

3rd Annual Mississippi Blues Marathon & Half Marathon

Presented by:



BlueCross BlueShield
of Mississippi

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Mississippi Blues Marathon and Half-Marathon Announces “First Wave” Race for Mississippi Soldiers

Jackson, MS – Organizers of the Mississippi Blues Marathon and Half-Marathon announced today that Mississippi soldiers deployed in Iraq will be part of this year’s race, running a “first wave” race on a military base on January 4. The race was organized in response to a request from Mississippi soldiers who want to be part of the state’s premier running event.

“We’re thrilled to be able to provide support for the running of this ‘first wave’ race for soldiers who want to participate in the Blues Marathon,” said John Sewell, Director of Corporate Communications for Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi. “These soldiers are giving so much for us, and this is the very least we can do for them.”

The “first wave” race builds on precedents set by other major marathons around the United States, including the Boston Marathon, Pittsburgh Marathon and Austin Marathon. Organizers anticipate as many as 500 soldiers may participate in the marathon, half-marathon and 2.62 mile races at the base.

“The Mississippi National Guard appreciates the support from the Mississippi Blues Marathon and Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi for this race,” said Maj. Gen. William L. Freeman, Jr., adjutant general of Mississippi. “This helps bring a little bit of home to our deployed soldiers.”

Organizers will provide participating soldiers with special t-shirts commemorating the race in Iraq. These same t-shirts will be available for purchase at the Mississippi Blues Marathon and Half-Marathon Expo, scheduled for January 7-8 at the Jackson Convention Center. Proceeds from the sale of t-shirts will go to the Mississippi Military Family Relief Fund.

“We encourage everyone to come out and support Mississippi’s soldiers and their families through the purchase of shirts,” said Sewell. “This is a great opportunity to show our thanks for their service and sacrifice.”