

# The Best Ranger Competition Adopts Somewear for Increased Situational Awareness



The Best Ranger Competition (BRC) is a grueling, 72-hour competition composed of a series of events that pushes Army Rangers to their limits, both physically and mentally. Each year, approximately

100 courageous Rangers apply and are paired with a partner to compete for the title of Best Ranger. Only about 15 teams make it to the end.

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[Somewear] is so much more than just a tracking solution. The advanced software platform allows us to leverage communications, geospatial (KMZs/KMLs), measuring, C2 tools, and more. The platforms' ability to autonomously leverage the path (cell, wifi, or satellite) of least resistance (smart routing) has streamlined operations and maximized our confidence to send and receive critical data in any environment. Somewear is a resilient, fully-networked solution, and its low latency has translated into more effective tracking and two-way communications.”

**William B. Wade**  
Sergeant First Class  
Program Manager, Friendly Force Tracking Program  
California Military Department

## The Challenge

The Best Ranger Competition has historically relied on solutions that transmit PLI (position location information) data with high latency, which increases the competitors' vulnerability and increases the complexity of the competition. Without accurate real-time data, it was challenging for the event staff to estimate each teams' position, calculate a score, and determine their rate of movement to understand if they would successfully reach the next checkpoint in time.

With approximately 100 competitors, the event staff in the field could not monitor each Ranger teams' position and relied on radios to receive updates from the operations center. Adding to the complications, if they fell out of radio range, they lost all comms.

The competition staff required a COP (common operating picture) that ingests reliable data, in real-time, while operating in cell-denied environments. If data is not transmitted accurately and quickly, the competitors' scores could be skewed and the integrity of the competition is at risk.



## The Solution

For the BRC leadership team, having access to each Rangers' position translates into increased situational awareness and ensures accurate scoring. Additionally, the leadership team can identify when a team is off course or in a position that may jeopardize their safety and proactively respond to a call for help.

As competitors navigate through miles of treacherous terrain and obstacles under minimal supervision, Somewear enables reliable, efficient blue force tracking and provides a fail-proof communications solution for staff to communicate in case of emergency. Due to Somewear's ruggedized solution the leadership team is able to track the Rangers through the swim portion of the event, something that has never been done.

Somewear's readily available commercial applications (mobile and web) allows the event staff on the ground and in the operations center to rapidly deploy a solution that maximizes situational awareness.

## The Results

- Collected reliable real-time PLI data to grade competitors based on speed and accuracy.
- Provided resilient comms and SA during the grueling night orienteering event.
- Established an intuitive COP that streamlined competition management.

Contact us to learn how Somewear can support your training operations or serve as an advanced race management solution. Our technology keeps competitors and your event staff safe. To learn more about Somewear Labs and our advanced software platform, visit our website at [www.somewearlabs.com](http://www.somewearlabs.com).