

# 3rd Annual Mississippi Blues Marathon & Half Marathon

Presented by:



BlueCross BlueShield  
of Mississippi

January 9, 2010

**For Immediate Release  
January 8, 2010**

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## **Over 600 Run the Mississippi Blues Marathon and Half-Marathon “First Wave” Race**

**Jackson, MS** -- A total of 646 military personnel took part in the Mississippi Blues Marathon and Half-Marathon’s “First Wave” race on Monday, January 4 at Contingency Operating Base Speicher in Tikrit, Iraq. The race was organized in cooperation with Mississippi soldiers serving at the base and officers of the Mississippi National Guard in Jackson. Runners had the opportunity to compete in a marathon, half-marathon and a special 2.62 mile run.

The top three finishers for the marathon were:

Place	Name	Unit	Time
1	CPT Buddy Longhenry	B Troop 2-107 CAV Ohio National Guard	3:09:46
2	SGT Norman Mininger	47th Combat Support Hospital Ft. Lewis, WA	3:14:57
3	MAJ Brent McCullouch	HHC 155 Brigade Combat Team Mississippi National Guard	3:26:56

The top three finishers in the half-marathon were:

Place	Name	Unit	Time
1	SSG Roderick Reeves	3rd Infantry Division	1:22:36
2	SRA Andrew Bazzetta	US Air Force	1:26:25
3	1LT Jason Odom	1-98 CAV Mississippi Army Guard	1:27:10

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“This was an incredibly exciting event to be involved with, and we were proud to give these soldiers the support they asked for,” said John Sewell, Director of Corporate Communications with Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi, presenting sponsor of the marathon. “This brought a new and very special component to this year’s race.”

Packets of material were mailed to the base for the runners, including engraved harmonicas, a cd of the soundtrack for the documentary “M for Mississippi” and special t-shirts that read “I Ran in Iraq.” The t-shirts will be available for \$15 at the marathon expo at the Mississippi Convention Center on January 7-8, with proceeds going to the Mississippi Military Family Relief Fund.

“We are proud that our Mississippi Soldiers and members of other units in Iraq had the opportunity to be a part of this prestigious event,” said Maj. Gen. William L. Freeman, Jr., the adjutant general of the Mississippi National Guard. “Our congratulations go out to the winners and all who participated in the race.”

Video footage of the soldiers will be used as a countdown for the race in Jackson, beginning in front of the Old Capitol at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 9. Runners from 46 states and five countries are registered for the 3rd Annual Mississippi Blues Marathon and Half-Marathon. For more details, visit [www.msbluesmarathon.com](http://www.msbluesmarathon.com).