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The Gem State Guardian

The official newsletter of the
Idaho National Guard

**ISSUE #22
5 MARCH
2014**

Idaho Guard Biathlon Team participates in western regional competition

By Maj. Chris Borders

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – It has been over five years since anyone from the Idaho National Guard participated in the National Guard biathlon competition. That all changed Jan. 7-13 of this year when six members of the Idaho Army Guard traveled to Kincaid Park in Anchorage to take part in the fast-paced, physically demanding weeklong event. The team competed on decade-old equipment, and while membership is open to both Army and Air personnel, only Army personnel represented the team due to a lack of Air funding. Despite these disadvantages, Idaho Athletes placed from front to the middle of the pack during the competition. “We plan on making a strong come back next year when we’re teamed up with our Air counterparts,” Staff Sgt. Trevor Fellows, an athlete on the Idaho team said. The purpose of the biathlon program traces its roots back to the Great



Capt. Allan Whitehead, Idaho biathlon team coordinator coaches Idaho athlete Staff Sgt. Trevor Fallows while Capt. Nicholas Owen squeezes a round off at his target during the 2014 National Guard Western Regional Biathlon held in Anchorage, Alaska Jan. 7-13. This was the first time in five years that Idaho participated in a National Guard biathlon.

Scandinavian War of the early 1700s, which realized the need of such skills in warfare. Today, the National Guard biathlon team develops the highest levels of skiing and rifle marksmanship necessary to improve

the combat ability of individual Soldiers and Airmen. The National Guard selects and trains teams to represent the U.S. Armed Forces for competition, to include the Biathlon World Cup and Winter Olympic events.



The Idaho National Guard 2014 Biathlon Team, pictured right, represented Idaho during the 2014 Western Regional Biathlon. From left to right: Capt. Allan Whitehead, biathlon coordinator; Command Sgt. Maj. David Berlinguet, coach; Capt. Nicholas Owen, athlete; Capt. Steven Keeton, athlete; First Lt. Laura Newell, athlete; Staff Sgt. Trevor Fallows, athlete.

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