,” Bartle said, “I really learned about patience, and that intelligent pacing is rewarded.”

Despite “feeling like (his) head was in a pressure cooker” as a result of the heat, Bartle finished second out of all the runners from San Diego.

When asked whether Bartle would run another Boston Marathon, he excitedly responded, “Most definitely, I’m just upset that I have to wait a year to do it. In my mind it’s the greatest marathon in the world, let alone the country.”

Bartle is currently supporting PEO C4I & Space’s Program Office for Naval Combat Support Systems (PMW 151), which is co-located with the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) in Old Town, San Diego.

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Supporting PMW 151, 1st Lt. Bartle serves as an Aviation Supply Officer for PEO C4I & Space.

