

# Outstanding Soldiers Receive the Order of the Marechausee

*By First Sergeant Dominick Derasmo and Sergeant Jason Kemp*

The first Marechausee Corps was established by General George Washington at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, during the summer of 1778. The force was mounted and accoutred as light Dragoons. Its mission was to apprehend deserters, rioters, and stragglers. In battle, it was posted to the rear to secure fugitives.

Today, the Order of the Marechausee is one of the most prestigious honors bestowed upon members of the Military Police Corps Regiment. Unlike the more common “end of tour” awards and awards that are presented as a result of specific actions, the Order of the Marechausee is granted only to those military police who uphold the highest service traditions, as measured through longevity, continued and dedicated service, and merit. Less than 10 percent of the members of the Military Police Corps Regiment are nominated for the Order of the Marechausee; even fewer are selected and invested into it. Since its inception in 2000, only 981 award recipients have been named.<sup>1</sup>

According to the Military Police Regimental Association, Soldiers who are nominated for the Order of the Marechausee must be serving in the military police career management field (as 31B military police, 31D U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command [USACID] [commonly referred to as “CID”] special agents, or 31E internment/resettlement specialists). Most nominees have served at least 10 years with the Military Police Corps. In addition, both the Soldier and the nominator must be members of the Military Police Regimental Association. A narrative history describing the nominee’s service and accomplishments is submitted to the chief of the Military Police Corps Regiment. If the chief agrees that the Soldier has had a significantly favorable impact on the Military Police Corps, the award is approved.

## 1st Infantry Division

Major Jonathan Doyle, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas, was awarded the esteemed Order of the Marechausee at Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq, on 3 July 2010.

According to Sergeant Major Paul Zedalis, provost marshal sergeant major of the 1st Infantry Division, Major Doyle epitomizes the Army values. “The reason I submitted him for the award was I knew with his background, knowledge, and leadership abilities that he would be awarded the Marechausee.”

As the division provost marshal, Major Doyle serves as the principal advisor to the commanding general and his staff regarding military police-related issues. He also oversees the development and implementation of military police policies and procedures.

According to Major Doyle, earning the Order of the Marechausee is a tremendous honor because it means that he was nominated and selected by other members of the Military Police Corps Regiment. “Being recognized by your peers is one of the highest honors that a person can receive,” he said.

## Connecticut Army National Guard

First Sergeant (now Sergeant Major) Daniel Lawler, 143d Military Police Company (now assigned to the 192d Military Police Battalion) and Master Sergeant (now First Sergeant) Dominick Derasmo, 143d Military Police Company, were invested into the coveted Order of the Marechausee on 7 August 2010. Friends, family, fellow military police, and dignitaries attended the ceremony at the U.S. Army Reserve Center at West Hartford, Connecticut.

Sergeant Major John Carragher, the senior recipient of the Order of the Marechausee and a former member of the 143d Military Police Company (now with Joint Forces Headquarters–Connecticut), submitted the nominations and presided over the investment ceremony. He presented both Soldiers with their medals and certificates.

Sergeant Major Lawler has served as a military policeman with the Connecticut Army National Guard for 17 of his 19 years of service—since his 7 July 1991 arrival at the 143d Military Police Company. He has participated in numerous overseas and domestic missions, including Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Noble Eagle, and Hurricane Katrina relief operations. He has also held every enlisted and leadership position within a military police company.

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First Sergeant Derasmo has served as a military policeman for most of his 20 years of service, which has spanned across all three components of the Army—Regular, Reserve, and National Guard. He has also participated in numerous overseas and domestic missions (including Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Hurricane Katrina relief operations) and has served in virtually every military police company enlisted position.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Lawler and Derasmo joined Sergeant Major Carragher as the only three active Connecticut Army National Guard recipients of the Order of the Marechaussee.

**Endnote:**

<sup>1</sup>Kathy West, historian assistant, U.S. Army Military Police Corps, 11 August 2010.

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