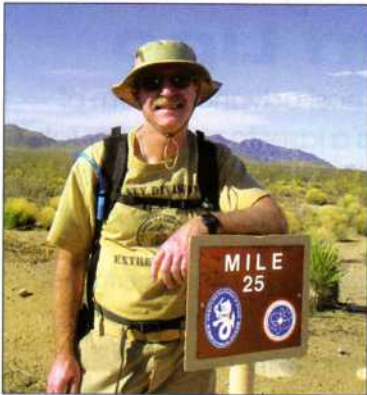


# Katy Resident Hikes in Bataan Memorial Death March

Experience inspires Ensign and Cadets



Ensign Tom Cloud, U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps (Katy Division), takes a break near the end of the 26-mile Bataan Death March Memorial. ❖ A few of the hundreds of participants marching in the Bataan Death March Memorial.

Ensign Thomas Cloud, Executive Officer of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Katy Division, recently hiked in the 26-mile Bataan Memorial Death March in the White Sands Missile

Range near Las Cruces, N.M. The Bataan Memorial Death March honors tens of thousands of American and Filipino soldiers who surrendered to Japanese forces on April 9, 1942, after

defending the islands of Luzon Corregidor and the harbor defense forts of the Philippines. The first memorial march was in 1989 and was sponsored by the Army ROTC Department at New Mexico State University.

Ensign Cloud said "To train for the march, I started organizing challenge hikes for our Sea Cadets. We hiked in Huntsville State Park and on the Terry Hershey trails with distances that progressed up to 21 miles over 4 months." Sea Cadet Civilian Instructor Laura Branson, a Tomball resident, and her daughter Emily, a Katy Sea Cadet, also participated and completed the 26 mile march.

"Some people run it as a marathon," Ensign Cloud continued, "but we decided to hike or walk it since we were marathon rookies. Bataan is known as one of the most demanding marathons in the U.S. due to the desert conditions and 4,000 to 5,500 foot elevation. I'm grateful that we trained well and were able to finish the march because the typical dropout rate is 20 to 25 percent."

Ensign Cloud and the Bransons met actual survivors of the original World War II Bataan Death march. "It was a very rewarding and inspiring experience to meet these survivors and have them shake your hand as you cross the



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