WOMEN IN THE ARMY
OVERVIEW

STATUS OF WOMEN DURING WW I, WW II, VIETNAM AND POST VIETNAM ERA
OVERVIEW

STATUS OF WOMEN DURING WW I, WW II, VIETNAM AND POST VIETNAM ERA

LAWS GOVERNING WOMEN IN THE MILITARY
OVERVIEW

STATUS OF WOMEN DURING WW I, WW II, VIETNAM AND POST VIETNAM ERA

LAWS GOVERNING WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES
STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE ARMY DURING WW I

CIVILIAN WOMEN AS EMPLOYEES

RESTRICTED ENLISTMENT TO MEN
Even though Army nurses received many decorations from the U.S. and Allies for courageous service, at war's end, demobilization of women was THE RULE.
World War II

"FREE A MAN TO FIGHT" SLOGAN

MAY 1942

WOMEN’S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS (WAAC)
World War II

"FREE A MAN TO FIGHT" SLOGAN

MAY 1942

WOMEN’S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS (WAAC)

JULY 1943

WOMEN ACCEPTED FOR VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICES (WAVES)
World War II

ARMY & NAVY NURSE CORPS EXPANDED
World War II (cont)

ARMY & NAVY NURSE CORPS EXPANDED

WASP

WOMEN AIR SERVICE PILOTS (AUG 1943)
World War II (cont)

BLACK WOMEN AFFECTED SEVERELY BY SEGREGATION
World War II
(cont)

UNITS
SEGREGATED
BY COLOR
World War II (cont)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR BLACK WOMEN WERE PRACTICALLY NONEXISTENT
World War II (cont)

Small number of Chinese-American, Japanese-American, and Native American women enlisted in the WAAC and assigned to White WAAC units.
Puerto Rican women were enlisted, trained, and assigned as a separate unit mainly because of language difficulties.
Yet, through all the fighting, women served in a reserve status. They were still just a temporary part of the military.

Albert Spear, 1975
WORLD WAR II (CONT)

WOMEN SERVED IN A RESERVE STATUS
WORLD WAR II (CONT)

WOMEN SERVED IN A RESERVE STATUS

WOMEN WERE A TEMPORARY PART OF THE MILITARY
WORLD WAR II (CONT)

WOMEN SERVED IN A RESERVE STATUS

WOMEN WERE A TEMPORARY PART OF THE MILITARY

WOMEN WERE TEMPORARY HELPERS ONLY
VIETNAM
LARGEST GROUP OF WOMEN SERVED
VIETNAM WAR
LARGEST GROUP OF WOMEN SERVED
SERVICED 18 HOSPITALS
9 DISPENSARIES
VARIOUS NAVAL HOSPITAL SHIPS
VIETNAM

LARGEST GROUP OF WOMEN SERVED

SERVICED
18 HOSPITALS
9 DISPENSARIES
VARIOUS NAVAL HOSPITAL SHIPS

33,000 SERVED
STILL UNDER 2% CEILING
WHILE NURSES WERE SUFFERING AND DYING THE MEDIA IMAGE OF WARTIME NURSES CREATED HIGHLY ROMANTICIZED AND SANITIZED REALITIES.
YEARS BEFORE THE VA RECOGNIZED WOMEN WHO SERVED AS HAVING POST STRESS DISORDER SYMPTOMS
Public Law 90-130, 1967
Repealed the 2% ceilings on women's representation in the Armed Forces, increased the number of jobs women could hold and allowed them to be promoted to Flag rank.
POST VIETNAM ERA

JUNE 1973
END OF DRAFT
POST VIETNAM ERA

JUNE 1973
END OF DRAFT

VOLUNTEER FORCE
POST VIETNAM ERA

JUNE 1973
END OF DRAFT

VOLUNTEER FORCE

WOMEN HELPED SUPPLY VOLUNTEERS
POST VIETNAM ERA

SEPARATE LIST FOR WOMEN OFFICERS ELIMINATED
POST VIETNAM ERA

JULY 1974
NEW OFFICER
PERSONNEL
MANAGEMENT
SYSTEM

SEPARATE LIST
FOR WOMEN
OFFICERS
ELIMINATED
POST VIETNAM
ERA
(cont)

1975

WEAPONS
TRAINING
REACTIVATED
POST VIETNAM ERA
(cont)

1975
WEAPONS TRAINING REACTIVATED

1977
SAME BASIC TRAINING AS MEN
POST VIETNAM ERA (cont)

1975

WEAPONS TRAINING REACTIVATED

1977

SAME BASIC TRAINING AS MEN

1977 TO 1978

INTEGRATED WITH MEN IN BASIC TRAINING
LAWS GOVERNING WOMEN IN THE ARMEDforces

1948 ACT

PURPOSE
DETERMINE THE STATUS OF WOMEN
HOW MANY WOULD BE ACCEPTED?
RECRUITMENT AND ENTRY

Women under 18 could not enlist and, if less than 21, were required to have consent of parent or guardian
HUSBANDS OF MILITARY WOMEN HAD TO PROVE DEPENDENCY
Husbands of military women had to prove dependency.

Women were automatically discharged if pregnant or if acquired children under 18 years of age.
Female officers could not exceed 10% of the total enlisted female strength.
STRENGTH CEILINGS

Female officers could not exceed 10% of the total enlisted female strength.

Enlisted women could not exceed 2% of total enlisted strength.
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

NO WOMAN COULD SERVE IN COMMAND POSITIONS
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Command positions open were mainly in administration and medical fields.
Women's roles in combat were outlined in the law and modified in the U.S. Code
The Army had no statute prohibiting combat.
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY GIVEN AUTHORITY TO ASSIGN TROOPS AS NEEDED
CURRENT PROVISIONS OF WASIA

- Men and women can enlist at 18 without parental consent
- Benefits for male dependent equal to dependent women
- Change in pregnancy policies
- Single parents may remain in the military
Service Secretaries can now set upper limits

Future projections - 12% DOD wide
Women can and do now command both men and women.

Women are flying combat aircraft.

Women now serve in all but directly combat related jobs.
SUMMARY

- Status of women during WW I, WW II, Vietnam, and post Vietnam era
- Laws governing women in the military
- Contemporary issues