

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND
2050 WORTH ROAD
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6000

MEDCOM Regulation
No. 215-1

15 August 2008

Morale, Welfare, and Recreation
DR. MARY E. WALKER AWARD

Supplementation of this regulation and establishment of forms other than MEDCOM forms are prohibited without prior approval from HQ MEDCOM, ATTN: MCCM

- 1. HISTORY.** This is the second printing of this publication.
- 2. PURPOSE.** The U.S. Army Medical Command (MEDCOM) Dr. Mary E. Walker (DRMEW) Award is a reward for the Army spouses whose achievements and performance merit special recognition. The DRMEW Award is a means of recognizing those who have contributed significantly to the quality of life of Soldiers, exemplifying personal concern for the needs, training, development and welfare of Soldiers, and concern for Families of Soldiers. This regulation provides information and administrative instructions for the MEDCOM Dr. Mary E. Walker Award for outstanding volunteer service, an award beyond the authority of the installation level. A brief biography of Dr. Mary E., Walker is at appendix A, and the HQ MEDCOM Form 552 (Medical Command Dr. Mary E. Walker Award) is at appendix B.
- 3. EXPLANATION OF ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMS.** Abbreviations and special terms used in this publication are explained in the glossary.
- 4. APPLICABILITY.** Spouses (male and female) of Active Army Soldiers of all ranks are eligible. All eligible volunteers will have equal eligibility without consideration of military member's rank or position.
- 5. RESPONSIBILITIES**
 - a. The HQ MEDCOM Command Sergeant Major (CSM) will exercise overall program administration at the major Army command (MACOM) level.

*This regulation supersedes MEDCOM Regulation 215-1, 10 May 2006.

b. The HQ MEDCOM will maintain oversight and monitoring of the DRMEW Award and prepare the following DRMEW Awards for the spouses.

(1) HQ MEDCOM Form 552 will be signed by The Surgeon General and the MEDCOM CSM.

(2) Membership medallion.

c. Subordinate commands will have procedures in place to administer this program at the local level within the appropriate CSM office (responsibility will not be delegated to lower levels). Responsibilities will include reviewing Dr. Mary E. Walker Award nomination packets.

6. POLICY

a. The DRMEW 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 DRMEW Award is not part of the Department of the Army (DA) Awards Program and should not compete with other established awards. It will not be used in lieu of awards for commendation, meritorious service, or routine departure or as an interim award while awaiting DA awards.

c. The DRMEW Award is not a short-term or single event recognition. An individual may receive only one DRMEW Award.

7. PROCEDURES

a. The DRMEW Award selection process will be in three phases (and will correspond with the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club (SAMC) selection process in MEDCOM Reg 215-2).

(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 selection board. Nomination packets will include the individual's identification, documentation of volunteer acts/service, and justification for nomination.

(2) Phase 2. Initial selection board: The nomination packet(s) will be forwarded for review to the unit level initial selection board conducted under the direction of the unit senior NCO. DRMEW Award nomination packets selected to continue will be forwarded to the final selection board along with the board minutes.

(3) Phase 3. Final selection board: The final selection board will be chaired by the regional medical command (RMC) and major subordinate command (MSC) CSM with at least three voting members (CSM/Sergeant Major (SGM)) appointed by the president (RMC/MSC CSM). Board will review DRMEW Award nomination packets and determine if the volunteer warrants selection for the DRMEW Award. Quotas will not be established. The final selection board need not select candidates if they do not meet required standards. Nomination packets of selected volunteers will be retained by final selection board president. The board minutes will be forwarded by the MEDCOM CSM along with the request for presentation materials.

b. At any level of review, nomination packets not meeting required standards for the DRMEW Award will be reviewed to determine appropriate local recognition for the volunteer's contribution(s).

c. The DRMEW Award will be presented at a local induction ceremony or other such ceremony commensurate with this level of award.

8. CRITERIA

a. Eligible personnel 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 DRMEW Award.

b. The intent of this award is to recognize those eligible individuals whose service to our country is in the form of volunteering and is often "behind-the-scenes."

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

d. The volunteer service must directly benefit Soldiers and/or their Families or be readily identified as bringing great credit on 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) 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 being considered for this award must not have received a monetary incentive for acts or contributed volunteer services.

Appendix A

Biography of Dr. Mary E. Walker

Mary Walker always stood out in a crowd. She was born 26 November 1832 in Oswego Town near Oswego, NY. As a child, she was distinguished for her strength of mind and her decision of character. She grew up an independent young woman. She always had an inclination to be useful in the world. A woman of great energy, in her early years, she wore "bloomers," the pantaloon-style garb of the radical feminist of the age. When she graduated, the only female in her class, from Syracuse Medical College in 1855, she became one of the few women physicians in the country. At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, Dr. Walker, then twenty-nine, journeyed to Washington and applied for an appointment as an Army surgeon, much to the shock of the Medical Department, which rejected her with considerable verbosity. Not one to be discouraged, she stayed in Washington, serving as an unpaid volunteer in various camps, and when the patent office was converted into a hospital, she served as assistant surgeon and worked without pay. During that time, she was instrumental in establishing an organization which aided needy women who came to Washington to visit wounded relatives. Dr. Walker met with considerable abuse over her persistent demands to be made a surgeon, but also earned considerable respect for her many works. Meanwhile, she abandoned bloomers and adopted a modified version of male attire, with a calf-length skirt worn over trousers, keeping her hair relatively long and curled so that anyone could know that she was a woman. In November 1862, Walker presented herself at the Virginia headquarters of Major General (MG) Ambrose Burnside and was taken on as a field surgeon, although still on a volunteer basis. She treated the wounded at Warrenton and in Fredericksburg in December 1862; almost a year later, she was in Chattanooga tending the casualties of the Battle of Chickamauga. After the battle, she again requested a commission as an Army doctor. In September 1863, MG George H. Thomas appointed her as an assistant surgeon in the Army of the Cumberland, and she was assigned to the 52nd Ohio Regiment, near Chattanooga, TN; a position in which she served well, wearing a somewhat modified version of the standard surgeon's uniform. Many stories were told of her bravery under fire. However, she served in this capacity for but a short time. In April 1864, she was captured by Confederate troops, having remained behind to tend wounded upon a Union retirement. Charged with being a spy and arrested, her male attire constituting the principal evidence against her, Dr. Walker spent four months in various prisons, subject to much abuse for her "unladylike" occupation and attire, until she was exchanged for a Confederate surgeon on 12 August 1864. Years later, she took great pride in this "man to man" exchange. In October 1864, Walker was granted a contract by the Medical Department as an acting assistant surgeon. Despite her repeated requests for battlefield duty, she was not again sent into the field. She spent the rest of the war as superintendent at a Louisville, KY female prison hospital and at a Clarksville, TN orphanage. Release from government contract

at the end of the war, Walker lobbied for a brevet promotion to major for her services. Secretary of War Edward M. Stanton would not grant the request. President Andrew Johnson asked him if there was some other way to recognize her service. A Medal of Honor was prepared for Walker and presented to her in January 1866. She would wear it every day for the rest of her life. After the war, Dr. Walker remained active in the women's rights movement, and was a crusader against immorality, alcohol and tobacco, and for clothing and election reform. Among her more unusual positions was that there was no need for a women's suffrage act, as women already had the vote as American citizens. Her taste in clothes caused frequent arrests on such charges as "impersonating a man." At one trial, she asserted her right "to dress as I please in free America on those tented fields I have served for four years in the cause of human freedom." The judge dismissed the case and ordered the police never to arrest Walker on the charge again. She left the courtroom to hearty applause. In 1916, Congress revised the Medal of Honor standards to include only "actual combat with an enemy." Several months later, in 1917, the Board of Medal Awards, after reviewing the merits of the awardees of the Civil War awards, ruled Dr. Walker's Medal, as well as those of 910 other recipients, as unwarranted and it was revoked. She died on 21 February 1919, at the age of eighty-six, but Mary Walker was not forgotten. Nearly sixty years after her death, at the urging of a descendant, the Army Board for Correction of Military Records reviewed the case. On 19 June 1977, Army Secretary Clifford L. Alexander approved the recommendation by the Army Board of Correction of Military Records, to restore the Medal of Honor to her. Dr. Mary E. Walker remains on record as the sole female recipient of the Medal of Honor.

*MEDCOM Reg 215-1

Appendix B
HQ MEDCOM Form 552

Appendix B contains the MEDCOM Form 552, Medical Command Dr. Mary E. Walker Award, beginning on the next page.



Medical Command Dr. Mary E. Walker Award

Is Presented To

As an outstanding military spouse for demonstrating dedicated and exemplary volunteerism, that improved the quality of life for Soldiers and their Families.

Dr. Mary E. Walker

Is the only woman in the United States history to receive the Medal of Honor. She became one of the first women physicians in the country in 1855. At the outbreak of war in 1861, Dr. Walker was denied a commission as an Army surgeon because of her gender. She served as an unpaid volunteer in Washington in various military camps and in a hospital for Indiana troops. She was instrumental in establishing an organization which aided needy women who came to Washington to visit wounded relatives. She served as a field surgeon on a volunteer basis rendering assistance at tent hospitals in Virginia. She was eventually appointed as an assistant surgeon and assigned to the 52nd Ohio Regiment. With immense courage and bravery rarely matched, Dr. Walker demonstrated her dedication to the American cause at great personal risk. She consistently discounted personal injuries and great hardships to care for others. She was captured and a prisoner of war for four months before being freed in a prisoner exchange. Through her actions, Dr. Mary E. Walker set the standards for helping to improve Soldiers' quality of life for generations to come.

On this _____ day of _____ 20____

Command Sergeant Major
MEDCOM

Lieutenant General, USA
COMMANDING GENERAL

*MEDCOM Reg 215-1

Glossary

Section I Abbreviations

CSM

Command Sergeant Major

DA

Department of the Army

DRMEW

Dr. Mary E. Walker

MACOM

major Army command

MEDCOM

U.S. Army Medical Command

MG

Major General

MSC

major subordinate command

RMC

regional medical command

SAMC

Sergeant Audie Murphy Club

SGM

Sergeant Major

Section II

Terms

This section contains no entries.

Section III

Special Abbreviations and Terms

This section contains no entries.

The proponent of this publication is the Office of the Command Sergeant Major. Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended changes to Publications and Blank Forms) to Commander, U.S. Army Medical Command, ATTN: MCCM, 2050 Worth Road, Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-6003.

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