

History of Army Women

Significant Dates (1942-1999)

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- 1942 - May 14** Congress approved bill (PL 77-554) creating the Women's Army Auxiliary (WAAC) Corps. Oveta Culp Hobby was sworn in as Director of the WAAC on May 16 with relative rank of colonel.
- 1942 - Jul 20** First WAAC Training Center opened at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. Officer Candidate School (OCS) began with 440 students (including 40 black women). The number of women to begin basic training was 330. In 1942 and 1943, four more training centers opened: Daytona Beach, Florida; Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia; Fort Devens, Massachusetts; and Fort Polk, Louisiana.
- 1942 - Aug 29** First WAAC OCS Class graduated; 434 women commissioned as Third Officers, WAAC, with relative rank of second lieutenant.
- 1942 - Sep/Oct** First WAAC units reported for duty with the Aircraft Warning Service at First Fighter Command posts on the East Coast. In February 1943, all 30 AWS units deactivated and their duties assumed by civilians, WAACs sent to other Army units.
- 1942 - Dec 4** Two black WAAC field units, the 32nd and 33rd WAAC Postal Companies arrived at Fort Huachuca, Arizona.
- 1942 - Dec 22** The first five WAAC officers arrived in Algiers, North Africa, after their troop ship was torpedoed in the Atlantic. They and other survivors were saved by a British destroyer. The five WAAC officers were as follows: Captains Louise L. Anderson, Ruth M. Briggs, Alene and Grace Drezmal (sisters), and Mattie A. Pinette.
- 1943 - Jan 27** The 149th WAAC Post Headquarters Company, the first WAAC unit to serve overseas, arrived at Allied Forces HQ, Algiers.
- 1943 - Jul 1** PL 78-110 enacted creating the Women's Army Corps (successor to the WAAC) as an integral part of the Army of the US.
- 1943 - Jul 16** The 1st Separate WAAC Battalion (555 enlisted women and 19 officers) arrived in England, commanded by CPT Mary Hallaren.
- 1943 - Nov 17** Fifth Army WACs were the first WACs to set foot in Italy; they arrived in Caserta, via Naples, under the command of 1LT Cora M. Foster. They followed the Fifth Army up the Italian peninsula, usually 12 - 35 miles behind the front lines.

- 1943 - Nov** In the Mediterranean Theater, with the exception of the Air Forces and Fifth Army WACs, all women were eventually organized into a single battalion under WAC command. This unit was the 2629th WAC Battalion, stationed in Caserta, under the command of Major Hortense M. Boutell.
- 1944 - May 12** The first major contingent (526 enlisted women and 114 WAC officers) arrived in Australia. Over 5,000 women served in the Southwest Pacific Area in 1944 and 1945.
- 1944 - Jul 14** A large contingent of WACs arrived in Normandy, 38 days after D-Day. On August 31, five days after the Allies liberated Paris, a WAC advance party arrived in Paris.
- 1945 - Feb 3** The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, an all-black WAC unit, departed the US for overseas. Thirty officers and 800 enlisted women served in Birmingham, England; Rouen and Paris, France, until March 1946; commanded by LTC Charity Adams.
- 1945 - May 8** Victory in Europe (V-E Day) proclaimed.
- 1945 - Jul 12** WAC Director, Colonel Hobby, resigned due to poor health and was replaced by Colonel Westray Battle Boyce.
- 1945 - Aug 29** As victory in the Pacific neared, enlistments in the Women's Army Corps were closed.
- 1945 - Sep 2** V-J Day proclaimed and demobilization began.
- 1945 - Nov 17** The sixtieth and last WAC OCS class graduated at Fort Des Moines; on December 15, the First WAC Training Center closed.
- 1946 - Feb 11** The War Department announced it would utilize WACS, who remained on active duty and those who reenlisted-for the duration plus six months, to meet the shortage of skilled personnel. Army Chief of Staff General Dwight D. Eisenhower directed legislation be prepared to include WACs in the Regular Army and the Organized Reserve Corps (ORC).
- 1946 - Jul 24** The first bill introduced in Congress to admit WACs in the Regular Army and the ORC. Bills were reintroduced in 1947 and 1948 until the legislation passed in 1948.
- 1946 - Oct 16** One hundred and thirty-five enlisted women and four WAC officers arrived in Japan for assignment to the 8000th WAC Detachment, HQ, Eighth Army, Yokohama, Japan.
- 1946 - Nov 24** Two hundred enlisted women and six officers arrived in Japan for assignment to the 8225th WAC Battalion, General Headquarters (GHQ), Far East Command, Tokyo, Japan.
- 1947 - May 7** Colonel Mary A. Hallaren appointed Director, WAC, replacing Colonel Boyce who retired on disability in March. In the interim Colonel Hallaren served as Acting Director, WAC.
- 1947 - Sep 30** The WAC Reentry (reenlistment) Program closed.
- 1948 - Jun 8** WACs with prior service were enlisted in the Regular Army, WAC.

- 1948 - Jun 12** PL 80-625, Women's Armed Services Integration Act, enacted. It admitted WACs into the Regular Army and the ORC and women of the Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force into their regular reserve forces.
- 1948 - Jun 15** The WAC Training Center established at Camp Lee, Virginia (later Fort Lee). On August 4, 1958, LTC Elizabeth C. Smith assumed command and Major Annie V. Gardner was First WAC Battalion Commander.
- 1948 - Aug 16** The 14th Army Band (WAC) activated for training at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. Band held title to the history of the 400th Army Band (WAC). On March 5, 1949, led by Warrant Officer Katharine V. Allen, the band reported to the WAC Training Center.
- 1948 - Sep 27** Initial enlistments accepted in the Regular Army, WAC, from women with no previous service.
- 1948 - Oct 5** The first postwar WAC OCS began, and on April 1, 1949, graduated 37 lieutenants.
- 1948 - Oct 18** First postwar WAC basic training class began and, on December 10, 1948, graduated its trainees.
- 1948 - Dec 3** Colonel Mary A. Hallaren sworn into the Regular Army, WAC; given Army Service Number L-1; and reappointed Director, WAC, Regular Army.
- 1948 - Dec 18** First increment of 199 officers appointed in the WAC, Regular Army; second increment of 93 officers on April 1, 1949; and the third increment of 40 officers on July 22, 1949.
- 1949 - Apr 12** Eleven applicants offered appointment as WAC warrant officers junior grade, Regular Army. Seven were accepted: Dorothy E. Green, Elisabeth C. Smith, Helen E. Ryan, Marcia E. Estabrook, Thelma L. Alley, June G. Denney, and Faye Hallet Ottinger.
- 1949 - Jun 12** The WAC, Army of the United States (AUS), was terminated. Women who had been honorably discharged from the WAC AUS could reenlist in the WAC Regular Army (RA) beginning September 15, 1948.
- 1949 - Jul 15** The first two weeks' summer training program for the WAC Organized Reserve Corps personnel initiated at the WAC Training Center.
- 1950 - May 1** To obtain more WAC officers, the first direct commissions were offered to women college graduates as 2d lieutenants in the Organized Reserve Corps. Upon acceptance, they would attend the WAC Company Officers' Course, the first to begin in September 1950.
- 1950 - Jun 25** The Korean War began.
- 1950 - Aug 21** Voluntary recall began for WAC enlisted reservists and company grade WAC ORC officers.

- 1950 - Aug 23** Separation on marriage suspended for all WACs; reinstated for enlisted women on July 20, 1951; officers, October 7, 1952.
- 1951 - Mar 1** The new women's Army taupe uniform was shown to the public. Troop issue began in July 1951.
- 1951 - Sep 17** First meeting of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS).
- 1951 - Oct 8** An Associate WAC Company Officers Course (AWCOC) initiated to obtain more officers for the Korean War emergency. When the war ended, the course was discontinued (June 1953).
- 1951 - Oct 11** A Unified Recruiting Campaign was initiated to obtain 72,000 more women for the women's military services. Unsuccessful, it was discontinued in 1952.
- 1952 - Jan 3** Colonel Hallaren completed her tour as Director, WAC, and was reduced to lieutenant colonel and given reassignment. She was replaced by Colonel Irene O. Galloway.
- 1954 - Feb 3** The first WAC Officer Advanced Course opened at the WAC School, Fort Lee, Virginia.
- 1954 - Jun 10** The WAC Center and WAC School moved to a newly constructed site at Fort McClellan, Alabama. All WAC activities at Fort Lee discontinued on August 15, 1954.
- 1954 - Aug 24** PL 650 enacted which permitted WAAC personnel disabled in the line of duty limited benefits under the Veterans Administration.
- 1955 - Apr** The official history, The Women's Army Corps in World War II, by Mattie E. Treadwell was published by the Army Chief of Military History.
- 1955 - May 14** The Women's Army Corps Museum was officially opened on the 13th WAC Anniversary in a wing of the WAC Training Battalion headquarters building at the WAC Center, Fort McClellan.
- 1955 - Mar 20** The Army Uniform Board approved a Women's Army Green Uniform to replace the Women's Taupe Uniform which was unpopular and inefficient. Wear of the Green Cord Summer Uniform began in May 1959; the Class "A" Women's Army Green Uniform was issued in July 1960.
- 1956 - Aug 1** The first foreign women Army officers (six Burmese) entered WAC Officer Basic Class X in August 1956. The WAC School trained 112 foreign women officers through 1972 when the course was discontinued.
- 1957 - Jan 3** Colonel Mary Louise Milligan was appointed Director, WAC, replacing Colonel Galloway who was reduced to lieutenant colonel and given reassignment. Colonel Milligan was reappointed DWAC for two more years on January 3, 1961. On November 4, 1961, she married Elmer Rasmuson and retired July 31, 1962.
- 1957 - Jul 14** The WAC College Junior Program began at WAC School. This four weeks' course was to familiarize college undergraduates with Army life and encourage them to apply for direct commissions.
- 1959 - Apr 1** The first WAC promoted to pay grade E-8 was Carolyn H. James.
- 1959 - Aug 7** PL 86-142 enacted to provide military credit for WAAC service (May 1942 through September 30, 1943) provided the WAAC member served on active duty in one of the Armed Services after September 30, 1943. The additional time could be used for pay and retirement credit but not for promotion time in

- grade.
- 1960 - Jun 1** The first WAC promoted to pay grade E-9 was Carolyn H. James.
- 1961 - Jun 1** The first woman officer detailed in the Judge Advocate Generals Corps since World War II was LTC Nora G. Springfield.
- 1962 - Mar 1** Major Anna Marie Doering was the first WAC to be assigned to Vietnam - US Army Element, Military Assistance Advisory Group, Saigon.
- 1962 - May 14** The 20th WAC Anniversary. Strength was: 781 officers, 48 warrant officers, and 8,666 enlisted women - total 9, 495.
- 1962 - Jul 31** Sergeant First Class Mina A. Nelson was the first enlisted woman to retire upon completion of 20 years active duty.
- 1962 - Aug 1** Colonel Emily C. Gorman appointed the sixth Director, WAC. Colonel Rasmuson retired.
- 1963 - May 14** The WAC Exhibit Unit "Serving with Pride and Dignity" established. LTC Mildred C. Bailey led the unit from 1963 - 1968; LTC Iona S. Connolly from 1968 - 1979. The unit traveled throughout the US informing the public about WACs in the Army.
- 1963 - Jul 1** Weapons familiarization and voluntary firing of small arms deleted from WAC training when the M1 Carbine (9 lbs in weight) was replaced by the (10 lbs) M14 rifle. Latter considered too heavy for women. In July 1974, voluntary weapons familiarization and firing was reinstated on the M16 rifle. In July 1975, weapons familiarization and qualification became mandatory for WACs.
- 1964 - Jun 1** The first enlisted woman (Sergeant Patsy J. Wright) was assigned for duty with the Army Attaché System in Athens, Greece.
- 1965 - Jan 15** Major Kathleen I. Wilkes and SFC Betty L. Adams assigned as advisors to the Women's' Armed Forces Corps of the Republic of Vietnam in Saigon. WACs filled these two positions until 1971 when they were withdrawn.
- 1965 - Jul 1** Discharge on marriage policy changed. Women must have been denied an assignment near husband, completed one year at current duty station, and fulfilled other commitments.
- 1965 - Dec** Twelve WAC stenographers arrived in Saigon for duty at HQ, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam.
- 1965 - Dec** The first WAC officers to be assigned to HQ, US Army, Vietnam arrived at Tan Son Nyut Air Base near Saigon.
- 1965 - Jun 20** Discharge on marriage for WACs was eliminated.
- 1965 - Jun 24** The WAC Student Officer Program established, an addendum for graduates of the WAC College Junior Program. Upon college graduation, selectees were commissioned 2LT, WAC, and attended the WAC Officer Basic Course. Program ended in 1977 when women began graduating from Army ROTC.
- 1966 - Aug 1** Colonel Elizabeth P. Hoisington was appointed the seventh Director, Women's Army Corps. Colonel Gorman retired.
- 1966 - Sep 1** Enlisted women assigned to counterintelligence duties under the Office of the Provost Marshal General of the Army.

- 1966 - Oct 31** Advance cadre arrived in Saigon to establish a WAC Detachment for duty with the US Army, Vietnam.
- 1967 - Feb 10** Secretary of Defense approved Army request to increase WAC strength by 38% by end of FY 1969 for the Vietnam War.
- 1967 - Nov 8** PL 90-130 enacted to equalize promotion and retirement rules for men and women officers in the Armed Services. Women could now be promoted above the rank of lieutenant colonel. WACs could serve in the Army National Guard.
- 1967 - Dec 22** Army announced selection of first two WAC officers to attend Army War College (LTCs Frances V. Chaffin and Shirley R. Heinze) from August 1968 through May 1969).
- 1968 - Jan 5** A four-week WAC NCO Leadership Course began at WAC School, Fort McClellan, Alabama. In 1972, the course was eliminated.
- 1968 - Mar 30** Sergeant Major Yzetta L. Nelson was the first WAC appointed to the grade of Command Sergeant Major.
- 1968 - Apr 1** Six WAC lieutenant colonels selected for promotion to colonel under PL 90-130: Charlotte Woodworth, Elizabeth H. Branch, Maxine B. Michl, Marie Kehrner, Lane Carlson, and Mary J. Guyette.
- 1968 - May** Five WAC officers graduated from the regular Command and General Staff College Course at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas: Majors Nancy M. Hopfenspirger, Kitt M. MacMichael, Inez L. Nease, Marilyn J. Russell, and Martha J. Thompson.
- 1969 - Apr 1** Discharge on marriage reinstated. Women must have completed 18 months on active duty and fulfilled service commitments.
- 1969 - Jul 15** The Women's Army Corps Foundation was incorporated to raise funds to construct a building for the WAC Museum at Fort McClellan, Alabama.
- 1969 - Jul** Social Security Numbers replaced Army Service Numbers for all military personnel.
- 1969 - Sep 22** A Personnel Specialist Course (four weeks) for MOS 71H20 added to enlisted training at WAC School. Course began in January 1970 and closed in 1972.
- 1970 - May 14** WAC enlisted strength 11,476; officers 1,029.
- 1970 - May 15** President Nixon announced first women selected for promotion to brigadier general: Colonel Anna Mae Hays, Chief, Army Nurse Corps, and Colonel Elizabeth P. Hoisington, Director, WAC, effective June 11, 1970.
- 1971 - Apr 9** Army regulations for the first time permitted women to request waivers for retention on active duty if married and pregnant, if married or unmarried and pregnancy terminated, or if they become parents through marriage or adoption.
- 1971 - Aug 1** Colonel Mildred C. Bailey appointed Director, WAC, and promoted to Brigadier General. General Hoisington retired.
- 1971 - Nov** Army Chief of Staff authorized WACs entry into male Drill Sergeant Schools and NCO Academy Programs.
- 1972 - Feb 14** Army Chief of Staff authorized participation of women in ROTC programs

- at 10 colleges and universities as experiment. On May 25, 1973, women authorized in all ROTC programs.
- 1972 - Jun 12** High school girls authorized to participate in Junior ROTC.
- 1972 - Jun** Army Chief of Staff approved establishment of the First WAC Training Battalion in the 80th US Army Reserve Division (Tng) in the Washington, DC, area.
- 1972 - Jun** WAC Officer Advanced Course, WAC clerical training courses. Personnel Specialist, WAC NCO Leadership courses discontinued at WAC School; women began attending similar male courses.
- 1972 - Jun 24** The Secretary of the Army announced a major expansion of WAC strength to 23,800 by end FY 1978 to help fill vacancies when the draft ended June 1973.
- 1972 - Aug 4** Army announced that all MOS would be open to women except for 48 combat or hazardous duty MOSs.
- 1972 - Sep** Two additional training battalions activated at WAC Center.
- 1972 - Sep 21** WAC Detachment, US Army, Vietnam closed. By the end of March 1973, all WACs had left Vietnam and a few months later all US troops had departed. Vietnam fell to the communists in 1975.
- 1972 - Dec 15** The last WAC Officer Basic Course and OCS classes graduated and were replaced by an 11-week WAC Officer/Officer Candidate Orientation Course (WOOC) on 7 Jan 1973. Upon completion of (WOOC), women officers attended male branch officer courses.
- 1973 - Apr 25** Army Chief of Staff approved Army flight training for WAC officers - both helicopter and fixed wing aircraft. On August 24, 1973, he authorized enlisted women to enter Parachute Rigger training (MOS 43E), training that included jump school.
- 1973 - Apr 14** A Supreme Court Decision made it unconstitutional for Services to require women to submit proof their dependents were in fact dependents when men did not and thus deny benefits.
- 1973 - Aug 1** Secretary of Defense directed that discharge on marriage for enlisted women and officers be discontinued.
- 1973 - Oct 1** A women's basic training battalion activated at Fort Jackson, South Carolina; training began January 9, 1974. Another battalion activated July 1, 1974 and also the 5th Training Brigade (WAC). All deactivated in November and December 1977 when male and WAC basic training combined.
- 1973 - Oct 9** Army Chief of Staff authorized another major WAC expansion from 23,800 to 50, 400 by the end of FY 1979.
- 1974 - May 16** The Army Uniform Board approved for optional purchase a mint green summer uniform dress with jacket. A women's black raincoat and black beret were approved for issue, replacing Army green items.
- 1974 - May 24** Congress reduced the minimum age of enlistment of women to the same as for men - age 17 with parental consent; 18 without it. Law effective, April 1, 1976.
- 1974 - Jun 4** Second Lieutenant Sally Woolfolk (later Murphy) graduated from rotary wing course at Fort Rucker, Alabama, and on October 8, 1974, graduated

- from the multi-engine, fixed-wing course.
- 1974 - Jun 30** Sergeant Major Mildred C. Kelly, a black WAC, appointed Command Sergeant Major at HQ US Army Proving Ground, Aberdeen, Maryland; she was the first black Command Sergeant Major in the WAC.
- 1974 - Jul 1** All WAC officers permanently detailed out of WAC Branch and into male branches, except Infantry, Armor, Artillery (Cannon).
- 1975 - Jan 9** Officer Exchange Program began between the Women's Royal Army Corps and the US Women's Army Corps.
- 1975 - Jun 2** First enlisted woman (Jennie A. Vallance) graduated from rotary wing course and appointed warrant officer junior grade.
- 1975 - Jun 30** Secretary of Defense directed elimination of involuntary discharge of military women on pregnancy and parenthood.
- 1975 - Jul 1** Mandatory defensive weapons training initiated for enlisted women. Same effective for women officers (except those in the Medical Department and Chaplains Corps) in January 1976.
- 1975 - Aug 1** Colonel Mary E. Clarke appointed Director, WAC, and promoted to Brigadier General. General Bailey retired.
- 1975 - Aug 1** The last College Junior Class No. 19 graduated at WAC School.
- 1975 - Sep 14** The mint green uniform with both a short and long sleeve jacket issued to replace the Army Green Cord uniform. A dark green pantsuit approved for issue. Four sets of fatigues and two pair of field boots issued to enlisted women.
- 1975 - Oct 7** President Ford signed PL 94-106 that permitted women to be admitted to all Service academies beginning in 1976.
- 1975 - Dec 24** Army Chief of Staff authorized admission to Army OCS Fort Benning, Georgia, effective October 1, 1976, concurrent with deactivation of WAC OCS at WAC School.
- 1976 - Jan** Twenty enlisted women entered the US Military Academy Preparatory School, Fort Monmouth, NJ; 17 graduated.
- 1976 - Jan 1** Women authorized to serve the same length of overseas tour as men - women's tour was usually shorter.
- 1976 - May 14** Ground-breaking ceremony for the WAC Museum, Fort McClellan.
- 1976 - Jul** One hundred and twenty women entered the US Military Academy (Class of 1980); 80 entered the Naval Academy; 155 the USAF Academy.
- 1976 - Aug 23** Ten WACs assigned to USMA as staff and faculty officers.
- 1976 - Sep 30** WAC strength: Officers 1,952; warrant officers 31, enlisted women 44, 461 (total 46,444).
- 1976 - Dec 1** The Army women's green pantsuit issued to women performing military police duties; in September 1977, it was issued to other enlisted women.
- 1976 - Dec 31** WAC Center and School discontinued at Fort McClellan, Alabama.
- 1977 - May 14** The newly constructed WAC Museum building a Fort McClellan dedicated.
- 1977 - Jul 8** The first combined (male/female) class of Military Police One-Station-Unit Training (OSUT) began at Fort McClellan. On October 3, 1977, combined Signal Corps OSUT began at Fort Gordon, Georgia..
- 1977 - Aug 3** The Secretary of the Army approved Army Chief of Staff request to seek

- legislation to discontinue the Office of the Director, WAC, and the WAC as a separate Corps.
- 1977 - Sep** For the first time, women participated (1,500) in the REFORGER Exercise, NATO war game exercises in Germany.
- 1977 - Sep 28** The last WAC Officers Orientation Course (WOOC) Class #17 graduated 129 women at the Training Brigade, Fort McClellan.
- 1977 - Dec 20** The Secretary of the Army issued the Combat Exclusion Policy - women could serve in most officer or enlisted specialties or units except those that involved direct combat, Infantry, Armor, Cannon Field Artillery, Combat Engineers or Low Altitude Air Defense units of battalion or smaller size.
- 1978 - Feb 1** Women enlisting after this date incur a six-year Reserve obligation.
- 1978 - Apr 28** The positions of Director and Deputy Director, WAC, were discontinued; members of the Office of the DWAC reassigned. BG Mary E. Clarke, outgoing DWAC, reassigned as Commander, US Army Military Police & Chemical Schools/Training Center, Fort McClellan, Alabama.
- 1978 - Sep 30** WAC strength: Enlisted women 50,549 - officers 2,626.
- 1978 - Oct 1** Congress prohibited use of Federal funds for abortions.
- 1978 - Oct 20** PL 95-584 disestablished the WAC as a separate Corps.
- 1978 - Nov 1** Men and women began training in the same basic training units at Fort McClellan, Fort Jackson, Fort Dix and Fort Wood.
- 1978 - Nov 1** BG Mary E. Clarke promoted to Major General.
- 1979 - Oct 1** All enlistment qualifications became the same for men and women by order of the Secretary of the Army.
- 1980 - Apr 2** Secretary of Defense announced that under PL 95-202, Sec 401, WAAC service would be considered active military service for all laws administered by the Veterans Administration.
- 1980 - Jun 30** The ratio of women in the Army increased from 1.79 per cent in 1972 to 9.1 percent in 1980.
- 1981 - Feb** Army froze strength of enlisted women at 65,000 - officers 7,200.
- 1981 - Dec** Army initiated Direct Combat Probability Coding System to identify spaces on manning documents of deployable units (TO&E) with high (P-1) to lowest (P-7) probability of soldier being engaged in direct ground combat with an enemy. System revised and simplified in 1983 to P-1 closed to women and P-2 open to women.
- 1982 - May 3** Army announced return to "separate basic training" for men and women.
- 1982 - Aug** Secretary of Defense ordered increase in Army enlisted women's strength from 65,000 to 70,000 and officers from 9,000 to 13,000 including Medical Department.
- 1983 - Oct 25** US Forces ordered to Grenada to rescue Americans. Over 100 women participated in OPERATION URGENT FURY that ended December 1983. Four women military police officers were in Grenada just after the US invasion, but were promptly sent back to their base at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, by the 82nd Airborne Commander only to be returned a day-and-a-half later by the Commander of the XVIII Corps.
- 1988 - Dec** Secretary of Defense issued standard Risk Rule that had Services evaluate

- the chances of direct exposure to hostile fire or capture when deciding when an assignment, by job qualification, should be open to women.
- 1989 - Dec 20** President ordered US Forces into Panama to arrest drug czar and dictator Manuel Noreiga. OPERATION JUST CAUSE was successfully concluded in January 1990. Over 600 Army women participated in this action; the women of the Military Police Corps had the biggest role.
- 1990 - Aug 2** United Nations began to gather a joint force to free Kuwait from illegal invasion by Iraq. Offensive action led by Army General Schwarzkopf in January and February 1991 drove out Iraqi forces. Approximately 24,000 Army women served in this Persian Gulf War (OPERATION DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM). Fourteen Army women died; two were taken prisoners of war.
- 1990 - Sep** WAC history, *The Women's Army Corps, 1945 - 1978*, by Colonel Bettie J. Morden, published by the Army Center of Military History and the Government Printing Office.
- 1991 - May/Jul** House and Senate voted to remove the statutory restrictions on Navy and Air Force women serving in combat. President signed the bill and appointed the Herres Commission to study assignment of women in 1992.
- 1992 - Nov** Herres Commission recommended women be allowed to serve on some combat ships but not fly combat planes nor be exposed to ground combat action with an enemy.
- 1992 - Dec** President George Bush ordered American troops to Somalia as part of a United Nations coalition to assist in humanitarian aid to the Somali people. Widespread hunger and anarchy made conditions ripe for food riots. Female, as well as male soldiers had to be trained to cope with food riots, terrorists, and ethnic and clan conflicts.
- 1993 - Apr 28** Secretary of Defense ordered the Services to train and assign women on combat aircraft, serve on most combat ships, but no women to be assigned to positions in direct ground combat.
- 1994 - Jul 24** Secretary of Defense issued new policy, effective October 1, 1994, rescinding the 1988 Risk Rule (reference women in ground combat with enemy) with criteria to define military assignments for women. Policy directs women be precluded from units that engage the enemy on the ground with weapons or that are exposed to hostile fire and have a high possibility of direct physical contact with the enemy.
- 1994 - Sep** Army Chief of Staff orders combined male-female basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; more companies begin coed basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, in October and November 1994.
- 1994 - Sep 10** Joint Chiefs of Staff issued the order to execute OPERATION UPHOLD DEMOCRACY," the invasion of Haiti. The intervention was to remove a repressive and corrupt military regime and install the duly elected leader who had been forcibly prevented from serving in the position. On September 19, US forces began landing in Haiti; Army women took part in the operation in a variety of jobs.
- 1995 - Nov** After a peace agreement was signed between the Muslim and Serb warring parties on November 21, US Forces served as peacekeepers in OPERATION

PROVIDE PROMISE and JOINT ENDEAVOR. Army women took part in a variety of jobs in the Quartermaster Corps, Combat Stress Detachment, Transportation Company, Signal and in Military Intelligence.

1999 - Mar/Jun

In 1998, years after Serbia abolished Kosovo's autonomy, the Kosovo Liberation Army supported by ethnic Albanians rebelled against Serbian rule. The international community opposed the Kosovo Albanians' demand for independence, but pressure grew to bring an end to the violence. Military action resulted in form of air strikes; OPERATION ALLIED FORCE bombing began on March 24, 1999 to degrade and damage military and security structure of Yugoslavian President Milosevic. After achieving the desired result, bombing halted on June 20, 1999. OPERATION JOINT GUARDIAN began on June 11, 1999. From the beginning, Army women have served in many capacities in this NATO-led operation; at this date, it continues.

Source: *US Army in World War II, Special Studies, The Women's Army Corps* (Treadwell); *The Women's Army Corps, 1945 - 1978* (Morden); and the US Army Women's Museum archives.