

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release



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Chevron Houston Marathon Race Weekend Expands to Afghanistan *Texas Military Unit to Stage Simultaneous Race on Forward Operating Base in Ghazni*

HOUSTON (Jan. 6, 2011) – In coordination with the Houston Marathon Committee, the Texas Agribusiness Development Team (TX ADT-IV), a unit of volunteer soldiers helping the Afghan government rebuild its agricultural system in Ghazni, is staging its own event during the Chevron Houston Marathon race weekend 8,000 miles away in the mountainous region on race day January 30.

“When we received word of this opportunity from a local participant serving overseas, we did not hesitate to move forward,” said Wade Morehead, executive director of the Houston Marathon Committee. “We are excited about this opportunity to show our gratitude to those who serve and protect our country, and to unite runners across the globe.”

This year’s international race follows a successful Chevron Houston Marathon held in Fallujah, Iraq in 2007.

Second lieutenant and Texas native Laura Childs came up with the idea to host a simultaneous race on the Forward Operating Base (FOB) on the same day her husband, Craig Childs of Katy, Texas, will be running the Aramco Houston Half Marathon.

“This race will be bittersweet,” said Childs. “I love the idea of running here while Craig is there, but I’m sure it will make me miss him even more.”

Nearly 150 registered runners, including 34 runners from Texas, will represent four countries including the U.S., Poland, Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Soldiers and civilian workers will run on a two-mile loop course on FOB Ghazni about 7,000 feet above sea level in eastern Afghanistan, running just over six laps to complete the 13.1-mile race. Because the base consists of large chunks of gravel, the course will take place on a small airfield with packed sand. Runners will have to clear the way if helicopters need to take off.

The Afghanistan race will start simultaneously with the Chevron Houston Marathon and Aramco Houston Half Marathon at 7:00 a.m. CST, 5:30 p.m. Afghanistan time. To compensate for the 10.5 hour time difference, runners in Afghanistan will run at night when temperatures are between 20 and 30 degrees Fahrenheit, and snow possibly up to three feet deep – a far cry from the anticipated milder conditions in Houston.

Childs said the base is doing everything it can to recreate the excitement and atmosphere of the Chevron Houston Marathon race weekend. The Afghanistan course will have security posts as well as aid and refreshment stations. The Houston Marathon Committee has shipped official race bibs, medals and Under Armour finisher shirts to distribute on race day.

FOB Ghazni will also host a post-race party celebration in which the General will award the top three male and female finishers with trophies.

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About the Houston Marathon Committee, Inc.

Established in 1972, the Houston Marathon Committee, Inc. (HMC), a Running USA Founding Member, annually organizes the nation's premier winter marathon, half-marathon, 5K and kids' fun run. In 2010, more than 30,000 runners participated in four race weekend events organized by 7,500 volunteers, creating Houston's largest single-day sporting event. In addition to hosting numerous world-renowned road races, including the USA Men's and Women's Half Marathon Championships since 2005 and 2007 respectively, and the 1992 U.S. Women's Olympic Marathon Trials, HMC will host the 2012 U.S. Men's and Women's Olympic Team Trials – Marathon on January 14, 2012.

For more information, visit houstonmarathon.com or call 713.957.3453.

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