

## 108th ADA repeats as post swim champions, extends cup lead

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108th ADA Bde. Public Affairs

With a high volume of participants, consistent finishes and a boost from the guys in the old, but not too old category, the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade swim team held off the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy to win their second consecutive Fort Bliss Intramural Swim Championship held last Thursday and Friday at Fort Bliss Replica Pool. 11th ADA Brigade placed third.

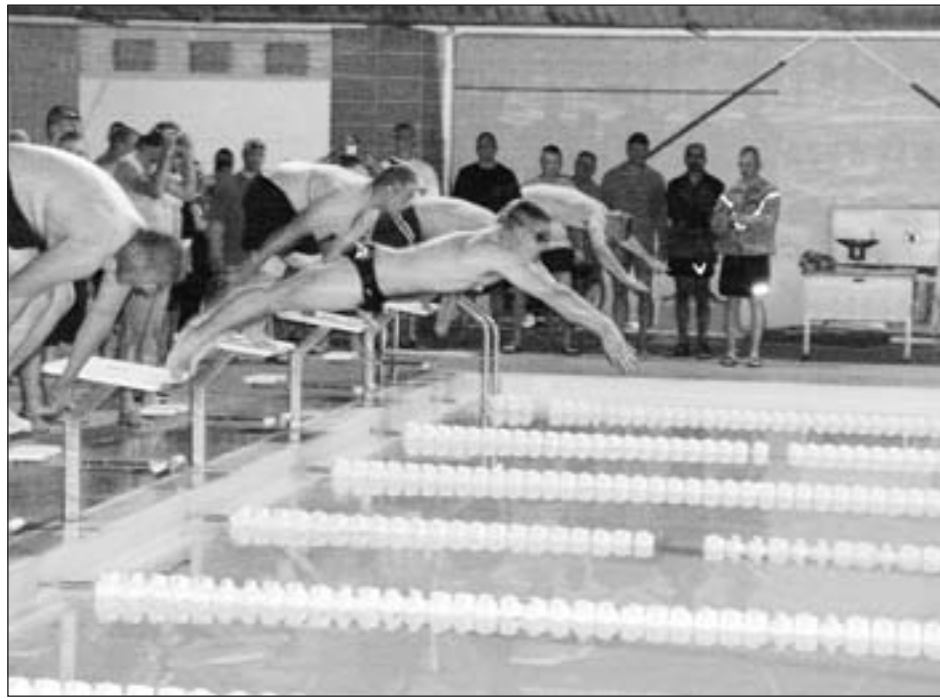
108th also extended their lead in the Fort Bliss Commander's Cup race. By placing first, 108th ADA scored 60 Commander's Cup points to 11th ADA's 25. 108th ADA now leads 11th ADA by 85 points.

After the first day of competition, 108th ADA held a 65 to 41 point lead over USASMA. The Airborne Corps swimmers let it be known early that they were a force to be reckoned with once again by winning both the men's and women's, 34 and under, 400 meter freestyle relay to start the event. In the men's 34 and under 400m freestyle relay, 108th ADA teams also took second and third places.

During both days of the meet, 108th ADA's coach, Thomas Mule' was consistent by winning every event he entered to help bring in the much needed points. Mule' took home gold in the men's 200m individual medley, 800m freestyle, 50m freestyle, 100m backstroke, 100m butterfly and he anchored the winning 400m freestyle and 200m individual medley teams. He was proud of his accomplishments but also gave credit to his teammates for giving strong performances.

"Our guys stepped it up and competed well," said Mule'. "Everyone did what they could to help the team win."

Going into this year's swim meet, the 108th ADA team felt their biggest competition would come from 11th ADA. But that was not the case, as USASMA had a full complement of swimmers in the men's and women's 35 and over division. A division that usually has only a few swimmers in each event.



PHOTOS BY SPC. JASON STADEL

Swimmers during a men's event dive in at the start of a race.

"It surprised me," 108th ADA swimmer Mark Davidson said. "The Sergeants Major Academy had a lot more swimmers this year than they did last year; they wore me out."

Davidson placed first in the 35 and over 100m breaststroke, 100m freestyle, 800m freestyle, and 100m backstroke. He was also second in the 50m freestyle along with being a team member of the 400m freestyle and 200m medley relay teams, both of which finished second in the 35 and over division to USASMA.

The 35 over division, or informally mentioned around the pool as the "old guys" division played a key role in the outcome of the meet.

USASMA packed the 35 and over division with men's and women's swimmers, while 108th ADA had only four men and one woman in the category. The four men were able to



Thomas Mule', 108th ADA, grabs a breath of air during the 200m individual medley. Mule' won the 34 and under race.

equalize the sergeant major students and help 108th ADA win. The 108th ADA swimmers had strong finishes in both the individual and relay events.

Unlike last year, going into the final day of competition there was no guarantee that 108th ADA was going to win the meet.

"There was talk today that the Sergeants Major Academy could pull this out," Davidson said. "It was a real close and interesting competition; [USASMA] really pushed us."

"We needed those finishes in the 35 and up," said 108th ADA swimmer, Richard Willard.

Jerry Scriven was a last minute addition to the swim team. A week before the meet started he said he wasn't even very good at diving off the platform let alone competing for team points. He said in a week's time the more experienced swimmers on the team helped him feel comfortable in

the pool which allowed him to contribute to the team.

"I heard we need swimmers in the 35 and over division. I felt I needed to help the team win," said Scriven.

Scriven was a part of both relays that finished second in the 35 and over division and he also placed second individually in the 200m butterfly. He had never done a butterfly stroke prior to the meet, but only one man was entered in the event so all he had to do was finish and 108th ADA would receive points and that is what he did.

The 108th ADA women swimmers also had strong performances, adding to the team's overall performance. Team veteran, Erin Harkins, acknowledged the hard work of all the women's team competitors and especially that of the swimmers that had less experience and came out to help the team win.

"The new girls did a great job," said Harkins.

She also said the atmosphere of the swim meet is good because the teams are aligned by brigade, not individual batteries or companies like football or basketball. "This was fun to come together as a brigade and destroy everybody on post," Harkins said with a smile.

On the women's side of the event the competitor that stood out the most was Jillian Macaulay. Macaulay, from the 230th Finance Detachment, swam her way to seven top two finishes. Macaulay had four firsts and three second place finishes for the finance detachment that is a part of the Fort Bliss Garrison Command.

With the win, 108th ADA is now in command of the Commander's Cup. There are two events left in the Commander's Cup season: flag football and the 10 kilometer run.

After 11th ADA Bde. placed two teams in the top three of the post softball tournament and 108th had none in the top three, 11th ADA had gotten to within 35 points of the Commander's Cup lead. But in the last two sports, golf and swimming, the 108th ADA teams have been able to extend the lead once again.

## USASMA 10-miler team wins SM challenge

The members of the USASMA Army 10-miler team took top honors in the sergeant major challenge for the fifth consecutive year, Oct. 8 in Washington, D.C. Team captain and trainer Sgt. Maj. Rick Trevino said this year's team was the oldest, average age of 44, he has ever put together and also the fastest with the best time being scored of 4 hours, 15 minutes and 31 seconds. While this is USASMA's fifth year winning the event, Trevino said it is only the fourth officially as last year's 10-miler was rerouted by a suspicious package left on the 11th Street bridge which resulted in the race actually being 11 plus miles. Trevino said that his team can be proud of their efforts in keeping the streak alive. Members of USASMA's team were, front row (l-r) Sgt. Maj. Brian Janieke, Timothy Wagley, and David Taylor. Back Row (l-r) Sgt. Maj. Osvaldo DeHoyo, Yasuyuki Goki, James Houvener, Keikichi Hayata, Carlos Darder and Rick Trevino.



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