



NEWS RELEASE



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Release Number: 034-11
Sept. 15, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HSL-42 and VP-16 compete in the Chevy Fireball Run Challenge

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After more than 26,000 votes were cast, two race teams from tenant commands aboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville beat out six other military teams for the right to compete in the USO Chevy Fireball Run Challenge starting in Melbourne, Fla., Sept. 24.

Known as the "Proud Warriors" and "Road Racers," the two teams will be driving more than 3,500 miles through the southeastern United States, stopping in 18 cities to complete motor sport challenges, and finishing one week later in Gulfport, Miss., Oct. 1.

The race is also designed to raise awareness of and recover missing children in America, with each duo placing and posting more than 1,000 missing children posters along the planned route. To date, the race has aided in the recovery of 36 missing children.

"It was important for me to do this because it is a great cause. I am a parent, and I know that if my child was lost I would want all the help I could get to bring them home safe and sound," Chief Structural Mechanic (AW) Brian Rempe said.

Rempe is racing for the "Proud Warriors" along with Aviation Maintenance Administrationman 1st Class (AW) Brian Hughes. Both Rempe and Hughes are

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attached to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 42.

Chief Warrant Officer Stephen Ditamore and Lt. j.g. Rodrigo Cunha, attached to Patrol Squadron (VP) 16, are taking part in the Fireball Run as the "Road Racers," the second military team chosen this year to race against 41 others and raise awareness for missing children.

Each team will be driving a new Chevy Camaro SS I to different cities where they they taking part in motorsport challenges and charity events with the other 41 teams. The assigned mission must be completed before moving on to the next city and reaching the finish line.

"I think we are both looking forward to the motorsports challenges during the Fireball Run," Hughes said. "Chief Rempe has drag racing experience, while I have experienced with road course-type racing. It doesn't get any better than getting to do something we love, learning something, and bringing attention to a great cause."

The Chevy Fireball Run was inspired by America's first racing celebrity, NASCAR driver Glenn "Fireball" Roberts. The first challenge was in September 2007, with 65 teams traveling from Orlando, Fla., cross country to Beverly Hills, Calif. The Inaugural Fireball Run Transcontinental Rally helped recover 23 of the 65 missing children from posters that they posted along the way. The Fireball Run Challenge has also donated books to children's hospitals and computers to the Boys and Girls Club of America.

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110905-N-RJ834-010 - JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (Sept. 5, 2011) -- Team "Proud Warriors," Chief Structural Mechanic (AW) Brian Rempe and Aviation Maintenance Administrationman 1st Class (AW) Brian Hughes, attached to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 42, are standing alongside the new red 2011 Chevy Camaro SS that they will be driving in the Fireball Run Challenge to find missing children of America. (U.S. Navy photo by Yeoman 3rd Class Tamara Vaughn/Released)

