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Troop Runs Planned Overseas

U.S. & NATO Forces Unite to Honor Pat Tillman

TEMPE, Ariz. (March 21, 2011)...As the Pat Tillman Foundation gears up for the 7th Annual Pat's Run on Saturday, April 16, in Tempe, Ariz., thousands of troops stationed overseas will conduct their own version of "Pat's Run" to honor Pat Tillman's legacy and raise funds for the Tillman Military Scholars program.

Currently, seven known Troop Runs are planned throughout the world. Four will take place at U.S. foreign-soil bases in Afghanistan and one each in Turkey, Kuwait and Kyrgyzstan. The largest Troop Run is set for Kandahar Airfield (KAF) in Afghanistan. More than 500 troops from the United States and NATO Forces will unite to participate in Pat's Run, shadowing the event from almost 8,000 miles away and paying tribute to an American hero, Pat Tillman.

Judith Treadway, Troop Run captain at Kandahar Airfield stated, "We have troops from all over the world stationed here and everyone feels the same way about Pat Tillman. His legacy should never be forgotten and this event is our way of remembering him. It's a time for us to reflect on the sacrifices he made while serving on the same ground we're standing on."

The 4.2 mile run will begin at 6 a.m. on April 16 on the KAF Boardwalk stage area. All participants will be wearing a Pat's Run race shirt. The proceeds raised directly impact hundreds of veterans, active servicemembers and their dependents through educational scholarships at colleges and universities nationwide.

U.S. Army Engineer, Edward Mears from Chandler, Ariz., will be participating in Pat's Run at Camp Eggers in Afghanistan, along with approximately 70 other servicemembers from NATO countries.

He recalls, "I was serving in Iraq in 2004 when Pat Tillman died in Afghanistan. He excelled in the NFL and Army and like so many servicemembers he made sacrifices. It's an honor to carry our flag and run with my fellow Army Reserve soldiers to honor Pat and celebrate the

opportunities we have in America. The Troop Run is a personal duty for me to continue the tradition and also remind my friends to not forget the sacrifices of our comrades.”

Major Mears will return to Chandler this summer after spending a year in Afghanistan and plans to participate in Pat’s Run in Tempe in 2012.

About the Pat Tillman Foundation

Family and friends established the Pat Tillman Foundation in 2004, following Pat’s death while serving with the 75th Ranger Regiment in Afghanistan. Created to honor Pat’s legacy and pay tribute to his commitment to leadership and service, the Pat Tillman Foundation is a national leader in providing educational support and resources to veterans, active servicemembers and their dependents. Inspired by Pat’s attributes of leadership, passion for education and spirit of service, the Foundation annually awards educational scholarships through the Tillman Military Scholars program. To date, the Foundation has provided over \$1.3 million in scholarships to 111 active servicemembers, veterans and dependents. For more information, visit www.patillmanfoundation.org.

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