**I****n recognition of**

**Women Veterans Day**

**June 12, 2021**

**The Center for Women Veterans &**

**The Military Women’s Memorial**

**Highlight Women in the U. S. Armed Services throughout**

[**HerStory**](https://womensmemorial.org/index.php/make-herstory/)

**American Revolution (1775-1783):**

Women served on the battlefield as nurses, water bearers, cooks, laundresses and saboteurs.

**War of 1812:**

Mary Marshall and Mary Allen employed as military nurses aboard Commodore Stephen Decatur’s ship *United States*.

**Mexican-American War (1846-1848):**

Elizabeth Newcom enlisted in Company D, Missouri Volunteer Infantry as “Bill Newcom.” She marched 600 miles from Missouri to winter camp in Pueblo, Colorado, before she was discovered to be a woman and discharged.

**Civil War (1861-1865):**

Women provided casualty care and nursing to Union and Confederate troops at field hospitals and on the Union hospital ship *Red Rover.* Women soldiers disguised as men served on both sides.

Dorothea Dix appointed Superintendent of Women Nurses for the Union Army in 1861—the first formal military position for a woman in the US.

In 1866, Dr. Mary Edwards Walker awarded the Medal of Honor for her service as a contract surgeon in the Union Army. To date, she is the only woman who has received the nation’s highest military award. The medal was awarded to Dr. Walker, an ex-prisoner of war, for her work as a physician on the battlefield and in military hospitals without regard to her own health and safety.

**Spanish-American War (1898):**

Thousands of US soldiers sick with typhoid, malaria, and yellow fever overwhelmed the capabilities of the Army Medical Department. Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee suggested that the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) be appointed to select professionally qualified nurses to serve under contract to the US Army. More than 1,500 Army contract nurses served stateside, in Hawaii, Cuba, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and on the hospital ship *Relief*. Twenty nurses died. The Army appointed Dr. McGee Acting Assistant Surgeon General, the first woman to hold the position, and asked her to write legislation creating a permanent corps of nurses.

**1901:**

Army Nurse Corps established.

**1908:**

Navy Nurse Corps established.

**World War I (1917-1918):**

During the course of the war, 21,480 Army nurses served in military hospitals in the United States and overseas. Eighteen African American Army nurses served stateside caring for German prisoners of war and African American soldiers.

The Army recruited and trained 233 bilingual telephone operators, known as “Hello Girls,” to work switchboards near frontlines in France and sent skilled stenographers to France to work with the Quartermaster and Ordnance Corps.

The Navy enlisted 11,880 women as Yeomen (F) to serve stateside to release sailors for sea duty.

More than 1,476 Navy nurses served in military hospitals stateside and overseas.

The Marine Corps enlisted 305 Marine Reservists (F) to "free men to fight" by filling positions such as clerks and telephone operators on the home front.

A “handful” of women served with the Coast Guard.

More than 400 military nurses died in the line of duty during World War I. The vast majority of these women died from a highly contagious form of influenza known as the “Spanish Flu,” which swept through crowded military camps and hospitals and ports of embarkation.

**1920:**

Army Reorganization Act authorized “relative rank” for Army nurses from second lieutenant to major but not full rights and privileges.

**World War II (1941-1945):**

More than 60,000 Army nurses served stateside and overseas during World War II. Sixty-seven Army nurses were captured by the Japanese in the Philippines in 1942 and held as POWs for over two and a half years.

The Army established a Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) in May 1942, which was converted to the Women's Army Corps (WAC) in 1943. More than 150,000 women served as WACs during the war; thousands were sent to the European and Pacific theaters.

More than 14,000 Navy nurses served stateside, overseas on hospital ships and as flight nurses during the war. Five Navy nurses were captured by the Japanese on the island of Guam and were held as POWs for five months before being exchanged. A second group of eleven Navy nurses captured in the Philippines were held for 37 months.

In March 1945, Phyllis Daley became the first African American Navy nurse.

The Navy Women's Reserve, called Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES), was established on July 30, 1942. Before the war was over, more than 80,000 WAVES filled shore billets in a large variety of jobs in communications, intelligence, supply, medicine, and administration.

In December 1944, Harriet Ida Pickens and Frances E. Wills became the first two African American WAVE officers commissioned.

The Marine Corps established the Marine Corps Women’s Reserve on February 13, 1943. Some 20,000 Women Marines served stateside as clerks, cooks, mechanics, drivers, and in a variety of other positions.

The Coast Guard established their Women’s Reserve known as the SPARs (after the motto Semper Paratus - Always Ready) on November 23, 1942. SPARs were assigned stateside as storekeepers, clerks, photographers, pharmacist’s mates, cooks, and to numerous other jobs.

In 1945, the first five African American women enlisted in the SPARS.

In September 1942, the Army began recruiting women pilots. The Women Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAF) and the Women’s Flying Training Detachment (WFTD) organized. The WAFS and WFTD merged in August 1943 to form the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). Over 1,000 WASPs flew stateside missions as ferriers, test pilots, and anti-aircraft artillery trainers. In December 1944, the WASP disbanded.

The Cadet Nurse Corps, administered by the US Public Health Service, was established in 1943 to alleviate a shortage of professionally trained nurses. Some 124,000 nurses graduated before it was phased out in 1948.

More than 400,000 American military women served at home and overseas in nearly all noncombat jobs. As the country demobilized, all but a few servicewomen were mustered out, even though the United States, now a world power, was forced to maintain the largest peacetime military in the history of the nation.

March 1945, Ruth C. Issacs, Katherine Horton, and Inez Patterson became the first African American WAVES to enter the Hospital Corps School at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland.

**1947:**

Congress passed the Army-Navy Nurse Act of 1947 (PL-36-80C). It established the Army Nurse Corps, Navy Nurse Corps, and Women's Medical Specialist Corps in the Regular Army and Navy. It also integrated nurses in the officer ranks of the Regular Army and Navy with lieutenant colonel/commander as the highest permanent ranks. The Nurse Corps directors were authorized to hold temporary rank of colonel/captain.

**1948:**

The Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948 (PL-62 5) signed by President Harry S. Truman on June 12, 1948, granted women permanent status in the Regular and Reserve forces of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps as well as in the newly created Air Force under the following conditions: women cannot constitute more than two percent of the total force; number of women officers can total no more than 10 percent of the two percent; promotion of women officers is capped above captain/lieutenant and highest permanent rank is commander/lieutenant colonel; women service directors can be temporarily promoted to colonel/captain; women are barred from serving aboard Navy vessels (except hospital ships and certain transports) and from duty in aircraft, which could be assigned to a combat mission; women denied spousal benefits for husbands unless husband is dependent on wife for over 50 percent of his support; and by policy, women precluded from having command authority over men. The Coast Guard was not included in this legislation although few women remained in Coast Guard Reserve.

On July 26, 1948, President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order No. 9981 ending segregation in the US Armed Forces.

July 1948, Chief Yeoman Edna Young became the first African American enlisted woman sworn into the regular Navy and its first female African American Chief Petty Officer.

**1949:**

Air Force Nurse Corps established.

Ann E. Lamb and Annie E. Graham are first African-American women enlisted in the Marine Corps.

Reestablishment of the Women’s Reserve of the US Coast Guard approved by the President, effective November 1, 1949.

**Korean War (1950-1953):**

More than 500 Army nurses served in the combat zone and many Army nurses were assigned to large hospitals in Japan during the war. Servicewomen who had joined the Reserves were involuntarily recalled to active duty.

Navy nurses served on hospital ships in the Korean theater of war as well as at Navy hospitals stateside. Eleven Navy nurses died en route to Korea when their plane crashed in the Marshall Islands.

Air Force nurses served in Korea, Japan, and stateside during the conflict. Medical air evacuation teams lowered casualty rates significantly during the war.

**1951:**

The Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) was created to advise on recruitment of military women and promote acceptance of military service as a career for women.

Executive Order 10240 authorized services to discharge any woman who became pregnant or became a parent through adoption or had a minor child/stepchild in the home for at least 30 days per year.

**1955:**

Men accepted into the Army and Air Force Nurse Corps and the Army Medical Specialist Corps.

Elizabeth Splaine became the first female Coast Guard warrant officer.

**1965:**

Men accepted into the Navy Nurse Corps.

**Vietnam War (1965-1975):**

Some 7,500 American military women served in Southeast Asia. The majority of these were nurses.

In 1967, Sergeant Barbara J. Dulinsky became the first Woman Marine to serve in a combat zone.

Army nurse Lieutenant Sharon Lane died of shrapnel wounds at the 312th Evacuation Hospital in Chu Lai, Vietnam, in 1969. She was the only US military woman to die from enemy fire in Vietnam.

Air Force flight nurse Captain Mary T. Klinker died in Vietnam in 1975 when the C-5A Galaxy transport evacuating Vietnamese orphans crashed on takeoff. Six other American military women died in the line of duty.

**1967:**

On November 8, 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed PL-90-130, which modified the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act and lifted the two percent ceiling on women’s numbers, removed the officer promotion cap above captain/lieutenant which allowed women to be eligible for permanent promotion to colonel/captain, and women became eligible for promotion to flag/general officer rank.

**1968:**

Jeanne M. Holm, WAF (Women in the Air Force) Director, and Helen O'Day, assigned to the Office of the Air Force Chief of Staff, became the first women promoted to colonel.

First woman sworn into the Air National Guard (ANG) with the passage of Public Law 90-130.

WAC (Women’s Army Corps) Sergeant Major Yzetta Nelson became the first woman command sergeant major.

**1969:**

Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) became coeducational.

**1970:**

In June, the Army promoted the first women to general officer: Anna Mae Hays, Chief, Army Nurse Corps, and Elizabeth P. Hoisington, WAC Director.

**1971:**

WAF Director Jeanne M. Holm became the first woman brigadier (one-star) general in the Air Force.

The Air Force allowed pregnant women to request waiver of the automatic discharge policy and also changed recruiting rules to allow the enlistment of women with children—the first service to do so.

**1972:**

Army opened ROTC to women.

Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt issued Z-116, declaring the Navy's commitment to equal rights and opportunities for women and suspended restrictions on women succeeding to command; authorized limited entry of women into all enlisted ratings; opened assignment aboard the hospital ship USS *Sanctuary*to all women; allowed women officers into additional occupational fields such as intelligence, cryptology, public affairs, and aircraft maintenance; opened the Chaplain Corps and Civil Engineering Corps to women; and opened Naval ROTC to women.

Alene B. Duerk, Director, Navy Nurse Corps, became the first woman rear admiral (one-star flag rank) in the Navy.

**1973:**

The All-Volunteer Force began with end of draft and recruiting goals for women increased.

In *Frontiero*v. *Richardson*, the Supreme Court declared unconstitutional differences between men and women with respect to dependents’ benefits and Department of Defense (DoD) adopted word “spouse” in relevant regulations and authorized back pay for women.

Air Force Brigadier General Jeanne M. Holm became the first female major (two-star) general in the US military.

Navy women began pilot training.

*Edwards* v. *Schlesinger*filed, challenging women’s exclusion from the military service academies.

Discharge-on-marriage rule for enlisted women and officers ended.

Congress ended the Women’s Reserve of the Coast Guard and women officially integrated into the active duty Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Reserve.

**1974:**

Army women became eligible for aviation duty in non-combat aircraft.

Army Lieutenant Sally Murphy became the first female military helicopter pilot.

Mildred C. Kelly became the first African American WAC command sergeant major.

Lieutenant (junior grade) Barbara Ann (Allen) Rainey became the first Navy woman pilot.

**1975:**

President Gerald Ford signed PL-94-106, which opened service academies to women.

DoD reversed policies and provided pregnant women with the option of electing discharge or remaining on active duty. Previous policies required women be discharged upon pregnancy or the adoption of children.

**1976:**

In *Crawford*v. *Cushman,* the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit ruled Marine Corps regulations mandating discharge of pregnant Marines unconstitutional.

Fran McKee became the first Navy woman line officer to be promoted to rear admiral (first two female rear admirals were Navy nurses).

**1977:**

Army Combat Exclusion Policy restricted women from specialties or units that involve direct combat.

Coast Guard assigned first women to shipboard duty as crew members aboard Coast Guard cutters *Morgenthau* and *Gallatin.*

Janna Lambine became the first woman Coast Guard pilot.

First known Puerto Rican woman—Ileana Ortiz—joined the Coast Guard on August 29, 1977.

Air Force women became eligible for aviation duty in non-combat aircraft.

Military veteran status granted to the World War II Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP).

Navy nurse Joan Bynum became the first African American woman promoted to captain.

**1978:**

DoD, as required by PL-95-79, Sec. 303, provided definition of combat to Congress.

The Coast Guard opened all assignments to women.

Margaret Brewer became the Marine Corps' first woman general officer.

Judge John Sirica ruled the law banning Navy women from ships to be unconstitutional in case *Owens*v. *Brown.*Congress amended the law by opening noncombat ships to women. Ensign Mary Carroll joined the crew of the USS *Vulcan* repair ship--the first of many Navy women assigned shipboard under the amended law.

Women's Army Corps (WAC) disestablished and its members integrated into the Regular Army.

First military women—one from each of the five services—served as members of White House Honor Guard.

First women graduated from the US Merchant Marine Academy.

Men and women began Army joint basic training.

Brigadier General Mary E. Clarke became the Army’s first woman two-star general.

**1979:**

Army nurse Hazel W. Johnson became the first African American woman brigadier (one-star) general and first African American Chief of the Army Nurse Corps.

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

**1980:**

First women graduated from the service academies.

Defense Officer Manpower Personnel Management Act (DOPMA) enacted and abolished laws requiring separate appointments, promotion, accounting, and separation procedures for women in the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps and required that women in the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps be selected rather than appointed to flag/general rank (compete with male peers for promotion). The Air Force, since its establishment, operated under laws providing a single personnel system.

**1981:**

On June 25, 1981, in *Goldberg*v. *Rostker*, the Supreme Court overturned a lower court’s decision and ruled that Congress had constitutional authority to exclude women from the draft.

**1982:**

Army announced return to segregated basic training.

**1983:**

About 200 Army and Air Force women deployed to Grenada in support of Operation Urgent Fury. Women served on air crews, as military police, and as transportation specialists.

Francis I. Mossman became the first woman in any reserve component to achieve the rank of brigadier (one-star) general.

Official Coast Guard policy on women in combat established. Coast Guard Chief of Staff noted, “the men and women on our vessels are trained and function as a team. Removal of women during wartime would degrade operational readiness while replacement personnel are trained and acquire experience.”

**1984:**

Vivian Crea became the first Coast Guard woman officer to serve as a Presidential Military Aide.

**1986:**

Six 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.

**1987:**

Secretary of Defense established DoD Task Force on Women in the Military to address issues impacting women’s careers, morale, utilization, and quality of life.

**1988:**

DoD Risk Rule imposed a new standard of interpretation of the combat exclusions as the norm for the military in evaluating noncombat support units and positions from which women could be excluded. Stated “risks of exposure to direct combat, hostile fire, or capture are proper criteria for closing noncombat positions or units to women, provided that such risks are equal to or greater than that experienced by associated combat units in the same theater of operations.”

Grace Parmelle became the first Asian-Pacific-American female Coast Guard warrant officer.

**1989:**

Some 770 military women served in Panama supporting Operation Just Cause. Two women commanded Army companies in a combat operation. Army Captain Linda L. Bray commanded the 988th Military Police Company during that unit's three-hour firefight against Panamanian Defense Forces. Three female Army pilots nominated for Air Medals after their helicopters encountered heavy enemy fire. Two received the Air Medal with “V” device for participation in a combat mission.

Cadet Kristin M. Baker named the first woman Brigade Commander and First Captain of the West Point Corps of Cadets.

**War in the Persian Gulf (1990-1991):**

Some 40,000 American military women were deployed during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Two Army women, truck driver Specialist Melissa Rathbun-Nealy and flight surgeon Major Rhonda Cornum taken prisoner by the Iraqis. Fifteen women were killed. Fourteen women Coast Guard reservists served in the Persian Gulf.

**1990:**

Lieutenant Commander Darlene Iskra became first Navy woman to assume command of a ship.

**1991:**

Congress repealed laws banning women from flying in combat aircraft.

Presidential Commission on Assignment of Women in the Services established.

Marilyn Melendez Dykman became first Hispanic-American female Coast Guard pilot.

**1992:**

Secretary of Defense Memo "Zero Tolerance of Sexual Harassment" issued in response to the “Tailhook” investigation.

First five coed recruit companies from Naval Training Center Orlando, Florida, graduated.

**1993:**

Secretary of Defense memo ordered the US Armed Forces train and assign women on combat aircraft and most combat ships but not ground combat positions.

“Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy enacted, which mandated that the military could not ask service members about their sexual orientation.

The Marine Corps opened pilot positions to women. Sarah Deal reported with six other (male) Marines to Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida, for flight training.

Sheila Widnall, Associate Provost and Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, became Secretary of the Air Force—first female secretary of any of the US Armed Forces.

Alice Astafan became first woman in any reserve component to achieve two-star rank.

**1994:**

In January, Secretary of Defense, Les Aspin announced new, less restrictive ground combat policy regarding women in combat, rescinding the 1988 “Risk Rule.”

First Navy women joined the crew of a combat ship, the aircraft carrier USS *Eisenhower*. Sixty-three women received permanent assignment orders to the ship.

Lieutenant Jeannie Flynn completed training on the F-15E and became first Air Force woman combat pilot.

First coed company completed Army basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, under renewed policy of gender-integrated basic training for many noncombat jobs.

**1995:**

Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Eileen M. Collins became first woman pilot of a space shuttle, the *Discovery.*

Air Force Brigadier General Marcelite Harris promoted to major (two-star) general, the first African American woman to attain this rank.

Captain Sarah M. Deal became first female Marine pilot to pin on Naval flight wings.

**1996:**

Navy Rear Admiral Patricia Tracey and Marine Corps Major General Carol Mutter became first women promoted to the three-star flag/general rank.

Army Sergeant Heather Johnsen became first woman tomb guard at Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington National Cemetery.

Major Theresa Claiborne became first Air Force African American woman pilot.

US Supreme Court ruled Virginia Military Institute (VMI) could not exclude women.

**1997:**

Major General Claudia J. Kennedy became first female lieutenant (three-star) general in the US Army.

The Army Reserve promoted Colonel Sue Dueitt to the rank of brigadier (one-star) general, making her first woman promoted to a general officer billet in the Reserve who was not a medical officer or nurse.

**1998:**

Operation Desert Fox (enforcement of the no-fly zone in Iraq) began. Navy Lieutenant Kendra Williams became first female fighter pilot to deliver a payload of missiles and laser-guided bombs in combat. Air Force First Lieutenant Cheryl Lamoureux became first woman on a combat air mission as a member of the B-52 crew that fired missiles.

Lillian Fishburne became first African American woman promoted to one-star (flag) rank in the Navy.

**1999:**

Major General Leslie Kenne became first female lieutenant (three-star) general in the Air Force.

Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Eileen Collins became first woman space shuttle commander.

First women graduate from the Virginia Military Institute and the Citadel.

Rear Admiral Evelyn J. Fields became first woman and first African American to command the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Corps (NOAA).

**2000:**

Two women sailors among those killed in terrorist attack on the destroyer USS *Col*e while refueling in the Port of Aden, Yemen.

Vivian Crea became first Coast Guard women promoted to one-star (flag) rank and Mary P. O’Donnell became first woman promoted to one-star rank in the Coast Guard Reserve.

**2001:**

Six military women are among those killed in the attack on the Pentagon on September 11.

Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) began and military women deploy to Afghanistan as part of Combined Forces Command Afghanistan.

Captain Vernice Armour became first African American female Marine Corps pilot and first African American female combat pilot.

**2002:**

DACOWITS issued a new charter by the Secretary of Defense, which reduced the number of committee members by half and modified their mission, including adding family members to the list of issues.

Marine Corps Sergeant Jeannette Winters killed in an airplane crash in Pakistan—first woman to die in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Julia J. Cleckley became first African American brigadier (one-star) general in the Army National Guard.

**2003:**

The first active duty Coast Guard women served in a combat zone when Coast Guard cutter *Boutwell*served in Northern Arabian Gult in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom from January-June 2003.

Lieutenant Holly Harrison became first Coast Guard woman to command vessel in a combat zone and first Coast Guard woman awarded Bronze Star medal.

Command Sergeant Major Michele Jones became first woman command sergeant major of the Army Reserve; first woman to serve in highest enlisted position of the Army Reserve and highest-ranking enlisted African American woman in any military service branch.

**2004:**

Lioness program operations began when Army women joined with Marine Corps ground combat units for raids on locations in which Iraqi women and children could be present. Women Marines and Sailors later participate in the operations.

**2005:**

Lieutenant (junior grade) Jeannie McIntosh-Menze became first African American female Coast Guard pilot.

Army Sergeant Leigh Ann Hester became first woman awarded the Silver Star since World War II.

Major Nicole Malachowski became first woman pilot to join the US Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, the “Thunderbirds.”

**2006:**

Angela Salinas became first Hispanic-American woman brigadier (one-star) general in the Marine Corps.

Fleet Master Chief April D. Beldo, an African American, selected as the first female Command Master Chief (CMC) of Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois. She later became the first African American CMC to be assigned to an aircraft carrier, Carl Vinson (CVN-70), in 2009; the first female and first African American Force Master Chief for Naval Education and Training Command in 2012; and the first female Manpower, Personnel, Training, Education (MPT&E) Force Master Chief in 2017.

**2008:**

Army Lieutenant General Ann E. Dunwoody became first woman four-star general in the US military.

**2009:**

The Female Engagement Team (FET) Program established by Task Force Leatherneck in Afghanistan with mission to interact with rural women in their homes and elsewhere. The all-woman FET team members are attached to small ground combat units operating in the field.

**2010:**

Lieutenant (junior) grade La’Shanda Holmes became first African American female Coast Guard helicopter pilot.

The Navy opened Fleet Ballistic Missile and Guided-Missile Attack submarines to women officers. Attack submarines remained closed due to privacy considerations.

**2011:**

Coast Guard Rear Admiral Sandra Stosz became first woman superintendent of US Coast Guard Academy and first woman to command any service academy.

First group of female Navy submariners completed school and reported on board two ballistic and two guided missile submarines.

“Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy ended.

**2012:**

In February, Office of Secretary of Defense notified Congress that intended to abolish collocation clause of the 1994 Memorandum outlining occupations and units closed to women.  Clause abolished in May and over 13,000 positions and six additional specialties opened to Army women. Additional policy exceptions opened 1,186 positions to Army, Navy, and Marine Corps women.

Brig. Gen. Tammy S. Smith becomes the first openly gay officer of flag rank in the United States military.

**2013:**

In January, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta announced lifting of ban on women serving in all ground combat occupations and units with a goal of January 2016 for all service assessments for the integration of women completed.

**2014:**

Michelle J. Howard became the first vice admiral (four-star) in the Navy.

Marine Corps Captain Katie Higgins became first female pilot to join the Navy flight demonstration squadron, ‘The Blue Angels.”

**2015:**

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter announced women allowed to enter any military occupational specialty (MOS) and serve in any unit for which they meet the standards.

First three women graduate from Army Ranger School.

**2016:**

Army women officers began graduating from Infantry and Armor officers training courses.

Dominique Saavedra became first enlisted female Sailor to earn her submariner qualification.

**2017:**

First women noncommissioned officers graduated from Infantry training course.

**2018:**

First two women passed Marine Corps Infantry Officer Training.

**2019:**

On January 4, 2019, the Marine Corps announced that women in the incoming boot camp class would form one of five platoons in the formally all-male 3rd Battalion at Parris Island, South Carolina.

First woman completed Navy SEAL officer screening although not selected for a SEAL contract.

First two Army National Guard enlisted women, Sergeant Danielle Farber and Staff Sergeant Jessica Smiley, graduated from Army Ranger School.

Sergeant First Class Janina Simmons became first African American woman to graduate from Army Ranger School.

Captain Lauran Glover became US Army Drill Team’s first female commander.

**2020**

First woman soldier graduated from the Army's elite Special Forces course, becoming the first woman to join a Green Beret team, but she is not the first woman to complete the course. Then-Capt. Kathleen Wilder did in 1980, though she was not permitted to graduate at the time.