



Volume 1, Issue 4

March 21, 2005

Ask anyone who's been there. The San Diego Triathlon Challenge (SDTC) changes lives. It can make a strong man stronger. A proud man prouder. A bold man bolder.

Take the case of Michael McNaughton. After losing his right leg just above the knee and part of his right hand in an Afghan minefield two years ago, he was one of seven American soldiers flown in to experience the 2004 SDTC. Even then, it was clear there was something special about him. This pastweekend, he again showed the world his mettle.



McNaughton competed in the Bataan Death March, a grueling 26.2-mile run through the dry and dusty trails of the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. This wasn't a race for the faint-hearted. Experienced runners found it agonizingly difficult. For a first marathon, it was an extraordinary test. But Sgt. McNaughton wasn't racing for himself. He raced for a reason.



Inspired by the SDTC, McNaughton called the Challenged Athletes Foundation (CAF) and asked how he could help. We enlisted him in the *Race For A Reason* program and he reported for duty, focusing his fundraising around the Death March.

McNaughton wanted to *Race For A Reason* because he'd seen first-hand how much CAF benefits people with physical challenges. In his words: "I wanted to do my part and help people like me be able to do more active things. I wanted to make sure they have the equipment and funds to do that."

In just one month, McNaughton surpassed his \$2,500 fundraising goal. Now he achieved his long-time goal of finishing the Death March as well. The race had special meaning for him because it honors America's WWII prisoners of war.

Like the American flag on his prosthetic, Sgt. McNaughton's true colors are shining through. He's a Southern gentleman, a father, a husband, an amputee and a patriot. His selfless motivation and desire to help others make him a role model for other injured soldiers. That's a special calling indeed.

Congratulations Sgt. McNaughton. You are a true American hero!

Challenged Athletes Foundation, 2148 Jimmy Durante Blvd. #B, Del Mar, CA 92014
Phone: (858) 793-9293, Fax: (858) 793-9291, www.challengedathletes.org
Tax ID #77-0739596