

## MCMO to Debut New Virtual Vietnam 196.7 Miler in 2022

*Event highlights military operation commanded by MCM co-founder*

**QUANTICO, VA (September 23, 2021)** – The Marine Corps Marathon Organization (MCMO) announced today the Vietnam 196.7 Miler, a new virtual event to run from February 1 to March 18, 2022. Runners ages 10 and up will have the choice to tackle the distance solo or as part of a team.

The distance of 196.7 miles was specifically chosen to highlight the year of Operation Prairie II, the military operation commanded by Brigadier General Michael P. Ryan. Eight years later as a Major General, Ryan would co-found the Marine Corps Marathon (MCM), along with Colonel James L. Fowler, to promote the United States Marine Corps and serve as a recruitment tool.

“We had great success with our virtual Operation Desert Storm run in early 2021 and this race allows us to bring that same structure to households domestically and internationally, while honoring one of our co-founders and Hall of Fame members,” said Rick Nealis, director of MCMO. “We consistently strive to bring new fitness challenges to our running community and believe that the Vietnam 196.7 Miler will serve as a great kickoff event for our 2022 racing year.”

The race will feature a map accessible through an app designed specifically for the Vietnam 196.7 Miler. The map will show runners traveling a portion of the distance from Quảng Trị to Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City). For every four miles obtained, participants will receive historic Vietnam War facts. Ambitious runners are welcome to complete the total distance between the two cities for a total of 610 miles. Those who choose to continue past the 196.7 distance will receive facts every 25 miles.

Registration will open September 29 at [www.marinemarathon.com](http://www.marinemarathon.com) and entries cost \$47 per individual. There is no limit to the number of participants on a team. Participants will have until March 18 to complete the total mileage. Each participant will be mailed a long sleeve crew neck shirt, a coin and a postcard.

*For more information, please contact Kristen Loflin, Public Relations Coordinator at MCMO, at 703-987-3191 or [Kristen.Loflin@usmc-mccs.org](mailto:Kristen.Loflin@usmc-mccs.org).*

### **About the Marine Corps Marathon Organization Event Series:**

*The Vietnam 196.7 Miler is part of the MCM Event Series hosted by the Marine Corps Marathon Organization. The MCM Event Series feature a variety of distances and fun challenges on or near Marine Corps Base Quantico. No federal or Marine Corps endorsement is implied. Connect with the Marine Corps Marathon on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. #RunWithTheMarines*