



# MEDIA RELEASE

**MARINE CORPS MARATHON**  
3399 Russell Road, P.O. Box 188  
Quantico, VA 22134  
1.800.RUN.USMC  
[www.MarineMarathon.com](http://www.MarineMarathon.com)

## **U.S. Marine Captures Second Win at 17.75K in Prince William County, VA** *Event's largest field earns guaranteed entries to 42<sup>nd</sup> MCM*

**QUANTICO, VA (March 25, 2017)** – For the second consecutive year, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Andrew Harper, 25, a U.S. Marine stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC, captured first place at the Marine Corps 17.75K finishing in 1:06:10, just over a minute under his 2016 finishing time of 1:05:33. Harper led 2,834 finishers, the largest total since the event's introduction in 2013.

As runners completed today's event, they received beautifully designed medals with an antique copper finish from U.S. Marines and "Access Granted" cards providing entry to the 42<sup>nd</sup> MCM, annually held in Arlington, VA and throughout the nation's capital.



As a U.S. Marine, Harper could be deployed by the time of the MCM this October, but he says he ran the 17.75K again just for the fun of it, not realizing he would be able to defend his title.

"There's no hills in Camp Lejeune so that was tough, but at least I was familiar with the course from last year," Harper said after his winning finish. "Up until the seventh mile, I was in second place and about 50 meters behind the lead, but then I saw him slow and I just pushed to the end."

The Marine Corps 17.75 that commemorates the year the Marine Corps was founded (1775), runs through Prince William Forest Park in Prince William County, VA. While the 11.03-mile course is known as a challenging run with numerous elevation changes, 29-year-old Ashley Spencer of Lynchburg, made it look easy as the first female to cross the finish in 1:20:16.

This was her first time running the 17.75K, which she did to earn access to the MCM. "Lynchburg has so many hills, so the course was pretty good for me," Spencer said. "I've done nine marathons but this will be my first MCM ... now I'm really looking forward to running the MCM in October."

Runners from 40 states participated in the Marine Corps 17.75K, including Eric Frome, 36, of Portland, OR, who flew across the country just to run the event that would provide him entry to his first MCM. Frome finished his run in 1:06:59, receiving the award for second place overall. Just a few seconds behind him was Prince William County Police Officer Jason Van Horn, 43, of Bristow, VA who finished third place overall in 1:09:18. Van Horn was the male master's winner of last year's event.

Following Spencer's lead among women runners, Liz Greenlaw, 29, of Arlington, VA took second place finishing in 1:21:09. Just behind her was Grace McElroy, 50, of Sleepy Hollow, NY, who enjoyed a third-place win of 1:21:31.

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*Marine Corps 17.75K*  
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The male master's winner was Jim Gregory, 44, of Wheaton, MD who finished in 1:11:12, while Hassetou Wandaogo, 46, of Washington, DC received the master's award among women runners completing the event in 1:25:05.

Marine Corps 17.75K awards were also presented to first-place finishers in the age groups. All unofficial results are available at [www.marinemarathon.com](http://www.marinemarathon.com). Runners have until Tuesday, March 28 at noon Eastern to utilize the Access Granted pass and register for the MCM.

For more information about the 42nd MCM visit [marinemarathon.com](http://marinemarathon.com).

*The 2017 MCM Event Series, coordinated by the Marine Corps Marathon Organization, is sponsored by Brooks, GEICO Military, Navy Federal Credit Union, National University, Discover Prince William County/Manassas, Sentara Healthcare and Wegmans. No federal or Marine Corps endorsement implied. #RunWithTheMarines*

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