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## **AMERICAN ODYSSEY RELAY (AOR) ANNOUNCES FIRST ANNUAL COMMANDERS' CUP**

*Military competition will add a new dimension at the third annual AOR*

WASHINGTON—The American Odyssey Relay (AOR) proudly announces the addition of the Commanders' Cup to the third annual relay on April 29-30, 2011. This competition will award a commemorative trophy to the military service member team with the fastest time.

"From the starting line in Gettysburg, Pa. to the finish line in the nation's capital, this race has captured the imagination of members of the military," said Bob Fleshner, race director of AOR. "We had a 30 percent growth in military team registrations from 2009 to 2010, and we expect even greater military participation in 2011."

AOR has also renewed and expanded its partnership with Hope For The Warriors®, a non-profit committed to enhancing the lives of U.S. service members and their families who have been affected by injuries or death in the line of duty. A portion of the profits from all race registrations will be donated to Hope For The Warriors®, which also plans to enter teams in the 2011 AOR to compete and raise funds.

"We are honored to be partnering with American Odyssey," said Robin Kelleher, President, Hope For The Warriors®. "We are looking forward to creating opportunities for our wounded heroes to engage their competitive spirit at such an historic and memorable event."

The ties between the AOR and US service members can be traced back to before the first annual race. Soldier Jessica Ohle, who was then serving in Baghdad, contacted Fleshner about competing in the race upon her return. AOR coordinated the entry and gave Jessica the opportunity to reunite and work alongside fellow soldiers once again.

### **About The American Odyssey Relay**

The American Odyssey Relay is a 200-mile running competition in which teams of twelve run from Gettysburg to Washington, DC. The renowned course takes competitors "where the locals run," winding through American Civil War landmarks, scenic country roads and past the DC monuments. For more information about the AOR please visit [www.AmericanOdysseyRelay.com](http://www.AmericanOdysseyRelay.com).

For more information about Hope For The Warriors® please visit [www.hopeforthewarriors.org](http://www.hopeforthewarriors.org).