

**LESSON NUMBER:** 9-C

**TASK:** Women in the Military

**CONDITION:** Classroom environment

**STANDARD:**

1. History of contributions of women in the military.
2. Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948 (WASIA).
3. Contemporary issues.
4. Strategies to affect the full integration of women.

**TYPE OF INSTRUCTION:** Conference

**TIME OF INSTRUCTION:** 2 Hours

**MEDIA:** Viewgraph #9-C-1 through #9-C-2 and Student Handout #9-C-1

**LEAD IN:** During this lesson we will discuss women in the military. Women and their role in the military are an issue under seemingly constant discussion. Women, in one capacity or another, have participated in every conflict in the establishment and defense of our nation. Traditional attitudes and values towards women's "proper place" are slowly evolving into an attitude of acceptance and recognition, but there is a long way to go. As a leader it is important to have an understanding of the history of women in the military and their contributions and importance to the defense of our nation, in order to effectively combat negative stereotypes about women in uniform.

## **PART I. HISTORY OF CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN IN THE MILITARY**

### **SHOW VIEWGRAPH #9-C-1**

<b>HISTORICAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Revolutionary War</b></li><li>• <b>Civil War</b></li><li>• <b>W.W.I</b></li><li>• <b>W.W.II</b></li></ul>

1. During the Revolutionary War, women often followed their husbands, sons, and brothers to battle. Some cooked, sewed, and washed clothes for the men. Some also worked as nurses. Even though the Army would not enlist women, some served by disguising themselves as men. The exact number who did this is unknown.

2. From the Revolutionary War to the period when the military implemented the requirement to undergo a physical examination prior to enlistment, women have disguised themselves as men in order to serve in the military. For example, a

lady named Lucy Brewer disguised herself as a man and fought on the Frigate Constitution during the War of 1812. Another lady named Loreta Velasquez, alias Harry T. Buford, disguised herself as a man and invested her personal fortune to raise troops during the Civil War and became an officer in the Confederate Army. She led men into battle at Bull Run and several other campaigns. During the Civil War, if you had money, you could buy a commission and buy people to serve under you.

3. One of the more celebrated stories of the Revolutionary War was that of Molly Pitcher. While the story may differ on exactly who she was, it is thought to be Mary Hayes, the wife of an artillery soldier of the 7th Pennsylvania Regiment. The story goes that while she was providing water to the wounded soldiers on the battlefield, she dropped her water pitcher, picked up a rifle and began firing. Replacements eventually took her position, but she remained as a rammer until an artilleryman relieved her. An eyewitness of the account reported that when an enemy cannon shot at her it tore off part of her petticoat, she remarked nonchalantly, that she was lucky and continued to assist the wounded.

4. Another incident is the women known as Deborah Sampson, who actually served in the 4th Massachusetts Regiment as Robert Shirliffe. She fought in many battles and often, like many of the men, had only rawhide strips to bind about her feet. During one scouting mission in the winter, she was wounded in the head and thigh. Taken to a hospital, she only allowed the doctor to bandage her head, fearing her discovery if the rifle ball was removed from her thigh. Deborah Sampson served three years in the Army. When Paul Revere met her in 1804, he was so impressed that he asked the Massachusetts legislature to award her a pension. In 1805, she received \$4.00 a month as a disabled veteran. In 1818, her pension was increased to \$8.00.

5. During the Civil War it is estimated that about 400 women served in both Armies as soldiers. Others, followed their husbands, sons, or fathers to the front lines. Some women worked as spies, messengers, and nurses. Some women disguised as men went undetected throughout the war. Six women soldiers were discovered when they had babies.

6. One of the more notable female soldiers was Jennie Rodgers, known as Albert Cashier. She served three years in the 95th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. After the war she farmed and it wasn't until 1911, when hospitalized, was it discovered she was not a man. During a pension hearing, one former member of the unit reported his failure to identify Cashier as a women, but remarked that the unit had often discussed the fact that he had no beard. Cashier was also described by men in the unit as the shortest man in the company, but was a brave little soldier.

**NOTE:** It was only during W.W.I when the military implemented the physical examination. With the physical examination requirement, this was the first time women could not enter disguised as a man.

7. The first women's component in the military was established by the Army in 1901. This component was the Army Nurse Corps. In 1908 the Navy Nurse Corps was authorized. Initially, the Navy Nurse Corps was comprised of only 20 White women. Black women were not admitted into nursing organizations at this time. Laws which set up the Nursing Corps did not designate its members as officers or enlisted and it was not resolved until 1947 when the Army Nurse Act authorized their permanent commission rank. When the Army Nurse Corps was first organized, nurses were in the auxiliary status, or reserve status and only activated in times of emergency.

8. The demands of W.W.I made it necessary for the military to utilize women in areas other than nursing in order to release men for combat duty. It seemed that the same perspective used in assessing minorities into systems applied to women, e.g., reject in times of peace and recruit in times of emergency. Rejection meant sending the women back into reserve status.

9. Laws covering the Army at this time restricted enlistment to men, so women could not be recruited. The Navy began to employ civilian women under contract as telephone operators. These women were basically serving as civil servants. Congressional legislation passed in 1978 recognized these telephone operators as serving in a military status.

**NOTE:** Notice it took until 1978 to recognize these women in the status that they deserved for serving during war time.

10. The Navy Reserve Act of 1916 was a little different from other services in that it referred solely to enlistment of "persons" in the Navy. As a result, about 13,000 women joined the Navy as reservists. 30 of the women reservists were Black and were employed in a segregated office in Washington D.C.. In August of 1918 approximately 300 female Marine reservists were enlisted. There were also a few Coast Guard reservists, and their status closely paralleled the women in the Navy.

11. The Army and Navy Nurse Corps also grew in response to the war. There were approximately 22,000 Army nurses and 1,400 Navy nurses serving in the U.S. and overseas at this time. These nurses worked in what are known as Casualty Clearing Stations, Surgical Field Teams, Mobile Evacuation and Base Hospitals, and on hospital trains and transport ships where the fighting was taking place or in close proximity. With the exception of actual combat, these nurses fully participated in wartime duties.

12. In 1918, Francis Elliott Davis was the first Black nurse admitted to the Red Cross Nursing Service. In December 1918, a flu epidemic caused a huge demand for nurses. As a result 18 Black nurses were finally appointed to the Army Nurse Corps approximately one month after Armistice Day.

**NOTE:** Armistice Day is November 11 each year. Now called Veterans Day.

13. At the end of the war, demobilization of women was the rule. By July of 1919 the Navy, Marine and Coast Guard women reservists were transferred to an inactive status and eventually were all discharged. The number of Army and Navy nurses retained on duty was minimal.

14. During W.W.II 360,000 women joined the military in response to the recruiting call, "Free a man to fight." The first women's group to be organized by Congress in May 1942 was the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAACs). They were hired under civilian contract with no military benefits. As the Army had no separate structure, many management difficulties were encountered. As a result, in 1943 Congress passed a Bill establishing the Women's Army Corps (WACs) as a branch of the Army. This also forced the administration to reconsider policies and attitudes. Under the WAAC, the women were not entitled to the same pay, benefits for dependents, or military rank as their male counterparts. When the other services had established the women's components as more than auxiliary branches, the WAACs started to resent it.

15. The second women's organization was the acceptance of women into the Navy Women's Reserve. It was established in July 1942 and named the WAVES for Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service. Four months later the Coast Guard established the Coast Guard Women's Reserve. Its members nicknamed the organization as SPARS which is an acronym taken from the Coast Guard's motto. "Semper Paratus" meaning "always ready." The Marine Corps established the Marine Corps Women's Reserve in February 1943. Various acronyms and nicknames were suggested. However, with the decision to accept women in the Marine Corps Reserve and as the Marine Corps Reserve was part of the Corps, they therefore would simply be called "Marines."

16. To release male pilots for combat flying, the Army Air Force in August 1943 authorized a civilian Women Air Service Pilots (WASP) organization. Although under civil service, it was subject to a number of military procedures. The WASPs handled a variety of flying and aviation administrative duties. Approximately 1,000 WASPs flew 60 million miles on operational assignments in 77 different types of aircraft before the organization was deactivated in December 1944. They ferried aircraft, towed targets for practice with live ammunitions, flew reconnaissance missions, and in general performed all types of flying missions except direct combat missions. Repeated attempts to militarize this group failed. It was not until 1977 that Congress passed a bill giving the Department of Defense (DoD) authority to do so. There were thousands of

WACs who served in the Army Air Force as administrative personnel. These women were predecessors of today's Women in the Air Force (WAFs) which was established in 1948.

17. The Army and Navy Nurse Corps was also expanded to meet the demands of the war. From Iceland to the Pacific and in Europe, Africa, and North and South America, Army and Navy nurses supported U.S. fighting forces. They faced risk and lost lives while serving in field medical facilities and aboard hospital ships and air transports. 83 military nurses were interned as prisoners of war on Guam and in the Philippine Islands. Nearly 2,000 women received military decorations for bravery and meritorious service.

**NOTE:** It is interesting to note that all 67 women imprisoned in the Philippines survived. Whereas 30 percent of the men taken prisoner at the same time died before they were released.

18. Units were segregated by color throughout the war. Black women were affected severely by segregation. The 4,000 Black women who served as WACs served in disproportionate numbers as cooks, bakers, laundry workers, hospital orderlies, and waitresses. A few Black women did enter skilled fields such as medical stenographer, physical therapy, aircraft maintenance, teletype operating, and photography. After the struggle by Eta Thomas to open the Army Nurse Corps, only 500 of the 57,000 Army nurses that served in W.W.II were Black. They were assigned to segregated hospitals. There were only four Black nurses in the Navy. The WAVES and SPARS refused to accept Black women until 1944 and then only in token numbers. Opportunity for Black women was virtually nonexistent in the other branches. The Marine Corps Women's Reserve did not accept Black women during the war. None of the WASPs were Black. Black female officers were allowed to command only Black units. Only one Black WAC unit went overseas (the 6888th Central Post Office Battalion with 800 Black women). A small number of Chinese-American, Japanese-American, and Native-American women were enlisted in the WAC and assigned to White WAC units. A group of Puerto Rican women were enlisted, trained, and assigned as a separate unit mainly because of language difficulties. Some 500 NISSEI recruits were wanted for employment as translators. However, only 13 were initially obtained.

**NOTE:** The first generation of Japanese are the people who were born in Japan. These are known as the ISSEI. The second generation are NISSEI, and are born in the U.S. of ISSEI parents.

19. Overall, the value of military women's contribution to the war effort was well summed up in the words of Albert Speer, Hitler's Weapons Production Chief, in a 1975 interview who said "How wise you were to bring your women into your military and into your labor force. Had we done that initially as you did, it could

well have affected the whole course of the war. We would have found out, as you did, that women are equally effective and for some skills, superior to males.”

20. Through all of the fighting women served only in a Reserve status and as a temporary part of the military. Their organizations were not integrated into the male official military and were culturally and legally accepted only as temporary helpers and very similar to other minorities.

## **PART II. LAWS, POLICIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

### **SHOW VIEWGRAPH #9-C-2**

<b>LAWS, POLICIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>WASIA</b></li><li>• <b>DACOWITS</b></li><li>• <b>VIETNAM</b></li><li>• <b>POST VIETNAM</b></li><li>• <b>Contemporary issues</b></li></ul>

1. After W.W.II the largest and most rapid demobilization in U.S. history occurred. Military strength was reduced from 12.1 million in 1945 to about 1.4 million in 1947. The strength of military women went from 360,000 to 14,000. In 1948 Congress passed The Women’s Armed Integration Act (WASIA). The purpose of WASIA was to determine the status women would have in the Armed Forces and how they would be accepted. The following are some of the provisions:

a. Women under 18 years of age could not enlist and, if less than 21, were required to have consent of their parent or guardian. Men, on the other hand, could enlist with parental consent at the age of 17 and on their own after 18.

b. Husbands of military women had to prove dependency. Wives of men did not. Women are automatically discharged upon pregnancy or if they acquired children under 18 years of age by either marriage or adoption.

c. Enlisted women could not exceed two percent of the total enlisted strength. Female officers, excluding nurses, could not exceed 10 percent of the total enlisted female strength.

d. Officers could not progress beyond O-5 unless they were appointed to be Director of Women in their service. Then, they attained the grade of O-6. If reassigned, women were reverted to the former lower grade. However, if they retired from the Director position, they were permitted to retire as an O-6.

e. No women could serve in command positions. They could not enter aviation training, ROTC, or the military academies. Very few career fields were

open. Those that were open were mainly in the administration and medical areas. Women could hold supervisory positions over other women only.

2. Combat restrictions for women varied amongst the services. Women's role in combat was outlined in the law and modified in the U.S. code. The following restrictions applied.

a. The Air Force code is Title 10, Sec 8549 which states that women cannot be assigned to duty in aircraft engaged in combat missions.

b. The Navy code is Title 10, Sec 6015 which states that women cannot be assigned to duty in aircraft engaged in combat missions nor to duty on vessels of the Navy except hospital ships and naval transports.

c. The Army had no statutory provisions prohibiting combat. Successful lobbying by supporters of the Army structure as it was, with a separate and distinct WAC branch apart from the combat elements of the Army, convinced the Congress that no law was needed to prohibit women in the Army from being assigned to combat zones. The Secretary of the Army was given authority to assign troops as needed.

d. WASIA did not apply to the Coast Guard. In July 1949, Title 14, Sec 762 was passed to establish the Coast Guard Women's Reserve again. It limited women to authority over female reservists and to duty only in the U.S..

3. Other services operated under WASIA for years without any changes. In the civilian world, however, women participation in the labor market expanded and continued to rise to over 38 percent. Women in business moved into previously all male jobs. In general, the role of women in society had changed even though in the next two wars the number of women in the military never went above 1.5 percent in force.

4. When the Korean War started, the only women sent were nurses. The decade of the 1950's was a status quo period for military women. Recruiting women was deemed of little importance because the draft was supplying the necessary manpower. At the peak of the Korean War, women in the Army numbered approximately 12,000, the Navy 8,000, the Air Force 13,000, and the Marine Corps 2,400.

5. In 1951, the Secretary of Defense George C. Marshall appointed a committee called the Defense Advisory Committee on Women In The Service (DACOWITS) with the following charter:

a. To advise him on all matters pertaining to women in the military.

b. To interpret to the public the need for and the roles of women in the services and to promote public acceptance of the military as a career for women.

6. DACOWITS is a civilian advisory committee comprised of prominent citizens with approximately 30 people serving three years of unpaid terms. Each member of the committee serves as an individual and not as a representative of the group. DACOWITS meets twice a year and has four separate executive committee meetings annually.

7. Under pressures from the expanding role of women in the labor force and the large personnel drain of Vietnam, DoD established a task force in 1966 to reassess the role of women in the armed forces. The study group established the expansion that was to occur later. As a result of that study, the first change did not come until 1967 when Public Law 90-130 was passed. It allowed each of the services to set up its own number quotas, and struck down grade ceilings. Policies were changed in the following areas.

a. Men and women can enlist at the age of 18 without parental consent.

b. An Air Force female officer named Lieutenant Sharon Frontiero took her case to the Supreme Court challenging her need to prove her husband a dependent, while male military members did not have to provide such proof. In 1973 the Supreme Court decided in her favor and the service policy was then changed.

c. Until the beginning of 1972, women who became pregnant while serving in the Navy or Marine Corps were involuntarily separated. In 1972, the policy was changed to allow women to request waivers to stay in the Service. In 1975, DoD reversed its pregnancy policy. Pregnant women were allowed to remain in service unless they asked to get out. Women can now remain in service after giving birth, adopting or becoming a step parent by marriage. Both male and female sole parents must sign a statement regarding deployment provisions or dependent care plan.

d. The two percent ceiling was removed for women and they can now be appointed as generals and flag officers.

e. Women can participate in ROTC programs and the military academies, including the Coast Guard.

f. Women can serve aboard some Navy ships and all ships in the Coast Guard.

g. Women can participate in aviation training in all services.

h. Women can serve in all but direct combat-related MOSs.

i. In the Navy, women cannot be assigned to duty in aircraft engaged in combat missions nor to duty on vessels of the Navy except hospital ships and naval transport.

8. The situation in the military during the Vietnam War was similar to the Korean War in that the women in the services were ready and anxious to go overseas with the fighting forces, but the services were reluctant to send them. Approximately 7,500 women served in Vietnam, Thailand, and the Philippines. Another approximately 600 to 700 Air Force women served in Southeast Asia.

9. At the height of the Vietnam War in 1968, the strength of women in the Armed Forces reached 33,000, which was still under the two percent ceiling. Of the 7,500 women who served in Vietnam, most were Army, Air Force, and Navy nurses. As before, some heroic women gave their lives and hundreds received decorations for courageous and meritorious service by both the U. S. and Vietnam governments.

10. The largest group of women to serve in Vietnam were nurses and constituted another chapter in women's heroism during the war. They were exposed to combat conditions and fighting forces. The nurses in Vietnam served in 18 hospitals, nine dispensaries, and naval ships. While most were in areas that were strongly defended, there were some close behind fighting troops, which treated casualties brought in by medics and helicopters. Even with the relative security of medical positions it did not keep all nurses from physical danger. In 1964, four nurses were awarded Purple Hearts for injuries sustained during a Viet Cong bombing of Saigon. Even though they were wounded themselves they provided first aid and assistance to others who were more seriously injured. On the Vietnam memorial in Washington, DC there are eight names of women. Typical of somewhat super human emotional and physical feats expected of these nurses was the expectations that they would not suffer any of the physical and emotional disorders that male veterans of the Vietnam era complained about. It took years before the Veteran's Administration recognized that the women nurses who served would exhibit Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PYSD) symptoms. Even the Readjustment Counseling Program enacted in 1979 specifically to address these problems ignored women veterans who served in Vietnam. With the establishment of the Women's Working Group under the Readjustment Counseling Program in 1982 attention was finally paid to special forms of stress and disturbances that war time experience had on the women who had been in Vietnam. Women counselors were assigned to outreach centers and sensitivity training given to staff so that centers can respond to emotional problems and other needs of the women Vietnam veterans.

11. It was suggested that the performance of nurses in Vietnam as well as Korea and W.W.II, demonstrated the physical and emotional endurance of women under the most trying and dangerous circumstances. Women with little or no indoctrination in military thinking have shown their ability to not only accept

military discipline, but also to create their own corps of compatible standards of military demeanor.

12. While nurses were suffering and dying under combat conditions, the media image of wartime nurses created highly romanticized and sanitized realities. Even in the combat zone, the few women who were there, were expected to uphold the feminine image. The Pentagon's official attitude was one of not employing women in any position that didn't meet with society's approval. A policy forbade WACs to be photographed on, near, or with weapons, and they received no training. One nurse, Monica Schwinn, was held for four years as a prisoner of war in the famed Hanoi Hilton.

13. With the end of the draft in June 1973, and the change to an all volunteer force, the services turned to women to help supply the needed volunteers. At the same time the Army initiated a major expansion of the WACs, which increased the strength from 12,072 women to 53,000 in 1978. A new personnel management system for officers was also inaugurated by the Army in July of 1974. This meant that WAC officers had to be assigned to the branch of their career specialty. The WAC branch, which consisted of WAC officers, essentially ceased to exist from that time. In October of 1978, under Public Law 95-485 the WAC Corps was officially eliminated. At this time women were on the road to integration with men in the services.

14. In 1975 the separate promotion list for women officers was eliminated and women began competing with men. In 1976 the Army created a new source of women officers. Women now graduated from West Point. On 30 December, 1976 the Army deactivated the Officers School at Fort McClellan, AL. where the WAC officers had been trained since W.W.II.

15. Weapons training for women was reactivated in 1975. Before then, for over ten years women had no weapons training even if they wanted it. After 1 July, 1975 women had no choice but to take the weapons training. In 1977, women began taking the same basic training as men, although the training took place at separate camps. A year later in October, 1978 women were integrated with men into basic training. While the women and men had their own separate platoons, i.e., companies consisting of several platoons, became coed. There were other changes that took place. With the influx of women beginning in 1972, existing barracks could not accommodate the increased number of women. On the other hand the influx of men had decreased, so some barracks were half empty. So the unoccupied barracks were given to women instead of building new barracks. After a while it became a standard procedure to have men and women living in the same barracks, but in separate rooms.

16. Integrated basic training continued until 1982 when the Army announced it was ending the practice. Women found the integrated training challenging and generally supportive of it, therefore there was considerable resentment at what

seemed to be an arbitrary policy decision. The Army after four years of what seemed to be a successful adventure of integrated basic training, decided that women were slowing men down. It did not offer any evidence, but cited the dissatisfaction of field commanders of the troops' performance.

17. In 1973, the United States embarked on a venture to maintain a fighting force of over two million strong, relying solely on volunteers. DoD had to admit with some apprehension that they had to expand the role of women in the military.

18. During the early part of 1972, a task force established by the Secretary of Defense, set out to prepare contingency plans for increased use of women to offset possible shortages of male recruits. With the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) clearing Congress, the military did not wait for the states to ratify the ERA before it instituted changes.

19. Many changes were initiated by the services, either because they perceived a need or because they saw the handwriting on the wall. A number of military women used the legal system charging the military with discrimination.

20. The gender composition of the armed forces is shaped by the prohibition on the assignment of women to so-called combat occupations or to units whose main function is closely related to combat.

21. Two powerful forces were now on a collision course. The push for women's equal rights is in conflict with deeply rooted American traditions that question the need for women in combat. The political arena supports equal opportunity in principle is indisputable; many public opinion polls agree. However, the extent to which people will accept equality in practice, including women in combat, is less clear.

22. It is also well understood that if women were to constitute a larger proportion of the military establishment, personnel quality as measured by educational level, general intelligence, and aptitude would improve. However, no one knows what the overall implications for military achievements would be.

23. If the women soldiers who participated in the intervention into Grenada was any example of the quality of soldiers we have serving in the armed forces, they more than passed the test. Of the 7,500 U.S. military personnel, 170 women soldiers were highly visible in a number of MOSs. Some of the positions that women served in were:

a. Two of the four military police platoon leaders were women. They were responsible for the security of outlying regions of Grenada.

b. One female ordnance Captain was in charge of detonating unexploded bombs, grenades, and other unserviceable ammunition left in Grenada by the U.S. and Cuban forces.

c. Women served as helicopter crew chiefs and maintenance personnel.

d. 26 women served as stevedores and were responsible for the loading of aircraft and shipment of Soviet/Cuban made weapons back to the U.S..

e. Women served as intelligence specialists and prisoner of war interrogators. They were responsible for interrogating Cuban military personnel and Cuban construction workers.

f. 47 women served as truck drivers, personnel and postal clerks, laundry and bath personnel, and protocol and administrative specialists.

g. The Air Force women served as flight engineers, load masters, and crew members. One of the pilots of a C141 that flew into Point Salinas Airfield was a woman.

24. During the attack on Libya in April of 1986 six Air Force females served aboard KC-19s and KC-135s involved in the attack.

25. In 1989, during Operation Just Cause (Panama) Captain Linda Bray led 30 soldiers to take control of a kennel for Panamanian Defense Force attack dogs. What was thought to be a routine mission became a three-hour infantry firefight. The mission was a success.

26. In Desert Storm, the issue of women in combat was heightened even more than in W.W.II, as the advanced technology used in the war obscured the areas of combat and noncombat for the approximately 41,000 female troops who participated. MAJ Rhonda Cornum, a flight surgeon, and SPC Melissa Rathbun-Nealy, a truck driver, were taken prisoner of war.

27. From December of 1996 through today in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia women are serving proudly in a variety of positions. Women military police officers are riding in convoys protruding from the turret with MARK 19, 40mm grenade launchers to protect the soldiers and civilians, serving as intelligence analysts and interpreters, performing guard duty protecting base camps, and a variety of other positions.

28. **Contemporary issues.** Congress eliminated the combat exclusion law in 1993. This law had been instituted by the Supreme Court in 1981 to forestall a test of the male-only draft. The Supreme Court stated the draft would be implemented solely for recruiting soldiers for combat and women were prevented from serving in combat areas. Consequently, no cause existed to make woman

a part of the draft. With the repeal of the exclusion law, any draft registration could potentially include women.

29. With the repeal of the laws prohibiting women from becoming combat pilots, Secretary of Defense, Les Aspin, directed the military services to initiate the training of women for these positions. In January 1994, additional "group combat jobs" were opened when the Pentagon eliminated the "risk rule" that had identified jobs too dangerous for women. Women are now only prevented from serving in units directly engaging the enemy in ground combat and areas with a high potential for direct engagement with the enemy.

30. On October 1, 1994, the Army opened 32,000 ground jobs to women and 48,000 were opened in the Marine Corps. This decision opened 33 new fields in the Marine Corps but still barred women from infantry, armor, and field artillery units. Women can now be Cobra and Apache helicopter pilots but they cannot fly helicopters for special operations units or operate the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS), a primary weapon system in the artillery. 91 percent of all Army career fields and 67 percent of all Army positions became open to women. Women are now authorized in 87 percent of the enlisted MOSs, 97 percent of the warrant officer specialties, and 97 percent of the officer specialties.

31. In the Army Times of August 8, 1994, Sean D. Naylor and Paulette V. Walker noted that even with the opening of thousands of more positions to women, the exclusion from the Army's combat arms branch--infantry, armor, and field artillery--prevents them from advancing as far as men. They wrote, "The Army's most senior leaders traditionally are drawn from these branches."

32. The majority of jobs in the Navy and Air Force are already open to women. Major Chris Geisel, an Air Force spokesperson at the Pentagon, says that 99.7 percent of jobs in the Air Force are open to women. Despite these advantages, resistance remain, as evidenced by the story of Kara Hultgreen. Hultgreen became the first woman to qualify in a combat-ready F-14 Tomcat, the illustrious Top Gun carrier fighter jet. She became a part of the Black Lions of VF-213 which were preparing to deploy to the Persian Gulf. As she was approaching the flight deck of the USS Abraham Lincoln on October 25, 1994, her aircraft began losing altitude. Her radar intercept officer ejected successfully. Hultgreen ejected immediately after, but the jet had already rolled. After an exhaustive search, her body and plane were not recovered. She received full military honors upon her death and no special attention was drawn to the fact that she was the first female Tomcat pilot. However, unsigned faxes began to circulate, maligning her record, and suggested that the Navy in its rush to integrate women into the ranks, was placing unqualified people on aircraft. Jean Zimmerman says, "It was an unheard of breach of naval aviation etiquette to question the flight record of a pilot who had gone down. It was just not done. Except with Kara Hultgreen." (Tailspin: Women at War in the Wake of Tailhook. 1995)

33. Whether women were motivated by a desire to earn money on a par with men, a sense of adventure, or patriotism, their record of serving faithfully for years, sometimes without even being identified as women, tells us that when given the opportunity, women are equal to men in their abilities and can succeed in the military.

34. Chief Admiral Elmo Zumwalt who served in Vietnam states “I have fought against women in combat and when I had commanded the naval forces in Vietnam some of the most cunning and boldest and best trained power we went up against were the Viet Cong women. Highly dedicated, highly intelligent, extremely well trained women who fought every good as well as their men.”

35. Today we continue to focus on integrated training as a problem causing a lack of readiness and indiscipline of new male recruits. Research shows that while some physical capabilities of men are greater than women, it is proper training, not gender, that is the important factor. In 1977 a survey was conducted amongst soldiers in the combat arms branches reference women in combat arms. One of the questions asked “Can women work effectively under stress in war time?” 72 percent of the soldiers in the combat arms branches said “Yes.”

36. As leaders, you must learn and understand about medical issues that are unique to women and convey a positive attitude to the unit in managing short-term absences for medical treatment or pregnancy. All soldiers must recognize that when all reasons are considered, men are absent about as much as women.

37. Some men feel that a women’s job is in the home or to be barefoot and pregnant. Women are soft and you have to take care of them. I assure you that there are many women that can take the stress, have the strength, and the ability to perform in any situation, including combat.

38. Because of how the Army is organized and the policy on women, many women feel that the Army still discriminates. An example may be that command and certain leadership positions are closed and yet they must still compete with others where command can be an edge in promotions and assignments.

39. As part of your responsibility as a leader you must continue the training of soldiers and leaders on overcoming the negative stereotypes of female soldiers. As leaders, it is your responsibility to create and maintain the kind of organization where all can contribute their best without suffering discrimination and sexual harassment. This is what equal opportunity is about. It is also the right thing to do, morally and legally.

**NOTE:** Refer students to Student Handout #9-C-1 and have them review it.

**CLOSING:** The role of women in the military has evolved along the same lines as the roles of other minority groups in the military. They served with distinction when the need arose and were disbanded in times of peace. The military has made strides to improve the issues of equality for women serving in the armed forces. Significant issues, such as women performing duties in combat related fields, remain to be answered.

**STUDENT HANDOUT #9-C-1  
HIGHLIGHTS OF WOMEN IN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES**

**1775 American Revolution:** Women served on the battlefield as nurses, water bearers, cooks, laundresses and saboteurs. Deborah Sampson Gannett, alias Robert Shurtleff, disguised herself as a man and served in the Continental Army.

**War of 1812:** Mary Marshall and Mary Allen served as nurses aboard Commodore Stephen Decatur's ship *United States*.

**1861-1865 Civil War:** Courageous women including Dorothea Dix, Clara Barton and Harriet Tubinan provided casualty care to Union and Confederate troops. Convent nuns nursed the wounded at field hospitals and on the Union hospital ship *Red Rover*.

Women like Confederate soldier Loreta Velasquez, alias Harry T. Buford, served as soldiers on both sides. Belie Boyd was among the women who were spies.

Dr. Mary Walker received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the first and only woman to receive the nation's highest military honor.

**1898 Spanish American War:** Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee, then Vice President of the National Society of the DAR, was placed in charge of selecting the more than 1,500 contract nurses who served with the Army in Hawaii, Cuba, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, hospitals stateside, and on the hospital ship *Relief*. Twenty nurses died during the war.

**1901:** Army Nurse Corps established; Dita H. Kinney served as First Superintendent.

**1908:** Navy Nurse Corps established; Esther Voorhees Hasson served as First Superintendent.

**1917-1918 World War 1:** The Navy enlisted 11,880 Yeomen (F) and Marine Corps enlisted 305 Marine Reservists (F) to "free men to fight" by filling positions such as clerks and telephone operators. 2 women served with the Coast Guard. 21,480 Army nurses and 1,476 Navy nurses served in hospitals.

**1941-1945 World War II:** Thirteen Army nurses on a medical evacuation flight to Bari, Italy, crashed in the Albanian mountains far behind enemy lines in 1944. They and the plane's crew walked 800 miles across the mountains to freedom. At Anzio, Italy, six Army nurses died from two separate German bombardments. Nurse Deloris Buckley was one of several nurses wounded in these attacks. 1941, Army and Navy nurses were taken prisoner-of-war. Five Navy nurses were captured when the island of Guam fell to Japanese forces. They were transferred to a prison camp in Japan and held for five months. Eleven Navy nurses captured in the Philippines endured 37 months as prisoners of the Japanese at Los Banos prison camp, and 66 Army nurses were imprisoned for 33 months at Santo Tomas prison camp in the Philippines.

**1949:** Air Force established its Nurse Corps. Army and Air Force established the Medical Specialist Corps.

**1950-53 Korean War:** Army nurses arrived in Pusan to help set up a hospital - the first of about 540 to serve in the combat zone. Navy nurses served on hospital ships and Air Force nurses with Air Evacuation units. Major Genevieve Smith, ANC, died in a plane crash on 27 July 1950.

Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) created to advise on recruitment of military women.

**1953:** Dr. Fae Margaret Adams, an Army Reserve officer, became the first woman physician to be commissioned a medical officer in the regular U.S. Army.

**1955:** Men accepted into the Army and Air Force Nurse Corps. 1965: Men accepted into the Navy Nurse Corps.

**1965-75 Vietnam War:** Some 7,500 American military women served in Southeast Asia. The majority in-country were Army nurses. 1969: Lieutenant Sharon Lane died of shrapnel wounds. 1975: Air Force flight nurse Captain Mary T. Klinker died in Vietnam when the C-5A Galaxy transport evacuating Vietnamese orphans crashed on takeoff. Six other American military women died in the line of duty.

**1967:** Legal ceilings on women's promotions repealed.

**1969:** Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps (AFROTC) became coeducational.

**1970:** Army promoted first women to brigadier general, Anna Mae Hays, Chief, Army Nurse Corps, and Elizabeth P. Hoisington, WAC Director.

**1971:** Air Force promoted Jeanne M. Holm, WAF Director, to brigadier general.

Military draft ended. More women recruited. Army and Navy women entered ROTC.

Navy Chief Admiral Zumwalt published Z-116 declaring Navy's commitment to equal rights and opportunities for women.

**1979:** Hazel W. Johnson, Army Nurse Corps, became the first black woman brigadier general and first black Chief of the Army Nurse Corps.

Lieutenant (junior grade) Beverly G. Kelley assumed command of the Coast Guard Cutter *Cape Newagen*, the first woman to command a military vessel.

**1980:** First women graduated from the service academies.

**1981:** Congress upheld decision excluding women from the draft.

**1983:** Lieutenant Colleen Nevius became the first Navy woman test pilot upon completing Test Pilot School.

170 women among forces deployed to Grenada on Operation Urgent Fury. 1984: Kristin Holdereid graduated top of her class at the Naval Academy.

**1986:** Air Force women served as pilots, copilots, and boom operators on the KC-135 and KC-10 tankers that refueled FB-111s during the raid on Libya.

**1989:** 770 women deployed to Panama in Operation Just Cause.

Army Captain Linda L. Bray, commander of the 988th Military Police Company, led her soldiers in an infantry-style firefight against Panamanian Defense Forces.

Three female Army pilots nominated for Air Medals after their helicopters encountered heavy enemy fire.

Kristin M. Baker named brigade commander of the West Point Corps of Cadets.

1990-91 War in the Persian Gulf: Some 40,000 American military women deployed on Operation Desert Shield/Storm.

Two Army women, Specialist Melissa Rathbun-Nealy, a truck driver, and Major Rhonda Cornum, a flight surgeon, were taken prisoner by the Iraqis.

**1991:** Congress repealed laws banning women from flying in combat.

Servicewomen deployed to Honduras.

**1992:** Secretary of Defense Memo "Zero Tolerance of Sexual Harassment."

**1993:** Air Force Lieutenant Jeannie Flynn entered combat pilot training.



# HISTORICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- **REVOLUTIONARY WAR**
- **CIVIL WAR**
- **W.W. I**
- **W.W. II**



# LAWS, POLICIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

- WASIA
- DACOWITS
- VIETNAM
- POST VIETNAM
- CONTEMPORARY ISSUES