

## INSCOMers Hit the Street to Beat Breast Cancer

Despite the cool, drizzly weather, several individuals from the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command turned out with tens of thousands of people, completing a five-kilometer course along the National Mall to raise money for breast cancer research and treatment June 5.

Through the mist, the rolling sea of people was overwhelming to many. "Life goes on. You don't quit" seemed to be the mantra of the thousands of women wearing the pink T-shirt sported by cancer survivors. Their supporters wore white T-shirts emblazoned with the blue and gold logo of the 15th annual Komen National Race for the Cure.

One of the early morning events was a "Parade of Pink" hundreds of women wearing vivid pink T-shirts who trooped to bleachers erected on the mall. They were young and elderly, black, white, and Asian—survivors of a disease that is the leading cause of cancer death for women ages 20 to 59. Following the parade, the race began at 8 a.m. at Ninth St. and Constitution Ave., with 15 motorcyclists leading the way, carrying cancer survivors wearing pink helmets. The first runner crossed the finish line in 15 minutes, 13 seconds.

Thousands of other participants walked in teams, carrying photos of loved ones. For many, the race was a memorial to mothers, sisters and friends who battled the disease and won—or lost.

Under the auspices of the INSCOM Federal Women's Program, team co-captains, Karen Kovach and Anne Bilgihan began recruiting members in March. By the time of the May deadline, they were able to register a team of 30 people. At \$25 per person, INSCOM raised \$750 for the cause (plus an additional \$100 in pledge donations).

The team consisted of INSCOM personnel, their friends and families. Of those, seven registered to run the race course, while the others signed up to walk a route that wound through northwest Washington, D.C. Walkers proudly carried the INSCOM team sign in turn; although, Bilgihan stated, "the sheer size of the crowd separated the INSCOM team along the way."

The event was the largest of more than 100 races held across the country each year by the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. More than 51,000 people registered for it. The race raised more than \$2 million, with about \$1 million staying in the Washington Metro Area for cancer education and treatment. The Dallas-based foundation was set up in 1982 by Nancy Brinker in memory of her sister, who died of breast cancer at age 36.