

Steve Chancellor Receives The Military Police Regimental Association's Silver Order of the Marechaussee.

Steve Chancellor has been awarded The Military Police Regimental Association's Order of the Marechaussee. The Order of the Marechaussee was officially established in 2000 and can only be awarded to those who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, competence, and contribution to the Military Police Corps Regiment over an extended period of time. The award distinguishes a degree of professionalism, high standards of integrity and morality, and esprit de corps consistent with the long-standing history and traditions of the Military Police Regiment. Steve was recognized with the Silver Order of the Marechaussee for his 40 years of extraordinary service as a Military Policeman, active duty Army CID Special Agent and civilian CID Special Agent. Congratulations Steve!!!



History of the Marechaussee and Connection to the US Army Military Police Corps

On June 1, 1778, at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, after the harshest winter the Continental Army ever endured, General George Washington formed a special unit—a troop of light dragoons—Soldiers on horseback. The troop would be called the Marechaussee Corps. The term Marechaussee was adopted from the French term Marecheaux (Marshow), which were the French provost marshal units dating back to the twelfth century. The original troop consisted of

63 men, under the command of Captain Bartholomew Von Heer, a professional Prussian Soldier. The Marechaussee Corps was assigned the duty and responsibility of maintaining order and enforcing the articles of war in the often unruly and sometimes undependable American army.

The Marechaussee Corps was the first military policelike organization in the United States and performed many duties much like Army Military Police of today. While some of their duties did not correspond to our modern Military Police functions, many of their tasks resemble contemporary duties. When the Army was encamped, Soldiers of the Corps patrolled the camp and surrounding area, checking passes and papers in search of spies. They arrested rioters, spies, drunkards, deserters and stragglers, while ejecting merchants attempting to cheat the Soldiers. When the Continental Army was on the move, the Marechaussee Corps patrolled the flanks and rear, watching for spies and stragglers, and safeguarding the baggage and supplies.

As the infantry and cavalry troops went into battle, the men of the Corps patrolled the roads to the rear and on the flanks, guarding against enemy encroachment while searching for stragglers and deserters. At times they would move ahead of the army to locate and protect a crossroads or a river crossing, such as occurred along the Hackensack River in 1780. The men of this early military police organization also participated in combat, fighting with General Nathaniel Greene's army in the victorious Battle of Springfield, New Jersey in June 1780. The next year, the Corps protected General Washington and his headquarters during the siege of Yorktown, the last major battle of the American Revolution. Although the Marechaussee Corps was disbanded in November 1783, the men of that unit established the high standard for behavior and dedication to duty that became the modern-day Military Police motto. They assisted the commander of the Continental Army in maintaining order and safeguarding the rights of the Soldiers. They protected the Continental Army and its supplies in camp, on the move and in combat.

The Soldiers of the Corps defended the nation by capturing spies, establishing discipline in the army, as well as fighting in the ranks. The Soldiers of the Marechaussee Corps were also connected to the crossed flintlock pistols, the symbol of the Military Police Corps. They normally carried a pair of flintlock pistols in holsters on their saddles and used them when necessary. With these strong connections to the Marechaussee Corps, the Army Military Police Corps is proud to claim heritage to the legacy of "The Order of the Marechaussee."