



NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD

NEWS RELEASE

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**NATIONAL GUARD MARATHON RUNNERS
RETURN TO LINCOLN MARATHON**

**Released by
Maj. Scott Ingalsbe**

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LINCOLN, Neb. – More than 230 Airmen and Soldiers representing the National Guard from all 50 states, three U.S. territories and the District of Columbia are slated to run the Lincoln National Guard Marathon, May 7. Organizers say it is the first time in more than three decades that “all 54” will be represented in the field of National Guard competitors coming to Lincoln.

According to the National Guard Military Competitions Coordinator, Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Stephens of the Nebraska Army National Guard, this year’s race will once again serve as the time trial for runners hoping to qualify for the “All Guard” Marathon Team that will travel to many more races over the next two years throughout the United States and possibly abroad.

The National Guard Military Competitions Program now includes a Marathon Team and an Endurance Team, both of which exist to promote physical fitness, self-discipline and esprit de corps among National Guard members while assisting recruiting and retention efforts at each community where they compete, Stephens said.

The field of more than 230 Guard members Sunday will include a record number of women with 63 registered for this year’s marathon, according to Capt. Daniel Kysela, Pennsylvania National Guard Marathon Team coordinator.

“Personally, I think this event is a great representation of the National Guard. The marathon is a community event where we are competing right alongside people for whom we serve,” Kysela said. “No other military competition is held right within the community, and our program showcases how the Guard is made up of everyday people who also happen to be part time service members.”

Kysela said he first tried out for the team in 2010 and has returned to Lincoln almost every year since. “I know we all look forward to it every year and consistently see retired Guard runners return for it, too,” he said.

In addition to those competing for spots on the “All Guard” Marathon Team, 60 members of the Nebraska National Guard plan to complete the half marathon, including several who will be in uniform and carrying ruck sacks.