

Army War College officer to run Boston Marathon

By Carol Kerr 05 April 2018



Hearn at Xterra, Hawaii -- nice place to train.



Hearn introduces the family to USO San Diego, this year.



The long road to Boston passed through a Hawaii Trail Race, 2009.

RELATED ARTICLES

04 Apr 2018

Central VA Veterans Running with

When Jason Hearn runs the Boston Marathon April 16, his head and heart will be with the USO and all of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines who are helped by the USO every day.

Hearn serves at the Army War College at Carlisle, Pa., as the director of military personnel, G1. His professional responsibility for military personnel is matched by his personal commitment to the USO.

In a first for the Boston Marathon, USO New England created a three-person team to honor USO volunteers and raise awareness for the USO. This major marathon is held on Patriots' Day on April

Congratulations, you've been selected!

"It was a phone call out of the blue," he said. The USO chose Jason Hearn after a referral from a running buddy and a review his online running history of 2 full marathons, 30 half-marathons and many other races.

"I've been running in the Army for 24 years – and seriously, for about 10 years," he said, mentioning his track record of about 30 half-marathons and two full marathons. "For me, this is a first. I've never run Boston, and don't know anyone who has. I had already been training for the Washington DC, Rock and Roll Marathon in March, and continued my training to prepare for Boston in April."

"I'll be chasing the top runners in the world at this event. I know I'll never catch them, but I will finish and I will be honored to represent the USO and make the most of this opportunity.

"Holidays away from home, entertainment in theater, even just a little pick-me-up while deployed -- these services go a long way to let the troops know that what they do is appreciated," he said.

"There's nothing special about me. I put my head down and run because that prepares me for the physical demands of military life. And most of my colleagues are just like that, trying to do the right thing, one day at a time, one step at a time.

"So, I'll be the regular guy running because I get to bring attention to the USO mission.

"People work hard to qualify for the Boston Marathon and I know this is a gift. I'd like to repay the USO's faith in me by bringing attention to their

mission. That's the special thing about Boston. So many people run in memory of a loved one or for a special cause.

"The USO is the ultimate inspiration. Any casual traveler knows about the USO lounges in airports, but only a military member knows how important it is for us to find a break from the physical and mental strain of preparing to deploy and saying goodbye to family. USO keeps us connected to home.

"USO invests in the morale of those who need it most."

U.S. Army War College News Archives