



The Freedom Post

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From WAAC to Warrior, Women in the Army

Story by Ashly Mitchell, Photos courtesy of Ft. Des Moines Historical Foundation

When you look at a female Soldier today, what do you see? Most people might see a strong, determined woman, who is capable of completing her mission at all costs. What a lot of individuals don't see is the past.

Deborah Samson disguised herself as a male Soldier during the Revolutionary War; Sarah Emma Edmonds served as a nurse and spy during the civil war, and 30,000 women served as nurses for the Army and Navy in World War I. Whether they were behind the lines or on the field, women were there.

After the attack of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, the need for laborers in war plants for the military grew. With the realization that there would be a shortage of manpower, Massachusetts Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers introduced a bill in the House of Representatives to establish a Women's Army Auxiliary

Corps. Rogers was later known as an author of the 1944 GI. Bill of Rights, providing educational and financial benefits for veterans.

This bill would establish an organization of 25,000 women to fill clerical positions allowing more male Soldiers to fulfill combat duties. Although the bill was passed, it was stagnant in 1941 because congress was preoccupied with more important issues.

When manpower shortages were still present in January of 1942, Rogers introduced another bill to begin a women's corps. This bill would establish a larger corps of 150,000 women to perform non-combat duties. Rogers also added an amendment that would give women military status equal to that of male Soldiers.

There was a lot of controversy on the floor of the House about giving women military status. Legislators proclaimed that



WAACs assigned to the 8th Air Force in England operate telescope machines. (DOD photograph)

including women in the military would "destroy the very foundations of American society". After several debates Congress established a Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) on May 14, 1942, but they were not granted military status.

The Chief of Staff selected Oveta Culp Hobby, a native of Texas, to be the first director of the WAAC. She took the oath of office on May 16, 1942. In June, she donned the first WAAC uniform, and had silver eagles pinned to her shoulders, symbolizing the rank of colonel.

The act authorized the Army to enroll 150,000 officers and enlisted women between the ages of 21 and 45 for noncombat service. The WAAC members were paid less than their male counterparts, and received appointments in the WAAC in specific grades comparable to the regular Army's rank structure. It wasn't until November 1, 1942 that the WAAC began to draw the same pay and allowances as members of
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Graduating class of WAAC members at Ft. DesMoines (photo courtesy of Ft. Des Moines museum).



WAC laboratory technician conducts an experiment in the serology laboratory, Ft. Jackson Station Hospital, Fort Jackson, South Carolina, 1944 (National Archives)

the Regular Army serving in corresponding grades.

Since the WAACs did not have military status, Army rules and regulations did not apply to them. The WAAC regulations were prepared by the director and her staff. Army regulations would be used for anything that was not covered by the WAACs.

Col. Don C. Faith, a regular Army infantry officer with 25 years of service was assigned by the War Department to command the first WAAC training center at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. The old cavalry post was soon transformed into a suitable training center for the WAAC by Faith's staff.

On July 20, 1942, the first class of women arrived at Fort Des Moines. Enlisted WAACs underwent a four-week basic training that included many things female Soldiers learn in basic training today such as; customs and courtesies, organization of the Army, map reading, first aid, drill and ceremonies, supply, and guard duty. Officer Candidate School

was a six-week course and included training in leadership, teaching techniques, voice and command, court martial procedures, WAAC company administration and mess management.

In addition to strict physical standards, the Corps required two years of high school, a police check, employment and character references, a score of at least 60 on the Army General Classification Test (comparable to the Army's testing today).

During this time women were serving their country in a

quasi-military organization and despite their rising recruitment, they were not moving toward military status. In the spring of 1943, recruiting was impacted by a slander campaign against the WAACs.

Little effort was made by active duty male Soldiers to hide their hostile attitude toward the WAAC for occupying military positions. Jokes and gossip concerning the WAACs were all over in both military and civilian communities, and then later taken up by the media.

The auxiliary system was complex because it required a separate set of WAAC regulations and policies. Unlike servicemen, the auxiliaries received no overseas pay or government life insurance. If a woman became sick or wounded, she did not receive veterans' hospitalization. If she was killed, her parents or family received no death gratuity. If captured, she had no protection under the existing international agreements covering Prisoners of War.

Hobby and Rogers drafted a bill that would grant the WAAC military status. On July 1, 1943, after six months of debate, the bill was approved and signed by President Roosevelt. The WAAC
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A look at Ft. Des Moines WAAC training facility (photo courtesy of Ft. DesMoines archives)

The Heat is On!

Preventing, Recognizing and Treating a Heat Injury

By Capt. John Vining, Army Nurse, 228th CSH

Spring is in the air! Here in Mosul, this means that hot, VERY hot, weather will soon be upon us. It's time to start thinking about what you need to do to make sure that you don't become an unnecessary casualty. The summers here in Iraq are just plain brutal and the heat WILL take you out, if you do not prepare for it. Let's review some of the basics of heat injuries; how to recognize them, treat them, and most importantly, how to PREVENT them.



RECOGNIZING HEAT INJURY

There are three basic types of heat injury:

Heat Cramps
Heat Exhaustion
Heat Stroke

Heat cramps are characterized by uncomfortable cramping in the arms, legs, or abdomen, accompanied by profuse sweating and thirst. **Heat exhaustion** is more common and is generally characterized by profuse sweating, cool clammy skin, dizziness/fainting, nausea/vomiting, cramps and muscle weakness. **Heat**

stroke is the most serious and is considered to be a *life threatening* condition. Generally it causes headaches, confusion or sudden loss of consciousness, hot flushed/reddened dry skin, nausea/vomiting, weak/rapid pulse, and seizures. It's important to remember that a casualty may display ANY combination of the above symptoms.

TREATING HEAT INJURY

The treatment for heat injury is basically the same for everyone:

STOP all strenuous activity

Get the casualty out of the sun, loosen clothing and elevate their feet

Pour water over their head and chest and fan the casualty to improve heat loss

If possible, start an IV and administer fluids

If the casualty is alert and oriented, offer cool water to drink (SLOWLY)

Seek medical attention ASAP. A delay in treatment may allow the casualty to progress from heat cramps, to heat exhaustion, to heat STROKE. So err on the side of caution!

PREVENTION

The bottom line for preventing heat injury is very simple... **HYDRATE!!** Even here in Iraq, most heat casualties can be prevented with proper hydration. Use your "Camel Back", drink and drink some more. Last, but not least, watch your buddies and make sure that they're drinking too! Let's all get home safe, and not let a simple thing like heat injury take us out.

The Stallion Report

See soldiers from your area on the news!

Visit our website: www.tffpao.org

She's in it for the People, not "Prophit"

Story and Photos by Sgt. Rick Way



Prophit tells her intended route to the soldiers of the Duce Four.

MOSUL, Iraq – Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, attached to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, of Fort Lewis, WA., and members of the Iraqi Intervention Force (IIF) forge ahead to create a partnership that builds trust and confidence with the people of this war-torn country.

A union that will help end the War on Terror.

According to Soldiers like Maj. Mary K. Prophit, Team Chief for the 448th Civil Affairs Company, attached to the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, the only way the people of Iraq will truly succeed in rebuilding their country is to give them the hands on experience of doing the job on their own.

“We’re just enablers, we don’t want to fix everything, because when we leave, who is going to

fix things?” said Prophit. “I intend to plant [this experience] in the hearts and minds of the people [who] will be here long after the coalition returns home.”

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Prophit, the IIF, and the 1-24 are working together in an area of the city that requires a lot of assistance, and a mission that requires them to go outside the wire. Since arriving here, they have assisted the residents of this area with fuel needs, electricity and jobs.

“Some residents are limited to the amount of electricity they can use due to the shortages of fuel for the generators,” said Prophit. “While the actual shortages are evident, attacks and other problems throughout the city also play a part in this.”

Prophit checks out the needs of local Iraqis and tries to remedy the situation through the local

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Easter Marks Time of Reverence for Soldiers

The Easter season is an important time when members of several religions are reminded of the glory of their history and the sacrifices that lead them to freedom. Christians and Jews hold special reverence during this time, although celebrating different events, we are reminded of the similarities of these two major religions.

For Christians, the Easter season marks a time when we remember the freedom we experience in Christ. During this time, the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus are celebrated in a very special way. It is a time when we attend special church and family functions and realize that we have been liberated from the bondage of sin. We celebrate a freedom which has impacted our lives beyond any other historical landmark. In Christ, we are free to be ourselves in the midst of struggle and difficulty knowing that God forgives and accepts us as being covered by the blood of the Lamb. For this reason, God covers and passes over our sins and gives us eternal life.

For Jews, the Passover season is an equally special season which has been celebrated for thousands of years. One can only remember the stories of the Jewish people who were freed from Egyptian slavery. The Jews remember the time when the angel of death killed the firstborn of every family in Egypt except for those families who had the blood of a lamb painted above their doors. The angel of death passed over the children of God which ultimately led to their freedom from captivity and provided the opportunity for Jewish people to move toward independence and eventual inheritance of the Promised Land.

Whatever tradition we may adopt, let us look for the reason of the tradition and celebrate the freedom from bondage that we share. Join in with us to realize that we have much to be thankful for and that God will continue to free us miraculously as he has done in the past as exemplified by the Jews and Christians. Let us remember when we feel a need to celebrate our freedom we can embrace our history as Americans. We can always feel connected to our traditions and knowing that God is with us the same here as He is with us in our homes.

Chaplain's Corner

The waste of life lies in the love we have not given, the powers we have not used, the selfish prudence which will risk nothing and which, shirking pain, misses happiness as well.

Unknown



PLEASE JOIN US AT THE CHAPEL FOR FOB
FREEDOM RELIGIOUS SERVICES:

Catholic Mass 1100 Saturday
Latter-Day Saint 0830 Sunday
Protestant 1100 Sunday
2000 Sunday
1930 Wednesday
Gospel 1300 Sunday

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economy. The rising number of local contractors whose bids have been accepted in the recent months only reinforces their success.

“I work with local contractors, city officials and residents to pin down the problem and offer a solution,” said Prophit.

Through the assistance of the Soldiers of 1-24 and the local residents, Prophit and her unit are able to better address the problem caused by the insurgency.

“The [Iraqi] people are getting sick of the killing and corruption,” said Prophit. “We’re getting a lot more cooperation now because the terrorists are killing their family members.”

Rebuilding a city with trust and hard work is the mission of Prophit and her unit, the IIF and the 1-24. They are assessing the needs of the people in Mosul and connecting them to the resources they already have, one contract at a time.



Prophit speaking to a business owner about the situation with employee and employer relations.

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was changed to the Women’s Army Corps (WAC). With this name change, women would also use the same rank system as the Regular Army, and follow in the same chain of command.

Hobby was appointed Director, Women’s Army Corps (DWAC), and was commissioned a colonel in the Army of the United States on July 5, 1943.

The WAAC underwent many struggles during their time and service, but remained loyal to their country. The auxillary was scheduled to be disbanded on May 14, 1946. Through this, the idea was

spawned that congress authorize women in the Reserve.

On February 5, 1946, plans were drafted to establish a Women’s Army Corps in the regular Army with concurrent Reserve Corps status. The postwar introduction of women into the regular Army stemmed from the recognition of their outstanding service and loyalty in World War II.

The Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps paved the way for today’s female Soldiers through hard work, dedication and a love of serving their country.



Rocking you from the Tigris to the Euphrates.

PLEASE E-MAIL YOUR REQUESTS TO blackhorse@tffpao.org

7 Day Weather Forecast for Mosul

Mon Mar 28	 Partly Cloudy	76°/47°	0%
Tue Mar 29	 Partly Cloudy	73°/53°	20%
Wed Mar 30	 Mostly Cloudy	76°/52°	10%
Thu Mar 31	 Mostly Cloudy	77°/52°	10%
Fri Apr 1	 Mostly Cloudy	77°/54°	10%
Sat Apr 2	 Light Rain	73°/51°	60%
Sun Apr 3	 Showers	70°/47°	60%
Mon Apr 4	 Partly Cloudy	72°/47°	10%

Letters From Home, Every Soldier's Fan Club

Dear Soldiers,

How are you feeling? I know you feel badly without your family. I just want to say that anywhere we go we will be thinking of you. I really wish, with all my heart, that you have a Happy Easter. I really appreciate the hard work that you do to try to keep our country safe. We miss you!

HAPPY EASTER!

From,
Jennifer Garcia

Dear Soldiers,

Thank you for all your help and your braveness to go to Iraq. I'm glad for the people who made it through. I bet you miss your family and friends. I wish you soldiers a safe trip to your home.

THANK YOU!!

Your Friend,
Antonio Lovan

Dear Soldiers,

Thank you SO much for serving our country. I prayed for you guys today. God bless your souls for doing such a wonderful thing. You guys are such wonderful people! Your guys can win that war! All you have to do is believe in yourselves and believe that God can help you. God is always by your side. My great papa was in World War II. I hope you have a Happy Easter. I would send you a card but I can't. Remember God is always by your side!

Thanking you with everything I have,
Jacqueline Lynn Dorris

p.s. If you can, please write me back

If any soldier is interested in becoming a penpal to any of these children, contact the PAO for their school's address.

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Headlines From the Other Side of the World

B-C, A-D Fading into History

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) - A growing number of schools across the country are changing B-C, which stands for Before Christ, to B-C-E, or Before the Common Era. A-D — for Anno Domini, Latin for year of the Lord — is becoming C-E for Common Era. Many historians and college instructors started using the new forms in the 1980s and now it's found in some school texts. UCLA professor Gary Nash, director of the National Center for History in Schools, says the usage of B-C-E and C-E is fairly common now. He says using the new terms makes sense in the global age. But some critics say it's all P-C, for political correctness.

Gilbert Sewall, director of the American Textbook Council, says he finds the trend "distressing," but points out that most of the major textbook companies have adopted the new terms.

Chocolate Crosses Annoy Catholic Diocese

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) - A symbol of Christianity that sits atop church steeples, dangles from necks and hangs on walls is finding a new home in the mouths of the faithful. In addition to its usual

chocolate Easter bunnies, candy maker Russell Stover is also offering milk chocolate crosses this year. The nation's third-largest candy maker is selling the six-inch crosses under its Pangburn's brand in thousands of stores, with a focus on the Hispanic market.

A spokesman for the Roman Catholic diocese of Bridgeport, Connecticut, finds the new product insulting. He says, "The cross should be venerated, not eaten." Easter is the second-biggest holiday for candy producers, behind Halloween.

Swiss Fighting Cows Face Drug Test

SION, Switzerland (AP) — Authorities say Swiss fighting cows taking part in "The Combat of the Queens" contest will have to face renewed doping tests. The annual fights draw tens of thousands of spectators and can pump up the value of a cow. In the fights, the cows sometimes lock horns as they struggle against each other. The fight ends when one of the animals recognizes the superiority of the other.

Officials say the cows are the same as racehorses or dogs and must pass doping tests. They said tests were administered for years but were halted in 2002 after six years of nothing but negative results.

SPORTS SHORTS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Division I Men's Bracket
Opening Round Game - March 15

Opening Round: Oakland vs. Alabama A&M
Winner faces North Carolina in First Round

St. Louis
April 4
National Champion

Championship Game: North Carolina vs. St. Louis

Regional Seeds: Chicago, Albuquerque, Austin, Syracuse

Seeds 1-16: Illinois, Fair Dickinson, Texas, Nevada, Alabama, Wis.-Milwaukee, Boston College, Penn, LSU, UAB, Arizona, Utah St., Southern Ill., St. Mary's (Ca.), Oklahoma St., SE Louisiana, Washington, Montana, Pacific, Pittsburgh, Georgia Tech, G. Washington, Louisville, La.-Lafayette, Texas Tech, UCLA, Gonzaga, Winthrop, West Virginia, Creighton, Wake Forest, Chattanooga, North Carolina, Oakland, Minnesota, Iowa St., Villanova, New Mexico, Florida, Ohio, Wisconsin, Northern Iowa, Kansas, Bucknell, Charlotte, N.C. State, Connecticut, UCF, Duke, Delaware St., Stanford, Mississippi St., Michigan St., Old Dominion, Syracuse, Vermont, Utah, UTEP, Oklahoma, Niagara, Cincinnati, Iowa, Kentucky, Eastern Ky.

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