

WAC Training Centers & Schools



Caption: First WACs arrive at Ft Des Moines train station 1942

Fort Des Moines

Apr 1942 Opens

July 1942 First Classes

December 1945 Closes



Caption: WAAC Parade on boardwalk 1943

Daytona Beach

October 1942 Opens

December 1942 First Classes

March 1944 Closes



Caption: Company 3, 20th Regiment, Third WAC Training Center 1944

Fort Oglethorpe

January 1943 Opens

February 1943 First Classes

September 1945 Closes



No caption
Fort Devens
March 1943 Opens
March 1943 First Classes



Caption: Major General Grimes reviews the 41st WAAC Training Regiment at Camp Polk in 1943

Camp Ruston/Camp Polk/ Camp Monticello

March 1943 Opens

March 1943 First Classes

June 1943 Closes

WAAC recruiting by late 1942 had surpassed its goal of 25,000 women and the first and second WAAC training centers were at maximum capacity. Secretary of War, Henry Stinson, increased the goal to 150,000 WAACs and ordered more training centers to be opened; this included the fifth WAAC training center comprised of Camp Ruston, Louisiana, Camp Polk, Louisiana, and Camp Monticello, Arkansas. These three locations consisted of three prisoner of war enclosures, empty because the Army had taken few prisoners up to this date. The Director of the WAC, Colonel Hobby, was not happy with this location. Administration was difficult being over 100 miles apart and because the conditions of the facilities were lacking, prompting Colonel Hobby to say, "I know of no finer example of patriotism by WAACs anywhere than that which was shown by the women who worked and trained successfully at these camps." The fifth WAAC training center was the first to close. By June 1943 the Army needed the prisoner of war enclosures and the WAAC relinquished it without reluctance.



Caption: A basic training company passes in review at a parade 1952

Camp Lee/Fort Lee

June 1948 Activated

July 1948 Arrival of cadre

October 1948 Officially Opens

October 1948 First Classes

April 1950 Camp Lee becomes Fort Lee

July 1954 WAC Training Center at Fort Lee closes and moves to Fort McClellan



Caption: Training battalion outside Munson Hall 1970s

Fort McClellan

June 1954 Became home of WAC Center and School

July 1954 First Classes began

December 1976 WAC Center and School was deactivated

February 1977 Approved initiation of consolidated gender basic training

October 1978 Gender Integrated Basic Training began

April 1978 Discontinued the Office of the Director of the WAC

October 1978 Women's Army Corps was disestablished



Caption: Women from A-17-2 practice marching for Basic 1974

Fort Jackson

October 1973 Activated

January 1974 First Classes

October 1977 Integrated Basic Training began

Sources:

Morden, Bettie. The Women's Army Corps 1945-1978.

Treadwell, Mattie. U.S. Army in World War II Special Studies: The Women's Army Corps.

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