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# Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

*Paragraph 2-16, Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards)  
25 February 1995*

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a. The Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM) was established by Executive Order 12830, 9 January 1993. It may be awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States and their Reserve Components, who subsequent to 31 December 1992, perform outstanding volunteer community service of a sustained direct and consequential nature.

b. To qualify for award of the MOVSM a service members volunteer service must meet the following requirements:

- (1) Be to the civilian community, to include the military family community.
- (2) Be significant in nature and produce tangible results.
- (3) Reflect favorably on the Military Service and the Department of Defense.
- (4) Be of a sustained and direct nature.

c. While there is no specific time period to qualify for the MOVSM (for example, 500 hours of community service within 24 calendar months), approval authorities shall ensure the service to be honored merits the special recognition afforded by this medal. The MOVSM is intended to recognize exceptional community support over time and not a single act or achievement. Further, it is intended to honor direct support of community activities. For the purpose of this award, attending membership meetings or social events of a community service group is not considered qualifying service, while manning a community crisis action telephone line is considered qualifying service

d. Approval authority for award of the MOVSM will be commanders (overseas and conus) serving in the rank of brigadier general or higher and colonel level commanders who exercise general court-martial authority. Before the recommendation is forwarded to the award approval authority, the recommender must certify that the service member meets the eligibility criteria for award of the MOVSM. Substantiating documentation, such as record of hours contributed, letters or certificates from activity supervisors, or other proof of the service member's volunteer services may be attached as enclosures to the recommendation.

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Army: DA FORM 638 (RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD) WILL BE USED  
Navy and Marine Corps: SECNAV 1650/2  
Coast Guard CG-1650  
Air Force: AF Form 1206

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## MILITARY OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE MEDAL

The Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM) may be awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces and their Reserve components, who after 31 December 1992, perform outstanding volunteer community service of a sustained, direct and consequential nature. The MOVSM is intended to recognize exceptional community support over time, not a single act or achievement. It is intended to honor direct support of community activities. For example, attending membership meetings or social events of a community service group is not considered qualifying service, while manning a community crisis action telephone line for a sustained period of time is considered qualifying service.

### Qualifications

To qualify for MOVSM award, a service member's volunteer service must:

- Be to the civilian community, to include the military family community.
- Be significant in nature and produce tangible results.
- Reflect favorably on the service member's Military Department and the Department of Defense.
- Be of a sustained and direct nature.
- Be of a voluntary nature, not detailed or tasked, nor performed as part of a military mission (for example, a unit project).

**Award Approval Authority:** Award of the MOVSM may be approved by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Management Policy, the Secretaries of the Military Departments, and the Director of the Joint Staff (for joint commands or organizations that report to or through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff).

That authority may be further delegated to commanders authorized to award their Service Achievement Medal under ASD (FMP) Memorandum "Approval Authority for Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM)," dated 7 May 1996.

See Figure 6-1, page 6-19, DoD Manual 1348.33-M, Manual of Military Decorations and Awards, dated September 1996 for a sample nomination format.

### Quick Facts about the MOVSM

- The overall level of volunteer participation and impact of an individual's community service is key to determining whether award of the MOVSM is justified.
- Multiple awards of the MOVSM during a single tour of duty are not authorized. However, a sustained record of significant community service performed during successive tours may be considered by approval authorities.
- The MOVSM is worn after the Humanitarian Service Medal.

*USMC Details:*

1. PURPOSE.- TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE MILITARY OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE MEDAL.

2. BACKGROUND.- BY REFERENCE (1), THE PRESIDENT ESTABLISHED THE MOVSM FOR MEMBERS OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES WHO DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES THROUGH OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE.

3. ELIGIBLE PERSONNEL.- MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES, INCLUDING RESERVE COMPONENTS.

4. PRECEDENT AND SUBSEQUENT AWARD.- THE MOVSM WILL BE WORN IMMEDIATELY AFTER HUMANITARIAN SERVICE MEDAL. SUBSEQUENT AWARDS WILL BE DENOTED BY 3/16 BRONZE STARS. A 3/16 SILVER STAR WILL BE WORN IN LIEU OF SIXTH AWARD. NO CITATION OR CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED.

5. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS. - THE MOVSM MAY BE AWARDED TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES AND THEIR RESERVE COMPONENTS WHO, SUBSEQUENT TO DECEMBER 31, 1992, PERFORM OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY SERVICE OF A SUSTAINED, DIRECT, AND CONSEQUENTIAL NATURE.

A .TO BE ELIGIBLE, AN INDIVIDUAL'S SERVICE MUST:

( 1) BE TO THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY, TO INCLUDE THE MILITARY FAMILY COMMUNITY;

(2) BE SIGNIFICANT IN NATURE AND PRODUCE TANGIBLE RESULTS;

(3) REFLECT FAVORABLY ON THE MILITARY SERVICE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE: AND

(4) BE OF A SUSTAINED AND DIRECT NATURE. WHILE NO SPECIFIC LOG OF INDIVIDUAL SERVICE IS REQUIRED OR ENCOURAGED, A SERVICE MEMBER SHOULD NORMALLY PERFORM A SUSTAINED, DIRECT HANDS-ON-COMMUNITY-SERVICE OVER A 3-YEAR PERIOD. MEMBERS ASSIGNED TO DEPLOYING UNITS MAY INCLUDE DEPLOYED TIME IN THE 3-YEAR PERIOD.

ALTHOUGH MINIMAL REQUIREMENTS ARE LEFT UP TO THE AWARDING AUTHORITY, SERVICE PERFORMANCE MUST BE OF A SUSTAINED LONG TERM NATURE. AWARDING AUTHORITIES WILL ENSURE THE SERVICE TO BE HONORED MERITS THE SPECIAL RECOGNITION AFFORDED BY THIS MEDAL. THE MOVSM IS INTENDED TO RECOGNIZE EXCEPTIONAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT OVER TIME AND NOT A SINGLE ACT OR ACHIEVEMENT. FURTHER, IT IS INTENDED TO HONOR DIRECT SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS AWARD, ATTENDING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS OR SOCIAL EVENTS OF A

COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP OR ATTENDING OCCASIONAL SCOUT MEETINGS WOULD NOT NORMALLY BE CONSIDERED QUALIFYING SERVICE, WHILE MANNING A COMMUNITY CRISIS ACTION PHONE LINE OR SERVING 3 YEARS AS A BOY OR GIRL SCOUT LEADER WOULD.

6. RECOMMENDATION - TO BE AWARDED A MOVSM, SERVICE MEMBERS MUST BE RECOMMENDED BY ANYONE SENIOR TO THEM AND SUBMITTED VIA THEIR COMMANDING OFFICER USING OPNAV 1650/3. THE COMMANDING OFFICER WILL CERTIFY THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS IN PARAGRAPH 5 HAVE BEEN MET AND SERVICE WAS HONORABLE THROUGHOUT THE AWARD PERIOD.

7. AWARDING AUTHORITY - AUTHORITY TO AWARD THE MOVSM IS DELEGATED TO THOSE COMMANDING OFFICERS WHO HAVE AWARDING AUTHORITY FOR THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL. THE MOVSM MAY BE AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY. FOR NAVY PERSONNEL, A LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION WILL BE ISSUED BY THE AWARDING AUTHORITY TO INCLUDE PERIOD RECOGNIZED. COPIES WILL BE FURNISHED TO BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL FOR INCLUSION IN SERVICE RECORDS. FOR MARINE CORPS PERSONNEL, COPIES OF THE APPROVED 1650/3 WILL BE FORWARDED TO CMC FOR INCLUSION IN SERVICE RECORDS.

INFORMATION IN REGARDS TO THE MOVSM CAN ALSO BE FOUND ON  
**MARADMIN 461/00**

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