

Department of the Army  
Headquarters, United States Army  
Training and Doctrine Command  
Fort Monroe, Virginia 23651-1047

TRADOC Regulation 672-8

3 September 2008

Decorations, Awards, and Honors


**MARGARET C. CORBIN AWARD**

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FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

DAVID P. VALCOURT  
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army  
Deputy Commanding General/  
Chief of Staff

  
RANDALL L. MACKEY  
Colonel, GS  
Deputy Chief of Staff, G-6

**History.** This publication is a new U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) regulation.

**Summary.** This regulation provides guidance on the responsibilities, policies, and procedures for nominating TRADOC spouses for the Margaret C. Corbin Award.

**Applicability.** This regulation applies to all elements of TRADOC, to include HQ TRADOC, senior commander installations, schools and centers, subordinate commands, activities, and units, including those elements not on an installation with a TRADOC senior commander.

**Proponent and exception authority.** The proponent of this regulation is the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1/4. There will not be any exceptions or waivers to the policies and procedures prescribe in this regulation.

**Army management control process.** This regulation does not contain management control provisions.

**Supplementation.** Supplementation of this regulation and establishment of command and local forms is prohibited without prior approval from the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1/4 (ATBO-BP), 5D North Gate Road, Fort Monroe, VA 23651-1048.

**Suggested improvements.** Users send comments and suggested improvements on Department of the Army (DA) Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) directly to Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1/4 (ATBO-BP), 5D North Gate Road, Fort Monroe, VA 23651-1048. Suggested improvements may also be submitted using DA Form 1045 (Army Ideas for Excellence Program (AIEP) Proposal).

**Distribution.** This publication is available only on the TRADOC Homepage at <http://www.tradoc.army.mil/tpubs/supplndx.htm>.

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## **Chapter 1 Introduction**

### **1-1. Purpose**

To establish policy and procedures for the processing, acquisition, and award of the Margaret C. Corbin (MCC) Award within U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC).

### **1-2. References**

Required and related publications and prescribed and referenced forms are listed in [appendix A](#).

### **1-3. Explanation of abbreviations and terms**

Abbreviations and special terms used in this regulation are explained in the [glossary](#).

### **1-4. Responsibilities**

a. TRADOC Commander is the approval authority for the MCC Award.

b. Deputy Chief of Staff (DCS), G-1/4 will-

(1) Exercise overall program administration at the Army command level.

(2) Ensure subordinate commands have procedures in place to administer the program at local level within the appropriate command sergeant major (CSM) office and will request MCC Awards from TRADOC, AG (ATBO-BP), 5D North Gate Road, Fort Monroe, VA 23651-1048.

(3) Prepare the MCC Award certificate (see fig B-2) and provide the medal set (see fig B-1) to each unit for ceremonial purposes.

(4) Coordinate with the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) office in order to use non-appropriated funds for the purchase of the MCC Award certificates and medal sets.

c. Commanders/Commandants/Directors at HQ TRADOC, senior commander installations, schools and centers, subordinate commands, activities, and units, including those elements not on an installation with a TRADOC senior commander will-

(1) Comply with regulations and instructions when preparing the MCC Award within their organization.

(2) Nominate personnel for the MCC Award in accordance with chapter 2 of this regulation.

(3) Appoint an appropriate CSM office (responsibility will not be delegated to lower levels) to review MCC Award packets in conjunction with the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club (SAMC) selection boards each quarter.

## **Chapter 2**

### **Policy and Procedures**

#### **2-1. Eligibility**

Spouses (male and female) of Soldiers of all ranks assigned to TRADOC elements; active Army, U.S. Army National Guard, and U.S. Army Reserve are eligible. All volunteers will have equal eligibility without consideration of military member's rank or position.

#### **2-2. Administration**

a. The MCC Award is a prestigious award to recognize volunteer service that makes a substantial contribution and has a positive impact on the quality of life for Soldiers and their families.

b. The MCC Award is not part of the Department of the Army awards program and should not compete with other established awards. It will not be used in lieu of awards for commendations, meritorious service, routine departure, or as an interim award while awaiting Department of the Army awards.

c. The MCC Award is not a short term or single event recognition.

d. An individual may receive only one MCC Award.

e. MCC Award selection process will be in five phases (the first three correspond with the SAMC selection process):

(1) Phase 1 – Nomination: Anyone may nominate an eligible individual to the unit senior NCO. The senior NCO will screen and evaluate nomination packets prior to forwarding to initial SAMC selection board. Nomination packets will include the individual's identification, documentation of volunteer acts/service, recommendations, and justification for nomination, see figure B-3 for the MCC Award recommendation memorandum.

(2) Phase 2 – SAMC initial selection board: The nomination packet(s) will be forwarded for review to the unit level initial SAMC selection board conducted under the direction of the unit senior NCO. MCC Award nomination packets selected to continue will be forwarded to the SAMC final selection board (see fig B-4 for the MCC Award endorsement memorandum).

(3) Phase 3 – SAMC final selection board: The final selection board will review MCC Award nomination packets and determine if the volunteer warrants selection for the MCC Award. The final selection board need not select candidates if they do not meet required standards. Nomination packets of selected volunteers will be retained by the final selection board: a memo/letter will be forwarded to the TRADOC CSM with SAMC board and MCC Award results (see fig B-5) for the MCC Award board results endorsement memorandum.

(4) Phase 4 – Award processing: TRADOC DCS, G-1/4 will provide the MCC Award certificate and medal set to each unit for ceremonial purposes.

(5) Phase 5 – Award ceremony: TRADOC elements will present the MCC Award to recipients in conjunction with the local SAMC Award induction ceremony. When the MCC Award recipient is not able to attend the SAMC Award induction ceremony, the organization will choose a proper venue worthy of this prestigious award to present the MCC Award.

f. During phases 1 through 3, nomination packets not meeting required standards for the MCC Award will be reviewed to determine appropriate local recognition for the volunteer's contribution(s).

### **2-3. Criteria**

a. Eligible spouses who have distinguished themselves by outstanding volunteer service contributing to the mission of the Army and to the welfare of the Army family may be nominated for the MCC Award.

b. The intent of this award is to recognize those eligible spouses whose service to our country is in the form of volunteering and is often “behind the scenes.” Their way of life is marked by efforts to improve their communities and enhance the overall military lifestyle.

c. Volunteer should be an active member/supporter of a unit family readiness group or an individual who actively supports (in a clearly distinguishable manner) a military organization that does not have an organized family readiness group.

d. Volunteer service must directly benefit Soldiers and/or their families or be readily identified as bringing great credit to the Army family. Volunteer service in the civilian community may be included in the nomination packet and should be included if it benefits Soldiers and their families.

e. Level of individual sacrifice and dedication should be considered. Merit/quality/impact of volunteer accomplishment(s)/contribution(s) should also be considered. The length of time spent in a volunteer position or number of volunteer hours may be included but are not required. Quality, not quantity, should be the rule.

f. Volunteer service may be to/at several installations/units of assignment.

g. The required number of areas/agencies of volunteer service is one or more.

h. Volunteer must not have received a monetary incentive for acts or services being considered for award.

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## **Appendix A References**

### **Section I**

#### **Required Publications**

ARs, DA pamphlets, and DA forms are available at <http://www.usapa.army.mil/>. TRADOC publications and forms are available at <http://www.tradoc.army.mil/publications.htm>.

This section contains no entries.

### **Section II**

#### **Related Publications**

A related publication is a source of additional information. The user does not have to read a related reference to understand this publication.

AR 672-20

Decorations, Awards and Honors

### **Section III**

#### **Prescribed Form**

This section contains no entries.

### **Section IV**

#### **Referenced Forms**

This section contains no entries.

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## **Appendix B**

### **Margaret C. Corbin (MCC)**

#### **B-1. Biography of MCC**

Margaret C. Corbin was born on November 12, 1751, near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. As a result of an Indian raid in 1756, Margaret's father was killed, and her mother was taken captive. Fortunately, Margaret and her brother escaped the fate of her parents while they were visiting their uncle who had adopted and raised them.

In 1772 she married John Corbin, a Virginia farmer. Three years later, John enlisted in the First Company of the Pennsylvania Artillery under the command of Captain Thomas Proctor. Margaret, who refused to be left at home, rolled up her belongings in a blanket and followed him. Margaret's devotion to the American cause allowed her to become a camp follower. In this position, like many other wives who came along, she was needed for cooking, washing, laundry, and nursing wounded Soldiers, as well as living with the problems that had arisen in military camp life.

Margaret was given the nickname Captain Molly, as was the title for other wives who were camp followers and shared similar duties. She was occasionally confused with Molly Pitcher (Mary Ludwig Hays) who was at the Battle of Monmouth in 1778.

John's company was ordered to New York to see action. On November 16, 1776, the British and Hessians mounted a joint attack on Fort Washington in northern Manhattan. At the time of the assault, Captain Pierce, who had been in command of the Forest Hill (Fort Tryon) fortifications, ordered Corbin's artillery to hold off the attacking Hessians with what few cannons they had.

During the 4-hour battle, every hand was needed to man the cannon and muskets. Margaret helped in the laborious work of helping out where needed. Men were falling dead around the Corbins. John was killed instantly when a Hessian musket ball found its mark.

Margaret stepped into John's place by cleaning, loading, and firing the cannon with such skill and vigor that she caught the attention of the officers and men of Corbin's company as one of the deadliest gunners who opposed the Hessians as they approached the hill. Because of her aim and accuracy, Margaret's position drew the attention of the 10 field cannons of the Hessians. This event gave her the recognition as the first woman Soldier in the American Army.

In the time that had elapsed, Hessian guns found their mark. The last American cannons, which were Margaret's, were silenced. The enemy had advanced to the American ramparts. As the defenders were driven back, the dead and dying were left behind and were examined by doctors of the British and Hessian victors. To their surprise, Margaret was found alive, and her being there had excited some interest because she was the only woman there.

Margaret was severely wounded with three musket balls and grapeshot. Her left arm was almost severed by these wounds, her chest had been mangled, and her jaw was badly lacerated. Molly was spared being bayoneted. One question that is still left unanswered is why she did not bleed to death on the battlefield or die of gangrene.

After some surgical care, Margaret and other wounded Soldiers were paroled and ferried across the Hudson to Fort Lee, New Jersey. From there, she and the others were transported in a straw-filled jolting cart to an Army hospital in Philadelphia. Margaret never fully recovered from her wounds and was unable to use her left arm for the rest of her life.

The Philadelphia Society of Women considered erecting a monument in Margaret's honor. When the society met with Margaret, they were shocked to find out that she was a hard drinking, impoverished veteran and cancelled the memorial to the first woman heroine of the Battle of New York.

On June 26, 1776, the state of Pennsylvania gave her \$30 to relieve her necessities due to her disabled condition. Margaret later received a lifetime disability pension of one-half pay on July 6, 1779, from the Continental Congress, making her the first woman to obtain such a commitment from the government. She also received a suit of clothes and entered the Invalid Regiment at West Point. There had been correspondence between General Henry Knox and Quartermaster William Price between 1782 and 1790 indicating the fact that Margaret needed special care, being that she was unable to bathe and dress herself. This was proof that she was at West Point during this period. She had been placed in the care of a Mrs. Randall who lived in Buttermilk Falls (now known as Highland Falls).

Margaret had a lot of trouble integrating into the community. She was rebuffed by the ladies of the town because of her uncleanness and disagreeable temper. Margaret spent most of her days at the post smoking her pipe and finding companionship among the Soldiers.

In 1800, Margaret died just prior to her birthday and was buried in the highlands above the Hudson River. Her grave had a crude stone marker. Her life and death would have gone into



oblivion if not for the stories that were handed down by local villagers. The New York State Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution verified Margaret's records that recognized her heroism and service to the United States in 1926 at the West Point Archives and through the papers of General Henry Knox. The overgrown grave was found with the help of a retired riverboat captain who claimed that his grandfather helped with the burial in 1800.

Her body was exhumed, and a West Point surgeon verified that the skeleton was that of Margaret Corbin. The verification was the result of a postmortem showing the left side of the face and left shoulder; chest and upper arm were badly battered.

The story was reported in the March 18, 1926, issue of the New York Sun. On April 14, 1926, her remains were reinterred with full military honors at the cemetery of the United States Military Academy at West Point.

In Fort Tryon Park, a plaque commemorates the Battle of Fort Washington and Margaret Corbin's involvement. This plaque reads as follows:

*1776 Hudson Fulton Celebration Commission 1909. On the hilltop stood Fort Tryon, the northernmost outer work of Fort Washington and its gallant defense against the Hessian troops by the Maryland and Virginia Regiments, 16 November 1776, which was shared by Margaret Corbin, the first woman to take a Soldier's place in the war for liberty, erected under the auspices of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society through the generosity of C.K.G. Billings.*

In fitting tribute to Margaret Corbin, the citizens of Washington Heights and Inwood dedicated the drive within the park and the circle at the southern entrance of the park, where Fort Washington Avenue ends, in her name. At the circle is a plaque that reads:

*Margaret Cochran Corbin. During the British-Hessian attack on Fort Washington, 16 November 1776, Margaret Corbin was wounded when she filled the post of her husband, John Corbin, who was killed while loading artillery. The first woman to fight as a Soldier in the Revolutionary War, she is buried at West Point. Chamber of Commerce of Washington Heights and Inwood 1982.*

There is a third plaque in the community that honors Margaret Corbin that few people are aware of. This plaque was cast by the Daughters of the American Revolution and is within the Holyrood Church on Fort Washington Avenue and 179th Street. This plaque reads as follows:

*To the glory of God and in patriotic remembrance of Margaret Corbin at the Battle of Fort*

*Washington, November 16, 1776. She stood by her husband, John Corbin, artilleryman during the Hessian assault, and after he was killed, she served his gun until she was wounded. Erected by the Mary Washington Colonial Chapter.*

**B-2. MCC Award Emblem**

Figure B-1 is the MCC Award emblem.



**Figure B-1. MCC Award emblem**

**B-3. MCC Award Certificate**

Figure B-2 is the MCC Award certificate.

**B-4. MCC Award Recommendation Memorandum**

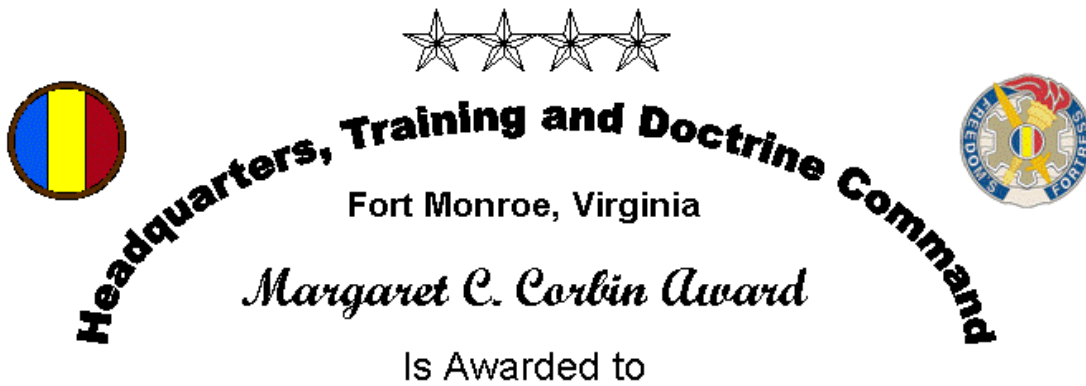
Figure B-3 is the MCC Award recommendation memorandum.

**B-5. MCC Award Endorsement Memorandum**

Figure B-4 is the MCC Award endorsement memorandum.

**B-6. MCC Award Board Results Memorandum**

Figure B-5 is the MCC Award board results memorandum.



**For demonstrating dedicated, exemplary volunteerism as an outstanding, totally committed military spouse working tirelessly to improve the quality of life for Soldiers and their Families.**

*In the unmitigated belief in Freedom, Margaret C. Corbin served as an extraordinary model of dedication to duty when she fought tenaciously alongside her husband in the American Revolutionary War. Her husband was an assistant gunner at Fort Washington, New York. On November 16, 1776 the fort was attacked by British and Hessian troops. During this battle, the gunner was killed and Mrs. Corbin's husband took charge of the cannon. Mrs. Corbin bravely stepped forward to assist her husband as assistant gunner in defending the fort. During the battle her husband was also killed. With no time to grieve, Margaret continued loading and firing the cannon. Margaret Corbin was then wounded by enemy fire--tearing her shoulder, mangling her chest, and lacerating her jaw. She was moved to the rear where she received first aid and ferried across the river to Fort Lee. She was then transported further in a jolting wagon to Philadelphia. She never recovered fully and was left without use of her left arm for the rest of her life.*

*In 1779, the Continental Congress granted Mrs Corbin a pension due to her distinguished bravery, and she continued to be included on the regimental muster list until the end of the war in 1783.*

*In 1926, the Daughters of the American Revolution had her remains moved from an obscure grave and re-interred with her other Soldiers behind the Old Cadet Chapel at West Point. Margaret C. Corbin was "the first American woman to take a Soldier's part in the War for Liberty."*

*Through her actions, Margaret C. Corbin forged in history the true and complete definition of Loyalty, Commitment to Family, Courage, and Sacrifice for the Freedom of this Country.*

On this \_\_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 DAVID M. BRUNER  
 CSM, U.S. Army  
 Command Sergeant Major

\_\_\_\_\_  
 WILLIAM S. WALLACE  
 General, U.S. Army  
 Commanding General

Figure B-2. MCC Award certificate

## RECOMMENDATION MEMORANDUM

*(Type on appropriate headquarters letterhead.)*

*(Office Symbol)*

*(date)*

MEMORANDUM FOR

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Margaret C. Corbin Award

1. I strongly recommend Mrs./Mr. *(name)* for the Margaret C. Corbin Award.
2. Mrs./Mr. *(name)* has been a dedicated and outstanding volunteer for *(installation and unit)* and other surrounding communities since his/her arrival to the *(command)*. Her/his commitments to the quality of life for Soldiers and their family members have provided this community a benefit that will continue to reap rewards for years to come. Her/his unfailing willingness to assist in any way possible was instrumental in the success of countless community programs and activities. People said that whenever they needed anything, all they had to do was ask, and Mrs./Mr. *(name)* would be there. She/he is an inspiration to all.
3. Mrs./Mr. *(name's)* selfless, limitless volunteer efforts epitomize the ideal of service to the Nation. Though not a service member, his/her dedication and commitment to children has left an indelible mark on the future of the services. Mrs./Mr. *(name)* has over *(number)* hours of volunteering; helping with local schools, girl and boy scouting, and the family readiness groups. She/he was a leader and an inspiration in every organization and event for which she/he volunteered, which included many local civilian projects. She/he accepted and accomplished as her/his personal mission, improving life and sense of community for all members of military families in the community.
4. Mrs./Mr. *(name)* active and eager involvement in countless volunteer activities demonstrated daily her/his intense dedication to the morale and welfare of the military community. Her/his unwavering advocacy of Soldiers and families' benefits, privileges, and support functions was a mainstay in the military's efforts to restore and improve its families' morale and faith in the Army and support of its own. She/he is inspiration to and role model for us all.
5. I know of no other spouse who is more deserving than Mrs./Mr. *(name)*. I highly recommend her/him for the Margaret C. Corbin Award.

*(Signature)*

**Figure B-3. MCC Award recommendation memorandum**

## ENDORSEMENT MEMORANDUM

*(Type on appropriate headquarters letterhead.)*

*(Office Symbol)*

*(date)*

MEMORANDUM FOR

SUBJECT: Endorsement Letter for the Nomination of the Margaret C. Corbin Award for Mrs./Mr. *(name)* in support of Soldiers, Army families, and civilians in the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command

1. I nominate Mrs./Mr. *(name)* for the Margaret C. Corbin Award.
2. The presentation date is *(date)*.
3. Sponsor for this award nomination is the undersigned.

*(Signature)*

**Figure B-4. MCC Award endorsement memorandum**

## BOARD RESULTS MEMORANDUM

*(Type on appropriate headquarters letterhead.)*

*(Office Symbol)*

*(date)*

MEMORANDUM FOR

SUBJECT: Results of (*Quarter*), Fiscal Year 2008 Margaret C. Corbin Selection Board

1. The (*installation*) Margaret C. Corbin board convened at (*time*), (*date*). CSM (*name*) presided as the president and authenticated the decisions of the board members for the candidates to award the Margaret C. Corbin Award. The presentation will be on (*date*).

2. Request Margaret C. Corbin certificate and medallion for the following:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>UNIT</u>
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3. (*Name of the commanding general*) has authorized the approval of the above individual to receive the Margaret C. Corbin Award.

4. The point of contact is SGT Doe, Office of the Division Command Sergeant Major at DSN 680-3819.

*(Signature)*

**Figure B-5. MCC Award board results memorandum**

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### Glossary

#### Section I

#### Abbreviations

CSM	command sergeant major
G-1/4	personnel and logistics
HQ	Headquarters
DCS	deputy chief of staff
MCC	Margaret C. Corbin
TRADOC	U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command
SAMC	Sergeant Audie Murphy Club

**Section II**  
**Terms**

This section contains no entries.

**Section III**  
**Special Abbreviations and Terms**

This section contains no entries.