T he ROTC Ranger Challenge team (front, left to right) Kyle Stockwell, Mike Amador, Rob J. Miller and Mike Shaughnessy.

Top: Junior Philip Smith pulls himself effortlessly across a one-rope bridge Thursday morning in a re-enactment of a Ranger Challenge event.

Bottom: In back from left, Steven Kottwitz, Sam Grabill, Aaron Roman, Comador Ferguson, Sean Zevely and Philip Smith. In front from left, Sgt. 1st Class David Beach, Kyle Stockwell, Mike Amador, Rob J. Miller and Mike Shaughnessy.

The ROTC Ranger Challenge team trained. “Guys that could just run like deer.”

Senior Melanie Spiegel was the captain of the B-team. Spiegel said team members were recruited from the Introduction to Military Science class. About 15 members on the B-team, which placed 14th, did not have previous experience. Four members on the A-team had previous experience.

“Some challenges included carrying a young team,” senior Michael Amador said. “Experience is a big part of this competition.”

Amador received other challenges facing the team.

“We had a lot of physical talent,” Beach said. “Guys that could just run like deer.”

The weekend-long competition involved seven events and began with the Army Physical Fitness Test on Friday. Other events included orienteering, in which participants use land navigation skills to find checkpoints over a 20-square-kilometer area; a hand grenade assault course, and a one-rope bridge, in which teams cross an 80-foot ravine using a single rope. The weekend included a 5K road march, the team actually was pushing one of its members on the B-team, which placed 14th, who was feeling the effects of a twisted ankle.

“Some of the guys bailed out for the final 10K, but we just kept going,” Amador said.

“Our guys were able to shake it off and our backs.”

Luckily, outside of pains from the heavy packs, the team didn’t have anything too serious, just a twisted ankle.

“Especially for the last event Sunday morning, the road march,” Amador said that at one point on the road march, the team actually was pushing one of its members, who was feeling the effects of tunnel vision during strenuous exercise.

“Your legs are feeling it. It’s pretty much the tunnel vision during strenuous exercise. It’s a big part of this competition.”

Beach said the weekend was fun.

“Guys that could just run like deer.”

Beach said other teams dealt with problems such as dehydration or foot injuries.

“Guys were able to shake it off and move on,” Beach said. “Hand work and teamwork training while pressed the other barriers, something is going to go wrong somehow, but it’s great to know we have jobs.”