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## **TOP MARINE RUNNERS SELECTED FOR INTER-SERVICE MARATHON RACE**

HQMC (MR) QUANTICO, VA – Top Marine runners from bases and stations across the nation have been selected to represent the Marine Corps in the U.S. Armed Forces Marathon Championship in Arlington, Va., on Sunday, Oct. 25th.

The Armed Forces Marathon is held in conjunction with the Marine Corps Marathon. It is the top marathon competition between the different branches of the U.S. military services, including the: U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.

This is the 34th running of the Marine Corps Marathon. The Armed Forces Championship has been a part of the race since 1998.

This year the four fastest military service men and three fastest military service women to finish the race will be selected to represent the U.S. Armed Forces at the 2,500 anniversary running of the original marathon between Sparta and Athens in Greece.

The All Marine team competing at the 2009 Marine Corps Marathon includes: LtCol. Alexander Hetherington from Oceanside, CA; Capt. Rick Jennings from Albany, GA; LtCol. Thomas Blackwell and Capt. Maureen Carr from Arlington, VA; 1stLt Erin Demchko from Yuma, AZ; Maj. Kristin McCann, 2ndLt Adam Crandall and Sgt. Ryan Ellis from Miramar, CA; Sgt. Billy Van Vianen from Camp Lejeune, NC; 2ndLt Kyleigh

Millhouse from Pensacola, FLA; SSgt. Tyler Hubbard, Capt. Michelle Macander and team captain Col. Steven D. Peterson from Quantico, VA

This year LtCol. Alex Hetherington will be inducted into the Marine Corps Marathon Hall of Fame. LtCol. Hetherington is currently serving as the executive officer of HMLA-469 at Camp Pendleton, CA. Hetherington has been an eleven-time member and eight-time captain of the All-Marine Marathon Team, bi-annually competing against the British Royal Navy/Marine Corps. LtCol Hetherington was also the 1998 Inter-Service Marathon Champion and has been a three-time top Marine finisher at the Marine Corps Marathon in Arlington, Virginia.

Members of the All Marine Running Team are selected based on past performance and recorded finish times. An application for the team is available on the Marine Sports homepage at: (<http://www.usmc-mccs.org/sports>). Applications are reviewed by the team captain and team coach. The applications result in a pool of elite runners the Marine Corps can choose from to form competitive running teams for a variety of national and international competitions. The most prominent foot races include a marathon against the British Royal Navy and Marines in Plymouth, England; the U.S. National Cross Country Championships and the Marine Corps Marathon.



**Cutline: All Marine Team prepares for Marathon**

*Philadelphia, Pa., September 20, 2009* -- pictured here are members of the All Marine running team at a recently completed half-marathon, the Philadelphia Distance Run (L-R back row) Capt. Maureen Carr, LtCol. Jeff Blackwell, CWO2 Marlin Mullins, Sgt. Billy Van Vianen, 2ndLt Adam Crandall, Sgt. Ryan Ellis, SSgt. Tyler Hubbard; (L-R front row) Capt. Michelle Macander, team captain Col. Steven Peterson and Capt. Rick Jennings.