

Texas Medical Reserve Corps Stories:

How MRCs are Serving Their Communities



July 2025 Edition

West Texas MRC Volunteers Go the Distance at 36th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March

As the sun rose over the rugged terrain of White Sands Missile Range, more than 4,600 participants stepped off on a solemn 26.2-mile journey to honor the legacy of the 75,000 U.S. and Filipino service members who endured the harrowing Bataan Death March during World War II. Among the crowd were 35–40 volunteers from the West Texas Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and the additional support from El Paso's Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) team, whose presence proved critical behind the scenes.



West Texas Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers at the Bataan Memorial Death March.

From 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., MRC volunteers served tirelessly, supporting multiple operations throughout the grueling event. Their assignments ranged from medical tent registration and clinical support to patient transportation, providing a full spectrum of aid to marchers in need. All volunteers received just-in-time training on-site, adapting quickly and confidently to their roles.

"It was incredible to see how quickly our team adjusted and stepped up to the challenge," said Valerie Ferman, MRC Volunteer Coordinator. "Their dedication and professionalism ensured that every marcher received the care they needed."

The medical tents saw a total of 321 patients throughout the day. Volunteers treated everything from dehydration and blisters to more serious medical issues, ensuring the safety and well-being of participants on a day that pushed bodies and spirits to the limit.

Special thanks to Valerie Ferman and Bryan Olson with the West Texas MRC for sharing their story.