

## CHAPTER 9

# Recruit Training

*Mission—The Training Program—Arrival at Parris Island—The Daily Routine—Recruit Regulations  
The Drill Instructor-Recruit Evaluation and Awards—WM Complex—Command Reorganized*

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Enlisted women Marines begin their service at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island. The women's battalion had been known, at different times, as the 3d Recruit Training Battalion, the Woman Recruit Training Battalion, and the Woman Recruit Training Command. Boot camp has varied in length from six to 10 weeks, but certain things remain unchanged. The schedule is rigorous; the drill instructors seem bigger than life; and for the recruit, no matter what motivated her to enlist, on graduation day, being called a Marine is enough.

### *Mission*

Woman recruit training has been designed “. . . to produce a basic woman Marine who is able to function effectively in garrison and instinctively practice those traits that distinguish her as a Marine.”<sup>1</sup> The specific objectives of recruit training were listed in 1976 as:

- a. *Self-discipline.* A state of discipline which assures respect for authority; instant willing obedience to orders and the self-reliance to maintain or improve those traits that distinguish a Marine.
- b. *Military Skills.* To teach individual proficiency in selected basic military skills.
- c. *Physical Fitness.* The ability to maintain physical fitness, endurance, and weight-distribution.
- d. *Military Bearing.* The ability to properly wear and maintain uniforms and practice personal hygiene.
- e. *Esprit de Corps.* To instill the spirit of comradeship among all Marines for each other and the Marine Corps.<sup>2</sup>

Fundamentally, they differ very little from the aims set by Captain Henderson and her staff in 1949.

### *The Training Program*

Originally, recruits completed a six-week course consisting of basic military and administrative subjects. By 1949, when the 3d Recruit Training Battalion was activated, Marines had become accustomed to the mature WR of World War II who entered the Corps with certain basic skills, and it was hoped—especially by the men—that this short course would produce a woman Marine ready to take her place in nearly any Marine Corps office. At first the recruits were at least

20 years old and as a rule they had some business experience. After the age limit was lowered to 18 years and the requirement of a high school diploma was dropped in 1950, a longer period of training was deemed necessary.

Major Beckley, Commanding Officer, 3d Recruit Training Battalion in 1951, asked that boot camp be lengthened to eight weeks and that instruction in group living, character guidance, career guidance, and typing be added to the program.<sup>3</sup> Her recommendation reflected the frustration felt by the women Marines who had entered the service during World War II. Confronted with a younger recruit—probably away from home for the first time, motivated more by a sense of adventure than a sense of patriotism, and unaccustomed to the discipline of even a civilian job—they worried about the qualifications of the “new breed.”

In a letter to Colonel Towle, Major Beckley described the problem of finding suitable assignments for women with low mental scores or who had had little career training. Conceding that the women consistently scored higher on intelligence tests than male recruits, nevertheless, she observed:

Male recruits who have low GCT scores can be fitted into many types of work and prove most valuable. Women Marines are automatically restricted in performance of heavy manual duties. They fill billets involving “white collar” work where at least average ability, a neat appearance, and military bearing are requisites.<sup>4</sup>

The discovery in one platoon of three women who listed their civilian occupations as sheepherder, gill net fisherman, and motorcyclist strengthened her case for more careful screening and a change in recruit training.<sup>5</sup>

Colonel Towle endorsed the basic proposal, but because of her great interest in advanced training added:

It is assumed that inclusion in the proposed revised training program of basic typing for all recruits, as outlined . . . will not be taken as indicative that every woman Marine is a potential typist or preclude assignment to the Clerk Typist School in cases where such further training is considered desirable and necessary.<sup>6</sup>



*Recruits at Parris Island undergo tear gas exercises during recruit training in 1950.*

The new program lengthening recruit training from six to eight weeks became effective on 1 October 1952.<sup>7</sup>

Since that time the length of the training cycle has varied from seven to 10 weeks with three major program changes. The first was the introduction of a General Office Procedures Course in 1958.<sup>8</sup> Essentially, at that time recruit training was separated into two elements: six weeks of basic military indoctrination and four weeks of administration. During the initial military indoctrination phase, the recruit underwent traditional training. She then moved her personal belongings to another barracks and, under less supervision, completed the General Office Procedures Course. The commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Barbara J. Bishop, recommended the new program in order to make the women more valuable to a command from the minute they reported for duty and also to give them a chance to move gradually from the strict

supervision of recruit training into the relative freedom enjoyed by permanent personnel.<sup>9</sup>

This latter aim emphasized one of the major problems encountered by graduate woman recruits. Whereas the male Marine traditionally moved from recruit training to advanced infantry training with an attendant let-up in supervision, the woman normally went directly from recruit to permanent personnel status. Oftentimes, after arrival at her new command, the period of adjustment was as difficult for the woman's first sergeant as for the woman herself.

After the General Office Procedures Course was inaugurated, graduation from boot camp was not quite the same sad, emotion-packed event that it had been. A simple ceremony was held on the parade ground behind the battalion administration building, and it was followed by the move out of recruit barracks. The most noticeable changes for the new graduates were

granting of base liberty from 1700 to 2400 on weekdays and 1145 to 2400 on weekends, reveille at the more civilized hour of 0600, and a work day that ended at 1630.<sup>10</sup>

Chief Warrant Officer Ruth L. Wood, who had been a teacher before joining the Marine Corps in 1943, was head of the new administrative course which included 44 hours of typing, and classes in the Marine Corps Directive System, business English, spelling, correspondence, publications, security of military information, office etiquette, and the duties of a receptionist. On the small, hand-picked staff were Technical Sergeants Lillian J. West and Eileen P. Phelan, both former school teachers, and Technical Sergeant Grace A. Carle—later Sergeant Major of Women Marines—who had had civilian experience as an instructor.<sup>11</sup>

The dual training program—first boot camp and then the General Office Procedures Course—was not entirely satisfactory in that it took a considerable amount of administrative work to transfer the women from recruit to student status, and more importantly, it shortened the screening and observation time. Since only recruits could be separated by an aptitude board, the disposition of marginal and problem students became particularly difficult. Thus in 1961, Lieutenant Colonel Hill, then Commanding Officer, Woman Recruit Training Battalion, asked that the 10-week dual program be combined into a nine-week course of two phases, with the important proviso that the women remain in a recruit status and under the

supervision of the recruit company staff during the entire period.<sup>12</sup>

The second major program change in Marine Corps woman recruit training was the introduction in 1967 of the Image Development Course, part of a larger plan to teach grooming to recruits, officer candidates, and permanent personnel. The decision to adopt this program was based on three premises: first, the improvement of the woman Marine image would enhance the prestige of the WM program in the eyes of the public and within the Marine Corps; second, that emphasis on the feminine aspects of a servicewoman's life would counteract the unappealing impression of military service and therefore improve recruitment; and finally, that heightened self-confidence and poise would reflect advantageously on the duty performance of the woman Marine.

Lectures of this sort had always been a part of woman Marine training, but the new approach to teaching techniques of proper makeup, hair and nail care, wardrobe selection, posture, wig selection and care, social etiquette, wearing the uniform, and grooming practices involved a personal program to meet the individual's needs. It was designed to enhance each woman's poise and social grace. To start the effort on a sound footing, 20 women Marines, officer and enlisted, were trained at the Pan American World Airways International Stewardess College. They would serve as instructors. Beautifully decorated, professionally outfitted grooming facilities were installed at Quantico in 1967 and at Parris Island in 1970.<sup>13</sup>

*The "peanut suit," a one-piece seersucker exercise uniform with drawstring bloomers held over from World War II and in the system until 1960, is worn by women recruits.*





*1stLt Patricia Watson, recruit platoon commander, takes daily inspection in 1956.*

The Image Development Course, which fluctuated from 12 to 31 hours in length was conducted in a more relaxed manner than other phases of recruit training and proved to be a popular addition to the schedule, particularly from the recruits' point of view. One of the most important parts of the course covered the proper application and reapplication of cosmetics throughout the day. The recruits were inspected as before, but in addition to the shine on the shoes, press of the uniform, and police of the barracks, they had to be concerned with their makeup. The natural look—appropriate makeup for a career women—was emphasized as the proper standard.

The finale of the course was an evaluation period held several days before graduation. Selected Marines, dependents, and civilians from the depot were invited to participate at a social hour and recruits were judged on their poise, courtesy, and appearance. The guest list changed but traditionally included, among others, a senior officer and his wife, several staff non-commissioned officers—students and staff—from Recruiter's School and the Personnel Administration School, a chaplain, and a medical officer. Individual grades were not given, but obvious problems and weak areas were noted and when necessary the recruit was given additional help.<sup>14</sup>

The course, as may be expected, was not wholeheartedly received at all levels. Generally speaking, the women drill instructors were less enthusiastic than the recruits and the command. Primarily they objected to the requirement for DIs to wear makeup while on duty. According to Sergeant Major Judge, who was first sergeant of Recruit Company, and Master Sergeant Bridget V. Connolly, who as a staff sergeant was a DI

during the initial stages of the program, there was some muttering in the ranks. First Sergeant Judge, who had never before worn eye makeup, told the commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Ruth J. O'Holleran, that if her family could see her they would call her a "hussy."<sup>15</sup> In Staff Sergeant Connolly's view, it was an added burden on the drill instructor who had to be up, dressed, and in the recruit barracks before 0500 to be expected to appear in full makeup. It also meant, of course, that she could not freshen up quickly during the day.<sup>16</sup> Despite these difficulties, there was general agreement that the Image Development Course improved the appearance and poise of women Marines and achieved its intended goals.

The third major change in women's recruit training involved the forming period and occurred in 1968. In order to give drill instructors time off to rest themselves physically and to prepare themselves mentally to make the transition from working with a graduate platoon to another platoon of new recruits, the initial processing was put in the hands of other members of the permanent personnel unit. This team welcomed the new arrivals and supervised the multitude of details incidental to preparing recruits for training. Only on the first scheduled training day did the DI meet her recruits.<sup>17</sup>

As they have for years, the majority of recruits arrived during the night. Under the new procedures, they were offered a snack, and shown to their already made-up bunk. Overhead lights were kept off to avoid disturbing other sleeping recruits. The latercomers were allowed to sleep to the very last minute in the morning, getting up only in time to eat before the mess hall secured. While it had been proven that

recruits react more quickly and assimilate instructions better when they are less tired and less frightened, old ways die hard, and veteran DIs believed that something was lost in the way of initial discipline. The forming period, while still a difficult adjustment for civilians, was planned to instill a positive attitude toward Marine Corps training at the onset.<sup>18</sup>

#### *Arrival at Parris Island*

These forming period procedures of 1968 bear little resemblance to those remembered by women Marines who attended boot camp from 1949 to 1968. In 1949, recruits arriving by train were met by the DIs at Port Royal, South Carolina. In later years, the terminal point of a rail trip was Yemassee, about 26 miles from Parris Island. Unfortunately, the most lasting impression for many of these women arriving from northern states was the segregation of “white” from “colored” on the train south of Baltimore and at the station at Yemassee. Major Joan M. Collins remembered that in 1953, on the way to boot camp, a Puerto Rican recruit, Sunny Ramos, was separated from her group and asked to sit in a compartment by herself. The women protested, but the conductor told them not to make any trouble.<sup>19</sup>

Women arriving by train were usually taken by bus along with male recruits to the recruit depot. If a male

*Women recruits spent long hours in the classroom mastering administrative subjects. GySgt Frances A. Curwen teaches a typing course in the early 1960s.*



DI was on hand at the station he normally succeeded in scaring the life out of the women, even if he totally ignored them and directed all his attention at the men. Lieutenant Colonel Gail M. Reals remembered that she and one other woman were the only females on board a bus driven by a civilian who amused himself all the way from Yemassee to Parris Island asking the young women why they had done such a foolish thing and personally guaranteeing that they would regret it.<sup>20</sup>

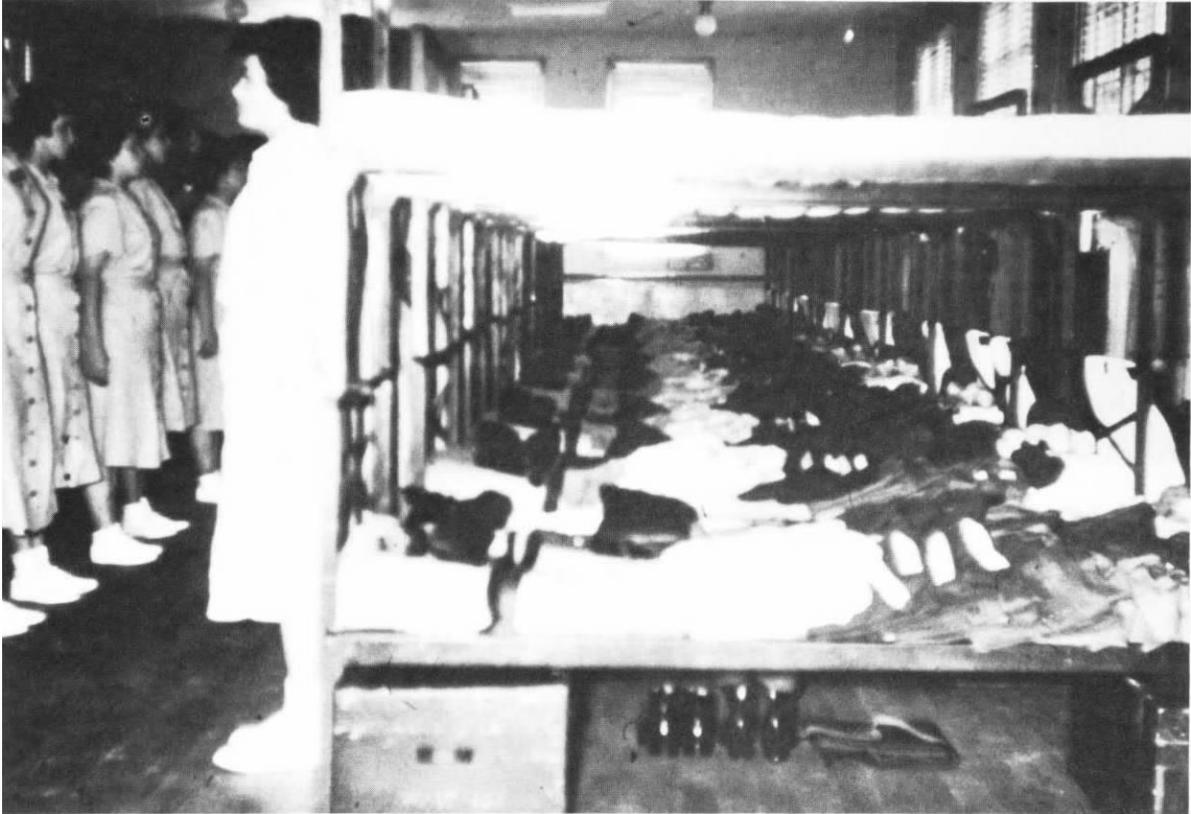
As a rule, the bus delivered the male recruits first and at each stop the women witnessed the traditional brusque ceremony of the DI greeting his recruits for the first time so that by the time they arrived at the women’s battalion, they feared the worst.

The “worst” for the women recruits meant rush and pressure. Most recruits, tired and apprehensive, arrived after midnight, made up their bunks, dropped into bed, and then awoke at 0500 with the lights blazing and the duty NCO shouting, “Hit the deck.” For several days they were kept busy with administrative tasks such as endorsing orders, filling out forms, and writing their autobiography. They received shots, a PX issue, and an initial clothing issue—normally utilities and exercise suits. Time was spent sewing name tags in their clothes, hemming the utility slacks, and learning how to give a Marine Corps shine to their oxfords. Until black shoes were adopted in 1964, groups of recruits were taken outdoors to dye the issue brown a darker cordovan shade. For many women Marines, the first “chewing out” was brought on by spilling shoe dye on one of the new uniforms.

Women Marines who were impressed by the “sharp” appearance of the recruiter in her attractive dress blue uniforms were invariably let down when, during forming, they received their clothing issue. A hold-over from World War II that remained in the system until 1960 was the exercise suit of tan seersucker—a one-piece bloomer outfit with a matching buttoned front skirt appropriately nicknamed “the peanut suit.” The World War II bib overalls, white T-shirt, and long-sleeve jacket made up the utility uniform until the mid-50s, but the most unpopular items, by far, were the heavy cotton lisle hose worn by WMs in training until 1968, and the very practical oxfords.\*

These shoes, with their two-inch Cuban heels were, for obvious reasons, known as “grandmas.” In the 1950s

\*See Chapter 14 for a discussion of woman Marine uniforms, 1946-1977.



*Recruits display issued clothing for a "junk on the bunk" inspection in the early 1960s.*

a more modern, lower heeled oxford was adopted for drill and certain types of work, and until the old supply stocks ran out, each recruit was issued one pair of "grandmas" and was then taken by bus to Mickey's Bootery in the nearby city of Beaufort to purchase the newer shoe—which WMs naturally called "Mickey's."

The basics of military courtesy were instilled during the forming period. In order to give practice in saluting, recruits were required to be covered at all times when outdoors. For a number of years, recruits who had not yet been issued a uniform cap were instructed to wear a civilian hat or scarf, even if only going to the clothes line behind the barracks, and so it was not uncommon to see a WM dressed in a peanut suit, hair neatly covered by a flowered scarf, rendering the hand salute.

#### *The Daily Routine*

Traditionally, women recruits bounded from their bunks at 0500, ate breakfast, policed the barracks, and prepared for morning inspection. The daily inspections by the drill instructors varied—that is, personnel, barracks, locker box, or clothing rack—but always includ-

ed general grooming. Classes were scheduled until the noon meal and again from 1300 to 1700. Evenings were devoted to studying, laundry, shoe shining, and letter writing. Recruits also could be found practicing salutes in front of a mirror or perfecting movements in close order drill alone or in small groups. They were assigned to the duty roster and took turns at standing the watch from the end of the class day until reveille. Classes were held until noon on Saturday.

Liberty, for many years, was granted sparingly, and then only to recruits visited by close family members. In the 1970s, as a result of a study of the woman Marine program, a look at the basic training of the other services, and in order to ease the transition from recruit status to the environment of the first duty station, limited liberty hours were extended to all. Women recruits were authorized depot liberty Sundays and holidays from 1000-1500; Saturdays and Sundays prior to graduation 1330-1930; and Thursday and Friday of final week 1800-2000.<sup>21</sup>

On one night the routine differed from all the rest—field night. The evening before important inspections (which graduated weekly from the junior

drill instructor through all levels of the command up to the battalion commander) was spent in furious activity scrubbing and shining every inch of the barracks and neatly arranging locker boxes and clothing racks to conform to regulations. A clean white towel folded lengthwise in even thirds and a clean white wash cloth folded evenly in half and centered over the towel were displayed at the end of each bunk. In the squadbay, bunks and locker boxes were lined up exactly, and in the laundry, irons were arranged as precisely as Marines in formation. In preparing for inspections, the recruit learned a lesson of lasting value; she learned the importance of team work, because the platoon passed or failed as a unit. Inspecting drill instructors and officers had their individual methods of showing displeasure, but few were more effective than the technique of tearing up poorly made bunks and gathering all the gear left "adrift" and displaying it in the center of the squadbay.

The outdoor equivalent of "field night" is the "garden party." New recruits who found garden party on the schedule were often genuinely disappointed to find rakes, clippers, and lawn mowers where they expected barbecue grills and hot dogs. It was one of the mischievous pleasures of the DI to shout, "Put on

your peanut suits, ladies; we're going to have a garden party." Over the years, only the uniform changed; the garden party still translated into mowing, clipping, and trimming.

For all of the nonstop activity of a recruit's day, it ended on a serene and peaceful note. A custom traced to the early 1950s was the singing of "The Lord's Prayer" at taps. Colonel Hamblet, when she was Director of Women Marines, visited Parris Island and later wrote:

... having heard of a custom that had developed in the Woman Recruit Company, I returned to hear taps.

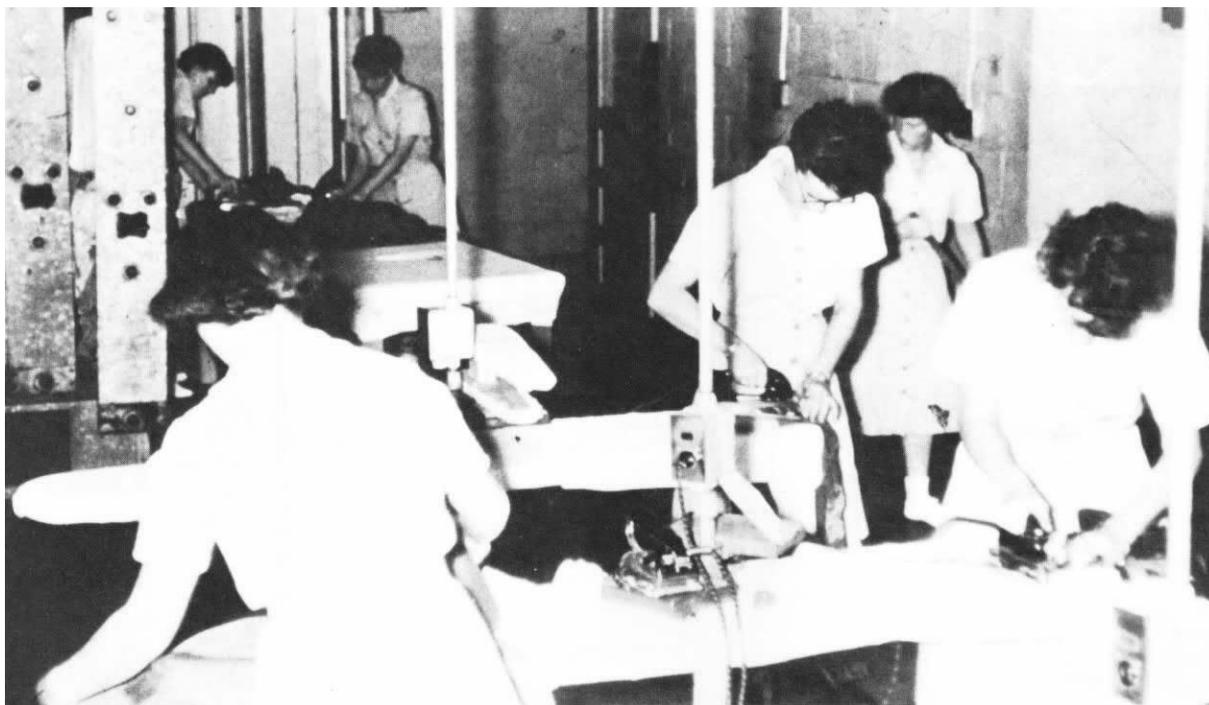
The bugle notes sounded:

Day is done  
Gone the sun  
From the lakes  
From the hills  
From the sky  
All is well  
Safely rest  
God is nigh

One by one lights in the barracks went out. At other Marine bases a hush would then fall. But here, as the last note of the bugle faded in the distance, came not silence but the sound of voices in song.

They started softly in the Senior Platoon area on the second deck (floor) of the barracks, were picked up by another

*The vertical dryers, rectangular ironing tables, and stationary ironing boards found in a typical woman Marine barracks laundry room were well used during recruit training.*



platoon topside, then by the recruits on the first deck. The song swelled in volume as each group joined in, filling the darkened barracks and spilling over into the street outside.

From their bunks the women recruits were singing "The Lord's Prayer". They sang spontaneously, their young voices, untrained and unrehearsed, blended in reverence. They were not required to sing. They did so because they chose to. It had become their tradition, a new group learning by listening to the others.<sup>22</sup>

### *Recruit Regulations*

The recruit regulations published in 1949 scarcely changed over the years. There was a proper, established procedure for nearly every activity; deviations from the norm, no matter how minor, were not acceptable. A recruit immediately learned that she did not rise before reveille nor sit on, rest on, or get into her bunk before taps. Bulletin boards were to be read several times daily and she initialed every roster on which her name appeared. She moved quickly, but did not run in the passageways; came to attention whenever someone other than a recruit entered the squadbay; and called "gangway" while backing up to the bulkhead when someone other than a recruit approached.<sup>23</sup>

Only clean clothing, with all buttons buttoned, zippers zipped, and buckles buckled could be displayed. The one exception was a pair of untied oxfords and the unbuttoned raincoat to facilitate a hasty exit in case of fire. Unauthorized personal items were stowed in the luggage room. Keys, clothing, cosmetics, shoe polish, or notebooks left lying about were deposited in the "lucky box" and could be claimed only after the hapless recruit admitted her carelessness to her DI.

Mail call was the highlight of a recruit's day unless she received contraband items from well meaning family and friends. Packages were opened in front of witnesses and any food, candy, or gum was returned to the sender, thrown away, or donated to the Red Cross.

Smoking was limited to designated areas at specified times; drinking beer or hard liquor was taboo; borrowing, lending, or giving clothing away was forbidden; and hair was rolled only at prescribed times. Neat, clean, and orderly was the rule. Laundry bags were washed, bleached, starched, and ironed frequently. Singing in the laundry was encouraged, but talking was prohibited. That these seemingly irksome regulations remained virtually unchanged for so long a time testified to their effectiveness in teaching discipline, respect for authority, and the value of teamwork.

### *The Drill Instructor*

These recruits are entrusted to my care. I will train them to the best of my ability. I will develop them into smartly disciplined, physically fit, basically trained Marines, thoroughly indoctrinated in love of Corps and Country. I will demand of them, and demonstrate by my own example, the highest standards of personal conduct, morality and professional skill.

#### *The Drill Instructor's Pledge<sup>24</sup>*

The drill instructor was the key to recruit training and was directly responsible for the training, physical fitness, discipline, welfare, and morale of her recruits and her junior drill instructors. The assignment was considered by many enlisted WMs to be the most exhausting, frustrating, yet satisfying job in the Marine Corps. Her role and responsibility resembled that of the male DI, but her training and the evolution of her title moved along a different path.

Until 1976, with one short-lived exception, women did not attend Drill Instructor School and those involved in recruit training were officially called platoon sergeants or platoon leaders. WMs, themselves, unofficially consistently used the more familiar term of DI.

Competent, mature, willing noncommissioned officers in excellent physical condition and with impeccable military records were essential to the conduct

*Recruit learns to shine shoes from drill instructor.*



of recruit training. Due primarily to the small number of women Marines and proportionally fewer NCOs, and a reluctance to release women from their primary occupational specialty for periods of two years—normal tour length for a DI—there persisted a shortage of women DIs. Colonel Barbara J. Bishop, when she was Director of Women Marines, 1964-1969, tried in vain to come to a mutually acceptable arrangement with the assignment branch at Headquarters whereby they would notify her of the impending transfer of senior enlisted WMs. Then, if DIs were needed at Parris Island, Colonel Bishop proposed to fill those vacancies on a priority basis. Her plan met with opposition and for many years much of the burden of training was

carried by a group of NCOs who served two and in some cases three tours of duty at the Woman Recruit Training Battalion.<sup>25</sup>

The policy had normally been to assign a staff non-commissioned officer as the senior DI with sergeants or corporals as junior DIs, but, it was not uncommon in the early 1950s to have lower rated women in these jobs. The process of selection from 1949 until 1976 was to order NCOs to the women's recruit battalion for screening by a medical doctor, psychiatrist, the battalion commander, the recruit company commander, and perhaps a battalion screening board. Having satisfactorily moved through this chain, a prospective DI began on-the-job training and was in a probationary

*"Welcome to the Pig Pen." A drill instructor tore up the squabbay and left this message taped to a chair for her recruits after an unsatisfactory inspection in the early 1960s.*





*Each platoon had a male DI to teach close order drill and military customs and courtesies. Recruits in 1961, wearing the one-piece dacron dress, render a hand salute.*

status for the period of one training cycle. Only then did she receive the coveted MOS 8511.<sup>26</sup>

With assignment of women to Drill Instructor School beginning in January 1976, certain procedures changed. The formal course was in itself a screening process, eliminating the need for battalion involvement; the successful graduates were immediately assigned the drill instructor's MOS; and they were not considered to be in a probationary status. Furthermore, Headquarters regularly sent two or three women to each scheduled class, taking the Director of Women Marines out of the assignment business, and assuring a steady and more satisfactory flow of DIs into recruit training.<sup>27</sup>

Whether or not women should attend the formal school was heatedly debated for a number of years. Lieutenant Colonel Elsie Hill, twice commanding officer of the recruit battalion, believed that the school would give uniformity to the training and arranged

for five WMs to enroll at DI school in October 1955.<sup>28</sup> The women, Sergeant Ida J. Reinemond and Corporals Marion M. Moran, Edith M. Reeves, Dorothy Rzepny, and Lillian Hagener underwent the prescribed course with only one concession; they did not carry a rifle during the drill sessions.<sup>29</sup> According to Lieutenant Colonel Hill, the women did well at school and as battalion commander, she was satisfied with their subsequent performance as DIs, but Headquarters was evidently uneasy about a loss of femininity and the WM image and put an end to the idea.<sup>30</sup>

The issue lay dormant for 21 years, but in January 1976, once again, five WMs entered DI school: Sergeants Mary E. Gibbs and Jeanette M. Plourde and Corporals Victoria Goodrich, Veda R. James, and Erlene A. Thomas. WMs continued to attend the course and were involved in all academic studies, training, and drill except individual combat training and the complete marksmanship program. They were not re-

quired to qualify with the M-16 service rifle or the .45 caliber pistol, but they fired them for familiarization. At graduation, the women graduates, in place of the traditional DI hat, were presented with scarlet epaulets, worn by WM DIs since 1970.<sup>31</sup>

The DI was in direct control of the recruits in her platoon and shouldered the greatest responsibility in their training. For many years, the senior drill instructor was required to be with her platoon at all times during the first three weeks of training. In the late 1960s, this requisite was eased somewhat and her presence was necessary at key times like clothing issue and inspections and at all periods of instruction where the recruits' health or physical well being was involved, such as physical fitness and swimming classes. More routine events could be supervised by the junior drill instructors.<sup>32</sup>

In reality, the recruit was seldom out of view of her DIs. One of the team was in the squadbay before reveille and again after lights out. While her charges slept, the DI examined the next day's schedule, made notes about the number of required uniform changes, checked transportation arrangements, filled out evaluation forms, and wrestled with administration mat-



*A drill instructor wearing scarlet epaulets in place of the traditional male DI hat calls cadence for recruits dressed in the blue utility uniform in the 1970s.*

*A three-mile run concludes the fitness test taken by recruits at Parris Island in 1974.*





*Lt Vera M. Jones, Recruit Company commander, ties three streamers, symbols of training excellence, to the Platoon 1A guidon. SSgt M. M. Gruetzemacher looks on in 1965.*

ters and personal problems of her recruits. Like the recruit, she had to launder and iron several uniforms and shine her shoes. For the DI the day began at 0430 and ended well after midnight. With rare exceptions, she was a Marine totally committed to her task and accepted the fact that for two years, she would have very little life of her own. A DI of the early 1950s, Corporal Constance A. Shafer, wrote of her tour, "A grueling pace, but it had its own reward. At least one of the 4 platoons I had made Honor Platoon, and the satisfaction of seeing my hard work come to fruition made up for the loss of sleep."<sup>33</sup> Master Sergeant Bridget Connolly and Lieutenant Colonel Gail Reals, two of Corporal Shafer's recruits, were still on active duty in 1977.

#### *Recruit Evaluation and Awards*

The evaluation and awards program was meant to screen recruits for graduation as basic women Marines and to recognize outstanding performance. The criter-

ia used to judge the women was much the same as it was in 1949, but a more sophisticated system of awards evolved. Individually, recruits were graded in three main areas: academic, performance, and attitude. The first was the easiest to document as it was a numerical value based on the results of objective examinations. Performance and attitude marks are by nature subjective and so were derived from a composite of the entire staff's contact with the recruit, with emphasis on inspection results, drill aptitude, physical fitness, weight control, image development, and leadership ability.<sup>34</sup>

In one way or another, the guidon, a flag with the platoon's designation carried by the platoon guide, had long been associated with the platoon's performance. New platoons normally had been identified by a bare guidon staff. After successful completion of specified inspection or milestone, pennants were added with appropriate ceremony. The gold guidon marked the junior platoon or series, and for some time

had to be earned by passing the junior DI's inspection. The scarlet guidon had nearly always been awarded by the senior DI after a satisfactory formal inspection, which in 1977 was scheduled for the third week in training. Traditionally, poor platoon performance was noted by the command to furl the guidon, the ultimate sign of the DI's displeasure.

Colorful streamers, symbols of excellence, were added to the WM guidon staff for the first time in March 1968, when First Lieutenant Vera M. Jones, then Recruit Company commanding officer, presented three streamers to Platoon 1-A for achievement in swimming, drill, and physical fitness.<sup>35</sup> Streamers in 1977 were presented in recognition of exceptional platoon performance in the areas shown in the chart elsewhere on this page.

The Marine Corps emblem, most visible outward symbol of a Marine, had normally been given as an award rather than an unearned right to be taken for granted. Sometime in the 1950s the practice of issuing emblems along with the uniforms was stopped and the recruit had to pass the Recruit Company commander's inspection before she received the highly prized "globe and anchor." The emblem ceremony, beginning in 1966, had become a part of the graduation day events. At a company formation early in the morning, each graduate held her emblems in her gloved hand and the company commander and DIs personally affixed them to her uniform.<sup>35</sup>

The American Spirit Honor Medal, highest available individual distinction, was given to the recruit who displayed, to a high degree, outstanding leadership qualities best expressing "The American Spirit" of honor, initiative, and loyalty and who set an example in conduct and performance of duty. The award, consisting of a medal and certificate, was made available by the Citizens Committee of the Army, Navy, and Air Force through the Department of Defense. A recruit who won the American Spirit Honor Medal was



*Lt Vera M. Jones awards the Marine Corps emblem, visible symbol of a Marine, to recruits who have passed the company commander's inspection in 1965.*

automatically designated the Honor Graduate or Outstanding Recruit\* and additionally received the *Leatherneck* Award and the Dress Blue Uniform Award.

Private Mary E. Gillespie, in October 1950, was the first woman Marine to be awarded the American Spirit Honor Medal.<sup>37</sup> The uncommon excellence associated with this medal was underscored by the fact that several years could pass without a recommended recipient.

The Honor Graduate, known in the past as the Outstanding Recruit of the platoon, was the woman who had demonstrated the desirable attributes of a Ma-

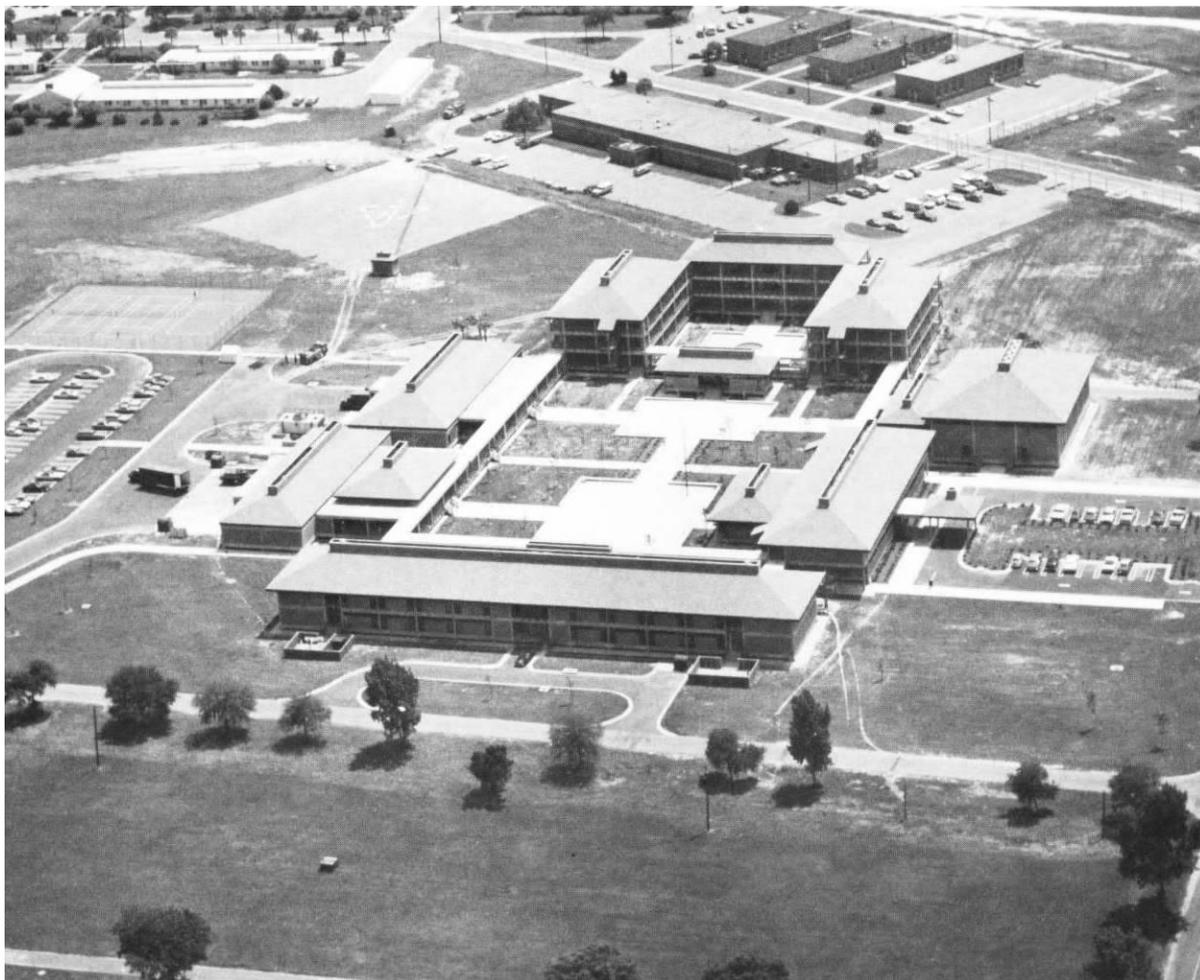
\*The terms Honor Graduate and Outstanding Recruit have been used interchangeably.

Area	Color	Criteria
Physical Fitness Test	gold	95 percent platoon performance
Academic	red	85 percent platoon performance
Drill	green	250 points
Chief DI Inspection	purple	75 percent platoon performance
Series Officer Inspection	light blue	80 percent platoon performance
CO, WRTC Inspection	blue	85 percent platoon performance

The chart is based on the 1976 WRTC SOP. Streamer colors and criteria have varied slightly over the years.



*PFC Sonia Nelson, in 1962, was the first woman Honor Graduate to receive the Leatherneck Dress Blue Uniform Award. LtCol Doris V. Kleberger makes the presentation while Recruit Company Commander, Capt Mary L. Vertalino (later Stremlow), looks on.*



*A 1975 air view of newly constructed woman Marine recruit complex at Parris Island.*

rine to a degree not displayed by any other member of the platoon. The certificate accompanying this award noted not only her academic accomplishment, but leadership ability, integrity, honor, and loyalty.

For many years *Leatherneck* magazine awarded a complete dress blue uniform with all accessories to the outstanding male recruit of each platoon. In 1962, the WM DIs, feeling that their recruits were slighted, looked into the matter, and since that time, women have been included in this tradition. Private First Class Sonia Nelson, Platoon 15-A, meritoriously promoted at graduation in December 1962, was the first Honor Graduate to receive the *Leatherneck* Dress Blue Uniform award.<sup>38</sup> *Leatherneck* magazine, in 1972, changed the Honor Graduate award to a wristwatch and the Dress Blue Uniform Award was thereafter presented by the Marine Corps Recruit Depot.

Families and friends were encouraged to attend the graduation exercises—an event marked by pride, happiness, and tears. Recruits laughed and cried as they reminisced about their boot camp days, and said farewell to platoon mates; they sang joyously; and they stepped off smartly as they marched together for the last time. Graduation, for the most part, included some sort of outdoor review or drill exhibition. For a brief time, 1960-1963, the ceremony was held in a classroom. On 25 September 1963, however, Platoon 11-A began a new tradition by holding its final review on the parade field behind building 914 in the old WM area.<sup>39</sup>

#### *WM Complex*

By 1977, where the yellow-stuccoed barracks, home of the 3d Recruit Training Battalion and the Women Recruit Training Battalion, once stood, only open

fields were found. Two buildings remained. No. 900, formerly the mess hall, later a craft shop, and No. 903, which housed the senior series of WM recruits. The junior series was billeted in the WM complex, built within view of the old area.

Suggestions had been made to rehabilitate and air-condition the World War II barracks, but the public works officer found that the cost would exceed 50 percent of the replacement value of the buildings. Consequently, at a meeting on 27 July 1967 the Depot Development Board directed that an entire new complex for WMs be programmed at Parris Island.<sup>40</sup>

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on 26 January 1973 and construction was begun. For two years the women Marines watched patiently across the field. Finally on 8 February 1975, they made the big move.<sup>41</sup> The new complex, completely self-contained, was designed to house Parris Island's permanent women personnel as well as the women recruits. In actuality, increases in strength of WMs resulted in the retention of the old barracks for recruits. By the time the complex was opened, plans were already underway for an addition.<sup>42</sup>

Among the facilities included in the WM complex were a fully equipped gymnasium, headquarters areas for the battalion and recruit company, a dining facility, storage areas, a conference room, four classrooms, a laundromat, clothing issue area, sickbay, tennis

courts, volleyball court, and television and telephones on each level of the three-story barracks. The structure was built in a square, leaving a central courtyard area open with the flagpole in front of the battalion headquarters. Permanent personnel enjoyed a patio with a fountain, rooms of one to three occupants, and new, motel-like furnishings. Beds replaced metal bunks, closets replaced lockers, and the women were allowed to decorate their rooms with colorful bed spreads, rugs, flowers, photographs, and other personal touches. Recruits in 1977 still lived in austere, albeit more modern and comfortable, squadbays.

#### *Command Reorganized*

The Woman Recruit Training Battalion became the Woman Recruit Training Command on 28 May 1976 when Headquarters Company was disestablished. Consistent with Marine Corps-wide policy at the time, personnel assigned to Headquarters Company were administratively transferred to the command under which their work section fell, but remained billeted in the WM complex. Thus reorganization efforts completed a full cycle. In February 1949 the 3d Recruit Training Battalion, under Captain Henderson, consisted of one company of 50 recruits and the 15 WMs to train them. In May 1976 Woman Recruit Training Command, once again embodied only a recruit company, but of 300 recruits and 32 WMs to train them.

## CHAPTER 10

# Officer Training

*Location—Training Program—Traditions—Awards—1973-1977—Towards Total Integration  
Second Platoon, Company C, BC 3-77*

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Marine officer training, conducted at Quantico, Virginia, is the sum of the precommissioning officer candidate course and the postcommissioning basic course. From 1949 to 1973 the women trained separately from the men, under the auspices of a women's unit, called at various times: Woman Officer Training Detachment (1949-1955), Women Marines Training Detachment (1955-1958), Women Marines Detachment (1958-1965), and Woman Officer School (1965-1974). Customarily, a woman lieutenant colonel, heading a female staff, was responsible for the administration and training of the students. From 1949 to 1954 the Woman Officer Training Detachment was under the control of The Basic School for matters pertaining to training, and under Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Schools for all else.\* The name was changed to Women Marines Training Detachment in 1955 and the G-3, Marine Corps Schools, took over the responsibilities formerly held by The Basic School.

For nearly two years, until 17 December 1958, the woman Marine company, Company D, made up of the post troops was a component of Headquarters Battalion. Then the Women Marines Detachment was activated, a two-part women's unit composed of Headquarters Company and the Woman Officer Training Class. The name changed once more in 1965 to the Woman Officer School and the training functions came under the cognizance of the Marine Corps Education Center, but the woman Marine company remained a part of the unit.

Organizationally, the most significant change came on 12 June 1973 when the Woman Officer School was designated a school under the Education Center, and not a command. The former commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Carolyn J. Walsh, became the director and the functions of the woman Marine company were transferred to Headquarters Battalion where they first began in the days before Korea. On 20 December 1974, the Woman Officer School was disestablished; the training of candidates became the

responsibility of the formerly all-male Officer Candidates School; and the newly commissioned women lieutenants moved to The Basic School at Camp Barrett, an outpost of the main command at Quantico.

### *Location*

Women Marine officers lived and trained from 1948 to 1973 in the southeast corner of the base in an area bordered on one side by the Potomac River and on another by the town of Quantico. The commanding officer and her staff moved from Building 3091 across from the mess hall to 3094 down the street and back again. For almost the entire period, candidates were quartered in Barracks 3076. Suitable billeting space for the women once commissioned always posed a problem as the choices were limited. Some classes of student officers remained in the same barracks, living in open squadbays as they had as candidates; others moved to Building 3091 where semiprivate rooms were available, if there were not too many staff noncommissioned officers on board. A few classes were quartered at the Cinder City BOQ, which in later years became the base Hostess House.

This perplexing problem was brought on by the small number of classes involved. Never did more than two classes of officer candidates train in one year, and more often there was only one. Since the billeting space was vacant for as much as six months of the year, it was not economical to set aside quarters for the women lieutenants comparable to the BOQs enjoyed by the men.

The WM area at Quantico was nearly self-contained: barracks, mess hall, small dispensary (when officer candidates were on board), drill field, and classroom. Early classes, at least until the mid-1950s, received their uniform issue in the sweltering hut behind the barracks while later groups were bused mainside to the clothing warehouse.

Whenever available, the air-conditioned classrooms of Breckenridge or Geiger Halls were used rather than the uncomfortable barracks classroom. Lieutenant Colonel Emma H. Clowers, twice commanding officer of the training detachment, wrote:

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\*The command at Quantico was reorganized in 1968, and the title was changed from Marine Corps Schools to Marine Corps Development and Education Command.



*College students and graduates arrive at Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia, in June 1953 to begin their summer training program with the Women Officers Training Class. The students being checked in by staff member WO Ruth L. Wood are (left to right) future Cols Ellen B. Moroney and Mary L. Vertalino, and June E. Palmer, Joan G. Bantzhauff, Mary E. Lane, Helen L. Fiocca, Jean M. Byrnes, and Antoinette S. Willard.*

I remember how we begged and pleaded, and yes, fought to get just one air-conditioned classroom—in the barracks or anywhere—large enough to accommodate the WOTC students during those hot summer days of training. And how we envied Educational Center and even Basic School, with their fine air-conditioned, well designed classrooms, with all necessary training aids and facilities.<sup>1</sup>

Again the small numbers involved mitigated against any large expenditures of money. The male programs not only trained many times the number of candidates, but they operated on a year-round schedule, making efficient use of all facilities.

#### *Training Program*

Judging from the numerous organizational adjustments, one would expect to find parallel changes in the training of officer candidates, but that did not

generally happen. With only one exception, the training of women lieutenants was done on a schedule of 12 weeks' candidates training and six weeks' basic course from 1949 until 1962. In 1951, because of the Korean War and the critical shortage of Marines, the basic course was shortened to four weeks. The 12 weeks precommissioning portion did not vary for the 13-year period. It was divided into a junior and senior course with college sophomores eligible to attend the first six weeks, and college seniors and graduates completing the entire course in one summer. The sophomore who successfully made it through the junior phase was then able to return another summer to finish the senior phase. College graduates and former enlisted women were commissioned and continued on to the basic course located in the same area, and conducted by the same staff as the candidate training.

Several changes were made from 1962 to 1973 which resulted in a shortened candidate course varying from seven to 10 weeks and a lengthened basic course of up to nine weeks.

During the initial stages of training, the daily routine, candidate regulations, and course material was not significantly different from what was found in recruit training. The most obvious dissimilarities were the assignment of officer platoon leaders at Quantico versus the women platoon sergeants at Parris Island and the liberty granted to candidates.

At Quantico, the goal was twofold: first, to produce a basic Marine and develop her leadership potential. Secondly, the candidate course was considered a screening process, a place to observe each potential new woman officer. To this end, officer candidates were allowed a measure of freedom in the form of liberty one or two nights a week and on weekends. Those with good sense used it wisely. Additionally, candidates were given a number of leadership assignments, duties which set each woman apart from the group and which

demand, in their execution, the use of good judgment, initiative, and force.

After commissioning, during the phase of training originally known as the Woman Officer Indoctrination Course (WOIC) and in 1962 changed to the Woman Officer Basic Course (WOBC), the lieutenants were given extra doses of freedom and responsibility. They arose, not at reveille, but in time to accomplish their chores and be ready for inspection at the appointed minute. At night, they turned in not at lights out, but in time to get sufficient rest to prepare them for a day of training. Classroom lectures and demonstrations emphasized their role as a leader and much time was spent in problem-solving seminars, often chaired by the commanding officer. The second lieutenants accompanied the regularly assigned duty officer on her tours, took personnel and barracks inspections, and delivered prepared lectures to their classmates.

#### *Traditions*

Traditions of the type seen at recruit training never developed around either the officer candidate course

*"Hitting the beach" are members of the Women Officers Training Class at the Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia, during an amphibious landing exercise in 1959.*





*Officer candidates play volleyball behind the barracks at Quantico in the early 1950s.*

or the basic course. Again, numbers may be a factor. With only one class in session at a time, there was no opportunity for a junior platoon to emulate a senior platoon. The staff members closest to the candidates, the platoon leaders, and instructors, seldom worked with more than one platoon. At Parris Island, on the other hand, the drill instructors, both senior and junior, graduated one platoon and immediately picked up another. There was a thread of continuity unknown at Quantico.

There were, however, two occasions generally remembered by officers commissioned in the 1950s and 1960s. The first was the WOTC picnic held just before graduation, and highlighted by the students' impersonations of staff members. The second was the official call made by the lieutenants at the home of the commanding officer.

A long-standing military custom held that each officer, upon arriving at a new base should call, formally, on his commanding officer. Protocol dictated that the visit be made in civilian clothes with a hat (although some authorities called for the dress uniform); the visit should last precisely 20 minutes; and the proper number of engraved calling cards had to be deposited in a waiting tray. Until the 1970s the tradition was rigidly adhered to at the Quantico women's detachment. It gave the second lieutenants an opportunity to practice the procedure and gave the commanding officer

a chance to see the young officer in a somewhat formal social situation.

Officer candidates were advised to bring a hat to training, but not many complied. The few hats per

*DIs were the only male members on the staff of the Woman Officer Candidate School. In this 1955 photograph the drill instructor shows a candidate the proper distance she must maintain while marching.*



platoon made many calls on the commanding officer. The students were scheduled to call in small groups and as one contingent left, their hats were passed on to those waiting outside. The commanding officer, meanwhile, greeted each guest, with a straight face and an inner smile. White gloves, often in short supply, were sometimes doled out one glove per student, each one trying to hold the single glove as inconspicuously as possible.

At the call, drinks were offered and although a second was suggested, the lieutenants were expected to refuse and to bring the call gracefully to a close. Sometimes the commanding officer would tactfully help, but often the young women were on their own to excuse themselves, say goodbye, and drop their cards as if they did that sort of thing every day. As awkward as the new officers felt, it probably never occurred to them that at times the commanding officer was equally uneasy. Colonel Hamblet recalled her tour at the Woman Officer Training Detachment in 1951 when she presided at the formal calls in her suite at the senior officers' BOQ, Harry Lee Hall. Major Dorothy M. Knox, the executive officer, was there to help and the two, somewhat apprehensively, awaited the arrival of the second lieutenants. The meeting got off to a

poor start when one of the guests was asked if she would like to remove her coat, and she answered she was not wearing one — she had on a coat-styled dress.<sup>2</sup>

By the 1970s, the calls became far more casual, even replaced by group cookouts at the home of the commanding officer. When the training of women officers was integrated with the male officers, large groups made calls in dress uniforms at one of the officers' clubs on the base.

### *Awards*

Awards for honor graduates of the officer candidate and basic courses have varied with none standing out in the manner of a tradition. The Marine Corps Association has from time to time given wrist watches or dress emblems to the candidate finishing first in her class. The Women Marines Association, for some years, presented the honor woman with a statuette of Molly Marine.

### *1973-1977*

The Woman Officer Candidate Course and Woman Officer Basic Course underwent numerous stylistic but no philosophical changes for 25 years. It must be said that women officers were being prepared for the limited duties they were allowed to perform. The

*Officer candidates shared a messhall with the permanent personnel of the WM Company. The future lieutenants could be identified by the "OC" pins worn on their lapels.*



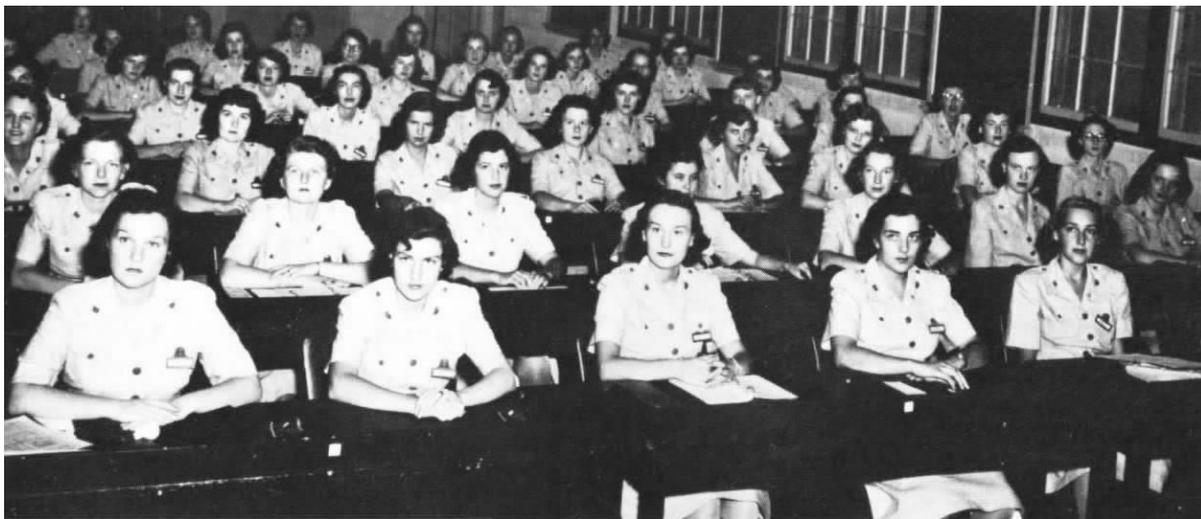


*Navy nurse "Miss Mattie" innoculates officer candidate Nancy A. Carroll in the woman Marine dispensary at Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, in October 1957.*

expanded role played by women in the Corps in the years after the Pepper Board, increased interest in careers even by married women officers, improved retention, and unprecedented procurement success, all led to some new thinking about the training of women. It also happened that in 1972 the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Cushman, directed the Marine Corps Development and Education Command at Quantico to convene a panel to study the programs and goals for the education of Marines to determine if they, in fact, supported Marine Corps needs.<sup>3</sup> The results, submitted on 31 May 1972 by the chairman, Colonel William F. Saunders, Jr., included the recommendation that when facilities permitted the WOBC and The Basic School should be merged into a single command and male and female officer candidates be trained in a single course. The action would mean the disestablishment of WOS and the activation of a woman Marine company in Headquarters Battalion, MCDEC.<sup>4</sup>

Regarding the section of the study pertaining to the women's schools, the Commandant, on 20 February 1973, approved the idea to relocate WOBC to Camp Barrett when facilities would allow and the integration of portions of the instruction given by the two schools. He specifically stated, "The disestablishment of the Woman Officer School is not anticipated."<sup>5</sup> His final words, "The study . . . will have far-reaching impact on shaping Marine Corps professional and aca-

*The major part of the candidate's day was spent in the classroom. The women pictured here wearing the two-piece seersucker uniform and cotton lisle hose are members of the first post-World War II Woman Officer Training Class held at Quantico, in 1949.*





*Candidates board a "cattle car" for weekly swimming class at Quantico in late 1950s.*

demetic education in the future,"<sup>6</sup> proved prophetic for women Marines.

Lieutenant General Robert P. Keller, Commanding General, MCDEC, finding the operation of WOS as a separate entity to be inefficient, transferred the company of women Marines from the cognizance of WOS to Headquarters Battalion as Company B on 11 June 1973.<sup>7</sup> The next day WOS was disestablished as a command and redesignated as a school within the education center, and its commanding officer became the director.

Concurrently, the administration but not the training of women officer candidates was placed under the control of the Director of the Officer Candidates School. The 32d Woman Officer Candidate Class (WOCC) was entered into the records as Company W, with both WOS and the Officer Candidates School performing the administration. On 13 August 1973, the academic section of WOS moved to The Basic School and two days later the newly commissioned officers of the 32d WOBC moved into quarters at Graves Hall, Camp Barrett.<sup>8</sup> From that time until January 1977 the women officer students were trained in separate, independent companies, receiving selected academic and leadership instruction from The Basic School staff. Course curriculum varied in length from 10 to 12 weeks.

Closer ties were made with the Officer Candidates

School when the reporting date for the 35th WOCC was scheduled so that its graduation date would coincide with that of the 90th OCC on 20 December 1974. The two separate classes shared related training, participated in a combined parade on 19 December 1974

*Future BGen Margaret A. Brewer, then a captain, inspects officer candidates at MCS, Quantico in 1959.*



at Brown Field, and graduated together the following day. Once again, to save personnel and to avoid duplication of training effort, the Commanding General, MCDEC, had recommended that WOS be dissolved, suggesting 20 December, graduation day of the 35th WOCC, as a target date.<sup>9</sup> Accordingly, WOS was disestablished and the WOCC and the WOBC were maintained as separate courses under the direction of the Officer Candidates School and The Basic School respectively.

#### *Towards Total Integration*

At The Basic School, Company L (Lima Company), became the company of student women officers. In 1976 Major Barbara E. Dolyak, in the course of being briefed for her duties as company commander, questioned the differences in training given male and female officers. At the time, WOBC was 12 weeks compared to 26 weeks for the men's basic course. Just as she was wondering, "Why can't the women do it?"<sup>10</sup> the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Wilson, published White Letter No. 5-76 on the subject of Women Marines, and addressed it to all general officers, commanding officers, and officers in charge.<sup>11</sup> In it he stressed the fact that increased opportunities

*In order to pass the swimming qualification test all 1960s women officer candidates were required to jump from the high platform into the pool at Quantico.*



*Daily personnel inspection was held in officer candidate barracks at Quantico, Virginia, in 1960s.*

for women demanded positive leadership and management action on the part of commanders relative to their assignment, training, utilization, and welfare. He suggested that the requirement for separate women's units be reviewed, and continued, "In the same view, commanders who are responsible for the conduct of professional schools should review curricula to ensure that the training offered prepares Marines to *lead*, irrespective of sex."<sup>12</sup>

The promulgation of the White Letter prompted Colonel Clyde D. Dean, Commanding Officer at The Basic School, to discuss its possible ramifications with Major Dolyak. And so, at this time, the summer of 1976, the thought of combined training for men and women officers was in the serious talking stage. It gained momentum with the arrival in August of the lieutenants of the 38th WOBC, several of whom had completed totally integrated Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps (NROTC) in college. In Major Dolyak's words, "These women were ready to go."<sup>13</sup> They were enthusiastic and like a good many women of their generation, they expected a more integrated training program.

During a talk to the students of TBS, the Commanding General of MCDEC, Lieutenant General Joseph C. Fegan, Jr., was questioned by the women on their abbreviated course. They were not satisfied with the answer. Later, participating in a combined field exercise which required carrying but not firing

a weapon, the women were incensed when they were issued rubber rifles.

Coincidentally, Lieutenant Colonel Edward M. Mockler, at The Basic School, was conducting a review of the program of instruction for male lieutenants. Traditionally, the mission of the school had been to:

... educate newly commissioned officers in the high standards of professional knowledge, esprit de corps and leadership traditional in the Marine Corps to prepare them for duties of a company grade officer in the Fleet Marine Force, with particular emphasis on duties of a rifle platoon commander.<sup>14</sup>

However, in 1976, only 18 percent of the newly commissioned male officers were classified as infantry officers, and in 1977 the projection was to be only 12 percent. The remaining 82 percent were assigned to aviation, combat support, and combat service elements, all of whom exist solely to support the infantry unit. Plans were being made to shorten the male officer basic course from 26 weeks to 21 weeks and to

create an advanced infantry officer course as follow-on training for those assigned an infantry MOS. In this way, all male officers, sharing a common education and mindful of the interdependence between combat and support units, would be better prepared to lead the Marines under their command.

In the course of staff briefings on the reduced syllabus, Major Dolyak posed the incisive question, "If it is essential that male Marine lawyers and supply officers share this commonality of experience with the infantryman, why isn't it important for the women?"<sup>15</sup> Lieutenant Colonel Mockler responded, "You've got me, I don't have a logical answer."<sup>16</sup>

In Lieutenant Colonel Dolyak's view, that was the turning point in the training of women officers. Her question was mulled over and discussed but not immediately acted upon.

The Basic School carried through with the proposal for a 21-week course, briefing first Brigadier General Paul X. Kelley, Director of the Education Center and

*Future Col Vea J. Smith (left), then an officer candidate, takes a sailing lesson from Lt Patsy A. Twilley, shown hoisting the sail at the Quantico docks in the summer of 1957.*





*Grooming instructor, Lt Ruth Walsh (later Woodyla) conducts class in personal makeup for newly commissioned women officers at Quantico, in April 1969.*

then Lieutenant General Fegan on 20 October 1976. The plan was sent to the Commandant in early November 1976, and on the 24th it was approved in concept. The possibility of a combined male/female class was not yet broached in either briefings or correspondence.

During November and December, The Basic School staff reviewed the new 21-week syllabus with an eye toward a combined class. With this in mind, Major Dolyak visited the United States Naval Academy and the Army's combined Officer Candidates School at Fort Benning, Georgia, to discuss lessons they had learned in the process of integrating training. Then, on 20 December, Lieutenant General Fegan wrote the Commandant of his intention to conduct a pilot consolidated male/female Basic Course beginning with Basic Class 3-77 (BC 3-77) on 4 January 1977.<sup>17</sup> The Commandant's White Letter 5-76 was referenced as the basis for an evaluation of the training at TBS. The conclusion drawn was that the 60-day course for women was not comparable to the 105-day course offered male officers. General Fegan reasoned:

In order for the woman officer to provide the Marines under her command with knowledgeable, professional leadership, it is considered that she, too, must develop an awareness

and understanding of such fundamental subjects as the Fleet Marine Force, Marine air-ground task forces, and the field environment.<sup>18</sup>

Timing was crucial. WOBC-39 was scheduled to begin in two weeks on 4 January and there would not be another class of women until August. Quantico intended to move quickly and needed waivers of Marine Corps policies that prohibited women from firing the rifle and pistol for qualification and from participating in field exercises. There was never any intent to train women for combat, but, rather, ". . . to provide each woman officer with . . . commonality of origin, experience, and education in order to broaden her perspective and make her a more effective leader of those Marines placed in her charge."<sup>19</sup>

In reply to General Fegan's letter, the Commandant stated his commitment to preparing women for their increasing duties and responsibilities associated with their support role. But, he added, ". . . in conducting the pilot program, due consideration must be given to the noncombatant role of women and to the physiological differences between men and women."<sup>20</sup> Regarding weapons and tactics skills, guidance dictated an emphasis on orientation, familiarization, and defensive training.

The fact that the women lieutenants had not received comparable physical conditioning during the

*Officer candidates prepare for inspection with a coin and a ruler. Blankets pulled tightly enough to allow the coin to bounce and an eight-inch top sheet fold are two marks of a properly made military bunk.*





*Women lieutenants of the 2d Platoon, Company C, the first integrated Basic School unit, debark an amtrack during exercises at Quantico, Virginia, on 20 April 1977.*

candidate course was of some concern to all parties. For the pilot program, the women participated in all exercises but were graded on the physical fitness program for WMs in which they ran one and one-half miles rather than the three-mile course prescribed for men. And, the obstacle course grades were weighted differently. Because of these limitations, as well as the experimental nature of the combined class, the class standings were delineated by sex.

*Second Platoon, Company C, BC 3-77  
(January 1977-26 May 1977)*

The second platoon, Company C, BC 3-77, under staff platoon commander Captain Robin L. Austin, plunged into a training course made up of such subjects as basic tactics, patrolling, vertical envelopment operations, tank-infantry operations, amphibious warfare, physical training, aviation and ground sup-

port, infantry weapons, supporting arms, land navigation, military law, communications, and combat intelligence. The 22 women were divided into groups of five or six and attached to the remaining five male platoons for field exercises. In all, Company C (Charlie Company) was made up of 243 male and 22 female lieutenants commanded by Major Guy A. Pete, Jr. Nicknamed after a popular 1977 TV show based on the experiences of three women detectives, 2d platoon became known as "Charlie's Angels."

Aside from exposure to field conditions, the women gained first-hand experience in leadership positions. They took their turns as platoon sergeants, squad leaders, and guides, which gave them heretofore out-of-reach practice in leading men and developing the techniques and tact necessary in dealing with problems men encounter as Marines. Previously, women lieu-

tenants took over male-dominated sections without having this experience to fall back on.

Like thousands of male lieutenants before them, the WMs took part in the Basic School Landing Exercise (BaScoleX) in which a company of student officers storms ashore on Onslow Beach at Camp Lejeune during a practice amphibious assault. To their consternation the women were bused from Quantico to Camp Lejeune while the men made the trip by sea. The law forbade their service on board ship, so when at 0900, 20 April 1977, about 200 male lieutenants swept across Onslow Beach, they were confronted by the 2d Platoon (women) and the 5th Platoon (men) playing the role of inland aggressors.

The new twist to the BaScoleX prompted a number of remarks of a sexist nature from the men. A few said the women should not be in the field at all. Others thought it unfair that the law prevented them from taking part in the entire exercise. Most of the men, at any rate, seemed to support the women's efforts and liked to see them do well in the field.

The platoon commander, Captain Austin, acknowledged some prejudice in the company, but she also cited a contradictory incident which had occurred three days before the BaScoleX. "We all completed a 12-mile forced march and 4-mile run," she explained. "Following the run, a male lieutenant regarded as the company's worst chauvinist, gave us a smile and the okay sign. We felt accepted."<sup>21</sup>

There were some problems at the outset, most of which were expected. The women tended to straggle and bring up the rear on the long marches, but eventually made it. Some suffered stress fractures of the lower leg just as the women at the military academies had. A woman lieutenant on crutches was not an unfamiliar sight. As the pilot program progressed, emphasis on conditioning was stressed during scheduled periods of physical training and by the midpoint of the program the female officer students were able to

keep up with their male counterparts during field problems, conditioning hikes, and company runs.<sup>22</sup>

One factor that had not been anticipated and that affected training to a degree was the intense and continuous interest of the news media. Initial stories were expected, but not 21 weeks of interminable coverage. It became tiring for the women, distracting for the men, and a source of resentment dividing the sexes. Charlie Company found itself on the front page of *The Washington Post* and in newspapers around the world. Brigadier General Kelley was questioned repeatedly on the purpose of the combined training. He summed up the prevailing philosophy, saying:

Our decision is based on a firm conviction that our young women officers must be informed on all facets of our Corps, to include rigors of field environment, if we expect them to fulfill the broad variety of tasks we have and will assign to them in our Fleet Marine Force.<sup>23</sup>

The members of the history-making 2d Platoon, Company C, BC 3-77 were:<sup>24</sup>

Second Lieutenant Linds L. Belanger  
 Second Lieutenant Christine A. Benson  
 Second Lieutenant Patricia P. Blaha  
 Second Lieutenant Diana C. Day  
 Second Lieutenant Mary A. Devlin  
 Second Lieutenant June M. Dignan  
 Second Lieutenant Colleen M. Flynn  
 Second Lieutenant Robin C. Garrett  
 Second Lieutenant Megan A. Gillespie  
 Second Lieutenant Gayle W. Hanley  
 Second Lieutenant Georgia J. Jobusch  
 Second Lieutenant Bonnie J. Joseph  
 Second Lieutenant Rosa K. Knight  
 Second Lieutenant Janie D. Loftis  
 Second Lieutenant Bonnie L. MacPherson  
 Second Lieutenant Jennifer J. Martell  
 Second Lieutenant Ann M. Milinovich  
 Second Lieutenant Angelica V. Ritscher  
 Second Lieutenant Judith C. Shaw  
 Second Lieutenant Gloria M. Stottlemire  
 Second Lieutenant Jo Ann Taylor

## CHAPTER 11

# Administration of Women

### *Supervision and Guidance of Women Marines—Barracks—Daily Routine—Discipline*

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The Woman Marine Company was long a standard unit on posts and stations wherever WMs served. It was Colonel Towle's expressed policy that no woman Marine would serve alone and that a woman officer would be assigned wherever enlisted women were located.<sup>1</sup> Since it was bothersome to arrange billeting for a small number of women, it naturally evolved that women were only assigned to bases that could utilize and support a sizable number and where women could be organized into a single WM unit. Women Marines have long been considered an integral part of the Marine Corps, and the WM company was fitted into the existing command structure. For administrative purposes all WMs were carried on the rolls of the Woman Marine Company, which normally was part of Headquarters or Headquarters and Service Battalion. The table of organization of a typical WM company indicated only the personnel required to command and administer it: the commanding officer, the executive officer, the first sergeant, clerks, and a police and property NCO. The strength of the company bore no relation to the table of organization as the women making up the company were filling other authorized billets throughout the base.

There has been a certain amount of confusion over the name of WM units. Colonel Hamblet, when she was Director of Women Marines, settled the issue in 1958, drawing attention to the variety of titles in existence. She cited such examples as Women Marine Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Camp Pendleton; Women Marines Detachment Two, Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point; and Woman Marine Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego. In the interest of uniformity, it was decided to use the words "Woman" with an "a" and "Marine" without an "s" in the title designations.<sup>2</sup> Once in a while the WM companies were given letter names—most often Company D, which lent itself to the nickname, "Dolly Company." In one instance, at Pearl Harbor in 1952-1956, the women Marines were Company A—no recorded nickname. At Marine Corps air stations, the women were organized into a detachment, which was a squadron-level unit. In these cases, the table of organization

called for a sergeant major rather than a first sergeant.

Administratively, this plan of grouping all WMs into one company while they worked throughout the command, differed from the organization of male Marines who were attached to a company within the same battalion for which they worked. For the male Marine, his work supervisor and his company commander were in the same chain of command; for the WM, her work supervisor could belong to one battalion while her commanding officer belonged to another. A cooperative spirit among commands was absolutely essential since often the interests of the work supervisor and those of the commanding officer clashed. Leave and liberty, for example, were granted by the commanding officer, based upon a written release by the work supervisor. Company duty assignments, inspections, and barracks field nights infringed on women's work responsibilities and vice versa. On matters of discipline, if a work supervisor put a woman on report, it was handled not within his chain of command, but through her company and, when necessary, battalion.

In spite of these areas of potential conflict, the system worked relatively smoothly from 1948 until 1974 when an emphasis on a "total Marine Corps" brought into question the need for separate women's commands. An ad hoc committee met in 1973 and made a number of proposals which opened new career opportunities for women in the Marine Corps and also recommended changes in policies that tend to set the women apart as if a separate entity. As women moved into more and more previously all-male fields, commanders challenged the tradition of woman Marine companies. From posts and stations came the suggestion to disband the units and to treat the women as all other Marines. The Commandant's White Letter No. 5-76 also addressed this matter:

With the achievement of more complete integration of women, the requirement for separate women's units should be reviewed. Positive benefits can be derived from assigning women Marines administratively to their duty units. During transition periods, you may find it desirable to establish additional duty billets for a woman officer or staff noncommissioned officer to work as "Special Assistants" in providing guidance relative to woman Marine matters.<sup>3</sup>



*Following a long-standing tradition, the visiting Director of Women Marines, Col Katherine A. Towle, is entertained at a tea held in the barracks at Parris Island in 1951. The colonel is flanked by MSgt Lotus T. Mort (left) and Maj Nita Bob Warner (right).*

In June 1977 only three WM companies remained—at Henderson Hall, at Norfolk, and at Camp Lejeune. The others had been deactivated upon the request and justification of the commanding generals of the bases at which the WM units had been located.

Where no woman Marine company existed, women were administratively attached to the unit for which they worked, but the billeting was handled in one of several ways. They could be billeted in a barracks which came under the jurisdiction of the command to which they were assigned. A prime example was Base Materiel Battalion at Camp Lejeune, where in 1976 the commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel George J. Ballard, asked to have the WMs working in his battalion transferred to, and billeted with his unit. Although a company for all other WMs was still maintained, the

women of Base Materiel Battalion were transferred. The battalion occupied a new motel-like barracks in which all rooms had outside entrances. Lounges, laundries, and other common areas were shared by men and women. The WMs, as was their habit, decorated their rooms and displayed colored towels, and according to Major Gerald W. Sims, the executive officer, the male Marines had not objected. The company commander, Captain Vernon C. Graham, and First Sergeant Charlie L. Boyd of Headquarters and Service Company were enthusiastic about the value of having complete control of and responsibility for all Marines in the command. In the spring of 1977, members of the staff admitted that this was a new idea for the Marine Corps and in some way an experiment. Some procedures were being changed. Weekly training, for example, found the women drilling and inspected as

a separate platoon, and thought was being given to integrating the women into the male platoons.<sup>4</sup>

At Quantico, things were handled differently. After the deactivation of the WM company in 1976 women Marines from 11 Marine Corps Development and Education Center units lived in three barracks. That fall it was decided to put the women under one roof again and a new Bachelor Enlisted Quarters was renovated for them.<sup>5</sup> This system paralleled the one in existence in 1977 at Cherry Point where the WM detachment was deactivated on 31 December 1974. The women were administratively transferred to the various squadrons and the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, but they remained in the same barracks they had previously occupied. Under this arrangement, a woman NCO was responsible for the barracks, its cleanliness, maintenance, and security. She checked women in and out, held linen call, and prepared duty rosters. On a three-month assignment, she was away from her regular job for that length of time.<sup>6</sup>

These barracks NCOs, like Corporal Kay Frazier at Twentynine Palms in 1975, Staff Sergeant Sandra Hoolailo at Quantico, and Sergeant Carol Fox at Cherry Point in 1977 found that they were involved in many areas formerly handled by women commanding officers or first sergeants. Disputes between roommates, personal problems, and work dissatisfaction were some of the matters brought to the NCO. Infractions of barracks regulations and the preparation of duty rosters still required coordination between the battalion or squadron maintaining the barracks and the duty units of the women.

Sergeant Fox, who was stationed at Cherry Point when WMD-2 was active, and who carried the colors at the deactivation ceremonies, compared both systems. In her view, the women had more esprit and were a closer unit when under one command. The commanding officer and first sergeant knew the women personally and were interested in them as individuals. Since the deactivation of the detachment, Sergeant Fox felt that unit pride had virtually disappeared; the barracks was no longer a scrupulously clean showplace; WM activities, like picnics or ball games, were nonexistent; and the women never paraded or marched as a unit. She particularly recalled the spirit and pride they had felt in the past after events such as IG inspections.<sup>7</sup> Private First Class Katie Jones Dixon and Lance Corporal Judith Coy, interviewed at Cherry Point were, on the other hand, quite satisfied with the arrangement and voiced no complaints.<sup>8</sup>

One found, in 1977, senior WMs, officer and enlisted, who were unsure of the merits of the newer way for two reasons: first, deactivation of WM companies eliminated the primary source of command experience for company grade officers; and second, the WM company was a source of group spirit and pride for the women Marines. A not uncommon sentiment was that women would never truly be accepted as Marines by male Marines, and therefore they needed some visible unit to identify with. Others—most often junior WMs—saw the deactivation of WM companies as a sign that women Marines were truly Marines and not a separate corps.

An offshoot of the deactivation of WM companies was the new experience for women having male commanding officers and the novel experience for the men—commanding women. Staffs of mixed gender were no longer unusual, and male Marines were not apt to suffer fits of apoplexy when reporting in and finding the company clerk or executive officer wearing a skirt.

Colonel Margaret A. Brewer, the Director of Women Marines during this period of change, when asked if she thought that the venture of integrating women into male units was successful, answered that much depended upon the quality of the leadership. Where the commanding officers took positive steps to integrate the women and to make them feel welcome, the system worked.<sup>9</sup> Women Marines told her that they felt more like Marines—like they belonged. More importantly, the men took the trouble to learn about WMs, their regulations, concerns, and problems. It happened less frequently that male Marines called on WM officers and SNCOs to handle the routine matters involving women: uniform discrepancies, poor work habits, and lapses in military courtesy. Some “old salts” discovered that the presence of a few WMs had a beneficial effect on behavior, language, and discipline of the entire unit.

#### *Supervision and Guidance of Women Marines*

A long-standing tradition, wherever WM companies were found, was that all women Marine officers and staff noncommissioned officers regardless of their assignment, accepted some responsibility for the company. The commanding officer naturally had the primary responsibility of administration, discipline, training, morale, and billeting of the enlisted WMs, but all company grade officers, SNCOs, and NCOs stood WM company duty; took their turn giving lec-

tures on the training schedule; were apt to be assigned as platoon leaders; and attended all company-sponsored athletic and social happenings. Every WM second lieutenant left Quantico well indoctrinated with the idea that the health, happiness, performance, and appearance of all WMs junior to her were matters of her concern, and the same theme was reiterated in all phases of NCO training.

Colonel Towle set the example in the very beginning when, in 1949, she invited all newly integrated WM officers to her apartment for tea. Lieutenant Colonel Munn remembers the care with which they dressed—hat and gloves—and in 1977 reflected on how wise it was of the colonel to bring them all together, even though they worked throughout the Headquarters.

Colonel Hamblet, who succeeded Colonel Towle as Director of Women Marines, believed that senior women Marines, officer and enlisted, in their relationship with juniors, should be concerned with the “total” person and her development. The receptions that women Marines customarily gave for the Director when she made her annual visit were a part of this philosophy. The purpose was not only to give the women and the Director an opportunity to meet informally and look each other over, but it was an enjoyable way to learn something about entertaining, extending invitations, making introductions, and carrying on social conversations. In most cases, the work supervisors and their wives were invited and in Colonel Hamblet’s view, it was beneficial for them to see the WMs in their own environment—often leading to a better understanding between the sexes.

To be sure, not all the women wanted to get involved in these affairs, but gentle persuasion and a little well-directed leadership on the part of the commanding officer and the first sergeant worked wonders. Very often, younger women were uncomfortable with the prospect of entertaining senior Marines and this accounted for their apparent disinterest. When the party was over, obviously a success, and when the women received the compliments of the invited Marines and their ladies, they were in Colonel Hamblet’s words, “. . . pleased as punch.”

All women staff noncommissioned officers took an active role in the supervision and guidance of younger WMs. They were considered a vital link between the commanding officer and her women, spotting potential problems and alert to changes in mood and morale. During the 13-year period between the time

postwar enlistment was opened to nonveterans in January 1949 until World War II WMs began to retire in 1962, there existed a group of staff noncommissioned officers, older and more experienced, who felt a real obligation to the younger Marines. Due to the fact that there was no recruiting of women from 1945 to 1949, and because the WMs were at least 20 years old when they enlisted during the war, the age difference was quite pronounced. First Sergeant Schultz remembers that when the enlistment age was lowered to 18, the officers and NCOs felt a real obligation to “. . . these youngsters.”<sup>10</sup>

Women Marines who served in the 1950s and early 1960s tell many anecdotes that attest to the concern of these SNCOs for the WMs junior to them. One name often mentioned was that of Master Sergeant Lucretia E. Williams, retired in 1976, a supply NCO who was known to buy items for the barracks and mess hall out of her own money. When the WMs scheduled ball games or hikes, she often arranged for cool drinks and then carried the large thermos jugs to the field herself.<sup>11</sup> Colonel Hilgart remembers a time as the commanding officer of WMD-1 when a snafu held up a check meant to pay for a WM ball team trip and Master Sergeant Williams appeared at the company office with a personal check for over \$200.<sup>12</sup>

Another woman remembered by many is Master Sergeant Catherine G. Murray who on 30 November 1962 became the first enlisted woman Marine to transfer to the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve at the completion of nearly 20 years of service. Master Sergeant Murray could be found in the barracks every Sunday morning rousing up all the Roman Catholics and driving them to Mass. Returning with one group from the early service, she gathered up more for the next one. All women with obvious Irish or Italian names were presumed Catholics and taken to church. Major Joan Collins, as an enlisted WM at Quantico, was a member of Master Sergeant Murray’s “Volunteer” group that helped the nuns prepare the altar at nearby St. Francis parish in Triangle, Virginia. A Lutheran with an Irish name, she nonetheless spent three consecutive Saturdays cleaning and arranging altar cloths.<sup>13</sup>

Warrant Officer Eileen R. Scanlon relates another story that typifies the relationship of these women to the WM company. On a bitter cold day in January 1961, the women Marines of Henderson Hall marched in President Kennedy’s inaugural parade. The women having been instructed to dress warmly, layered flannel pajamas, woolen bermuda shorts, and whatever

else they could fit under their uniforms. Not able to wear boots in a parade, they wore woolen socks cut off at the top so as not to show above the oxfords. But simple advice was not enough. Before leaving the barracks, all the SNCOs went through the squadbays inspecting each woman to ensure she had carried out the instructions.<sup>14</sup>

Several factors have combined to change the role played by women officers and staff noncommissioned officers in the supervision and guidance of women Marines and the very personal concern evidenced in the incidents related above is now relatively rare. In the late 1960s, as a result of recommendations made by the Woman Marine Program Study Group, women SNCOs were allowed to move out of the barracks, and more officers were given permission to move off base, making them far less accessible.<sup>15</sup> Attrition was much higher in the 1950s and 1960s before the change in regulations which allowed women with children to remain on active duty, thereby causing a shortage of older, mature SNCOs. Finally, the World War II WMs began to retire in 1962 and the women Marines lost this nucleus of officers and noncommissioned officers which for many years felt a special motherly responsibility to new WMs and to the success of the WM program.

### *Barracks*

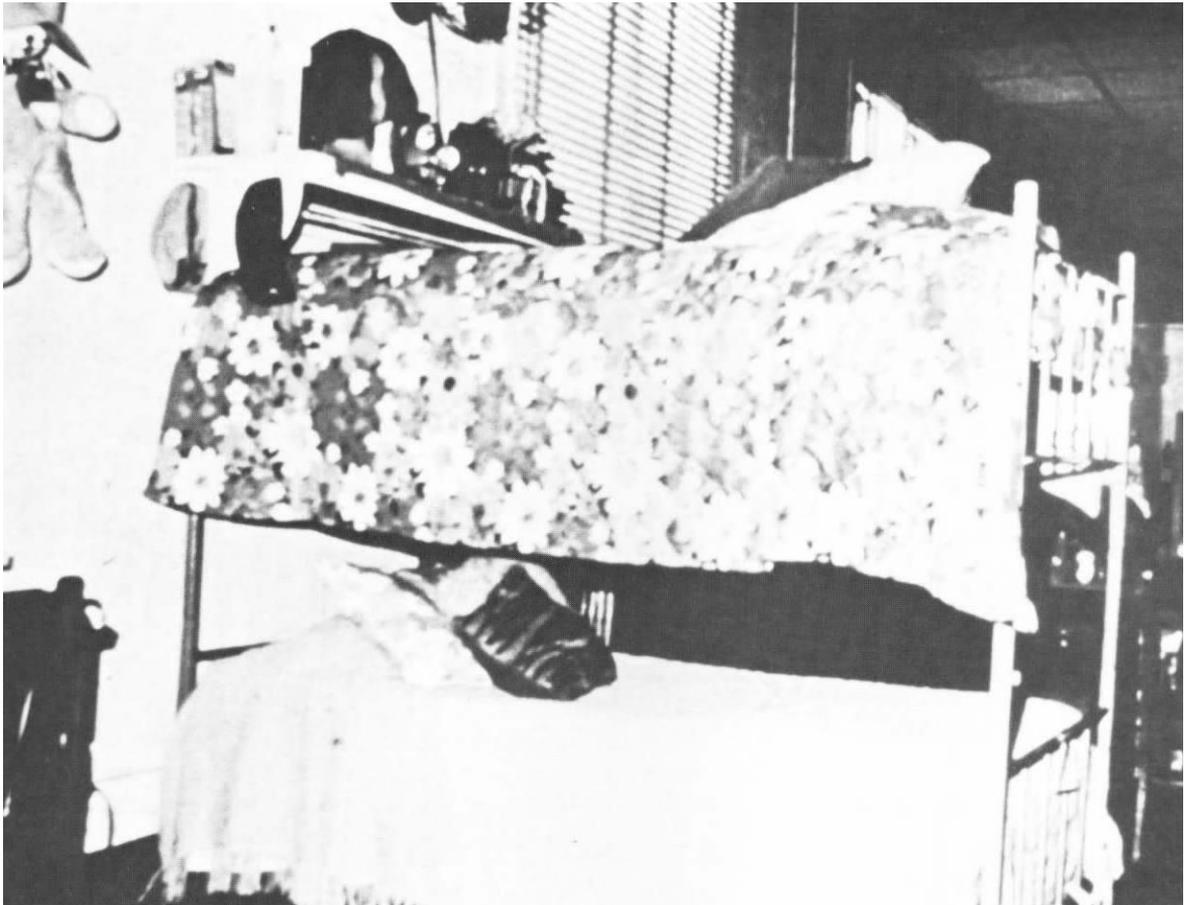
Marines have never disputed the philosophy that men are different from women. But even acknowledging this or expecting it in no way lessened the initial jolt to a male "old salt" the first time he set foot in a WM barracks. Women are vitally concerned with their living areas, they spend more time in their quarters, and they have needs unique to the distaff community.

Colonel Streeter and her officers in World War II recognized these things early on and even in the midst of a war felt it was important to insist upon certain amenities for the women. A guest lounge became standard. One room, usually furnished with comfortable chairs, sofa, TV (later), and record player was set aside to greet and entertain male guests. The regulations regarding proper attire and behavior were quite strict: Marines, men and women, had to dress in full uniforms or comparable civilian clothing. For the women, sportswear, shorts, or slacks were definitely not considered appropriate for the guest lounge.

Very often the barracks boasted a sewing room, hair dryers, refrigerators, and some cooking equipment. Adequate laundry appliances were the subject of no small number of memoranda from the Director's

*Early in the 1950s women were issued a dresser and permitted to display one stuffed animal per bunk as shown in this photograph taken at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.*





*In the 1970s, a move from less military to more feminine and personalized decorating was allowed in the WM barracks. Colorful bed spreads as pictured here were popular.*

office. It had to be explained that women, as opposed to men, do not send personal clothing to commercial laundries and therefore needed more washing machines, dryers, and ironing boards than government specifications allowed. There was some feeling among WMs of that era that, in the end, the men's barracks had been improved and better equipped as an outgrowth of the women's insistence on nicer living conditions.

Barracks life in the days of the open squadbays offered little privacy, so whenever possible, the commanding officer would set aside a "quiet room." It was a place to read, to study, to write letters, or to cry; it helped fulfill a woman's need to just be alone. For privacy's sake another distinguishing mark of the distaff barracks took hold—the fence. Discreetly, a fence hid from public view the dainty unmentionables drying on the clothes line while at the same time providing a spot for sunbathing.

Where the WMs excelled at making a squadbay a home was in the decoration of their individual areas. Before the Department of Defense regulations requiring more space and privacy were published in 1973, most Marines were quartered in open squad rooms outfitted with double metal bunks, lockers, and locker boxes.<sup>16</sup> Wooden dressers were a concession to the women, and normally had to be shared. Much ingenuity went into the arrangement of the furniture to form cubicles, thereby assuring a measure of privacy to the several occupants.

A persuasive commanding officer could often talk the battalion commander and S-4 into pastel colored paint—a very radical innovation in the 1950s. Colored rugs, bedspreads, and towels; perfume bottles, prayer books, and photos on the dressers; and finally stuffed animals on the bunks were all privileges eventually won, but often not easily. To keep some semblance of order, the company regulations specified how

many items per dresser, and how many stuffed dolls by size per bunk.

Understandably, many male Marines had a difficult time adjusting to this desecration of a barracks. Before long, however, the idea gained remarkable acceptance, and at most posts and stations the WM barracks was a mainstay on the itinerary of visiting dignitaries.

#### *Daily Routine*

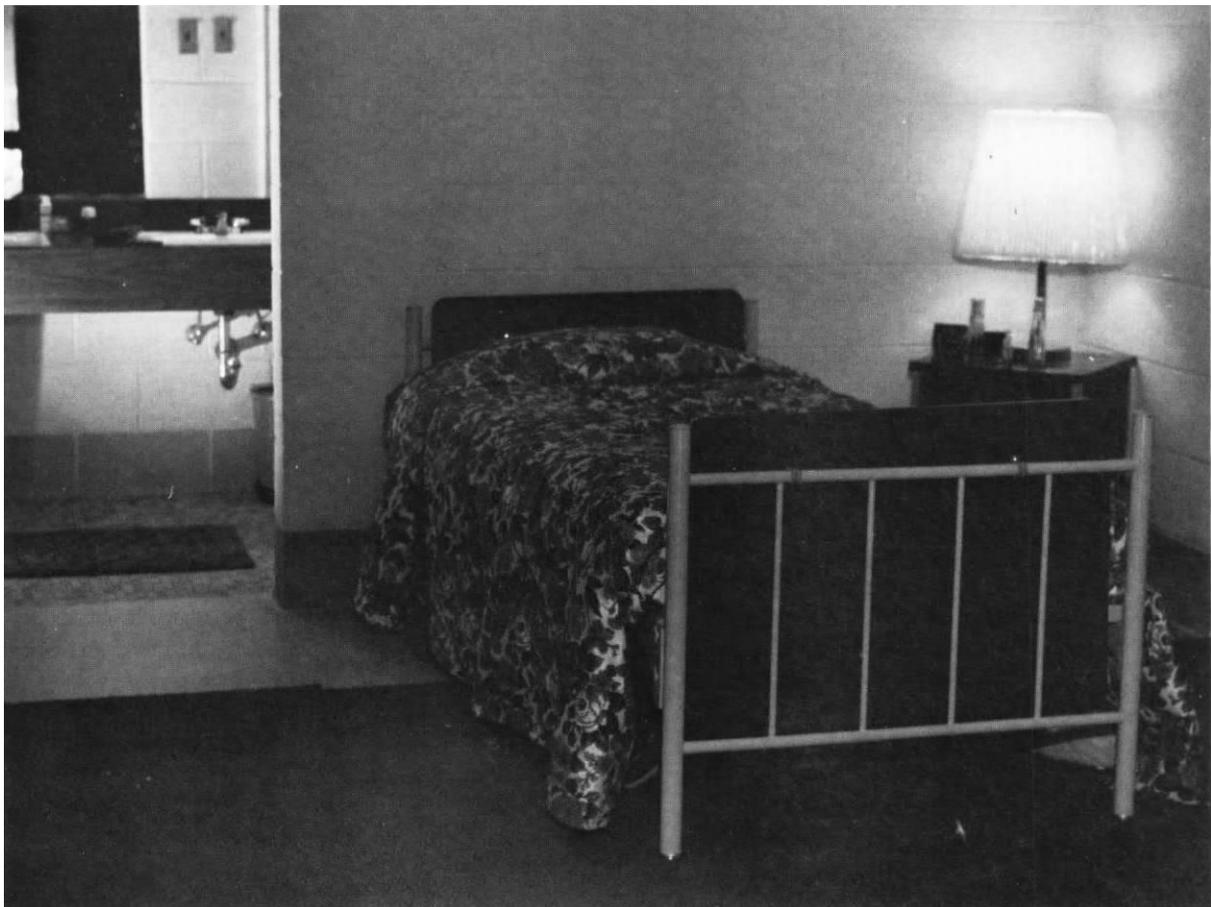
Life on board a Marine base in 1977 would have been only vaguely familiar to the WM of 1949 or even 1959. The most obvious difference would have focused on the barracks building itself, apt to be motel-like with outside entrances for each room or hotel-like with rooms opening on a long passageway. Closets and dressers would have replaced lockers and locker boxes and the metal double bunks would have become unknown items of the past. Reveille would still come too soon, but would be more likely to be announced over a public address system than by means of a bugle.

WMs, until the mid-1950s, held an outdoor formation at rollcall each morning, summer and winter, in utilities. Since then rollcalls have become less and less regimented and are generally taken by an NCO with the Marines standing by in their areas.<sup>17</sup>

Mess halls, once furnished with long tables and benches, have become known as dining facilities and feature restaurant-style tables and chairs. Mandatory chow formations for the morning and evening meals are all but a memory since 1960. The requirement to wear a uniform to the mess hall was eased to allow civilian clothing first on weekends, then for the evening meal, and finally for all meals. In 1977, at Henderson Hall, appropriate attire for the dining facility permitted neat, but not frayed jeans and excluded only shorts, halters, tank tops, and physical training outfits.<sup>18</sup>

Liberty cards and liberty logs also had joined "Old Corps" lore by 1970. Before that time all Marines signed out with the barracks duty NCO, and each was

*By 1975 at a few bases women were assigned motel-like rooms as the one pictured here.*



closely inspected to see that he or she was properly dressed. WM company regulations generally went a step further. At most commands women Marines could not sign out on liberty after a certain time, perhaps 2130 or 2200, and liberty often expired within an hour after the service clubs closed. Cinderella liberty, as it was called, and the motherly concern of commanding officers, served to challenge the inventiveness of the women who found some ingenious ways to circumvent the rules.

The WM of 1977 walked out of the barracks at will. Dressed in slacks, she did not find it necessary to prove that she was going to participate in an active sport. Shorts did not have to be covered by a modest skirt, and wearing jeans was not strictly limited to car washing in the immediate vicinity of the barracks. She was expected to be back on time by reveille, but beyond that she was largely her own boss.

### *Discipline*

Regulations regarding apprehension, arrest, restrictions, and confinement, from a technical standpoint have been equally applicable to all Marines, however, philosophical and practical consideration have dictated unequal enforcement. The differences primarily involve investigative procedures and confinement policies. Since women did not have a military obligation, there was a tacit agreement that the best interests of the Marine Corps were served by removal of habitual offenders. WMs who just could not adjust to military life, who caused more work than they produced, and who had a negative effect on command morale and discipline were, when possible, administratively discharged. The Marine Corps expeditious discharge program, which was initiated in 1975 to improve the quality of personnel serving in the Corps, was based on much the same idea.

The interrogation of women poses problems for both civilian and military police. In order to protect women from abuse and at the same time to protect the police from false accusations, authorities usually demand the attendance of a woman witness during the questioning. It had been Marine Corps policy to require on these occasions the presence of a woman officer or mature staff noncommissioned officer—senior to the woman being interrogated—who could counsel and advise the suspect. The accused could waive this privilege as long as it was done in writing and before a woman officer or her own commanding officer.

For a time it was planned to train enough women investigators so that each post and station would have available a capable officer or NCO to assist the provost marshal when necessary. There was no intention to assign these women to any sort of police duty. Second Lieutenant Marjorie E. O'Hanlon and Ruth F. Reinholz were the first two women Marine officers to attend Provost Marshal General's School—Investigative Officers Course at Camp Gordon, Georgia, from 6 July to 2 September 1953. The two-month class covered surveillance techniques, photography, fingerprinting, and interrogation. The women were well trained but the idea backfired. No one, not even their best friends, trusted the new investigators, and after sending women Marines to several more classes, the project was abandoned.<sup>19</sup>

There always existed a reluctance to confine women, and policy prohibited the use of brigs and guardhouses for them. Those guilty of civil crimes could be sent to civilian prisons. Women who rated confinement as a result of a court martial were more apt to be restricted to the barracks and fined—a punishment that did not require posting a guard.

When WM companies were routine, and if the offense was serious, women could be confined in the barracks. A number of barracks had a room set aside specifically for that purpose. It was sparsely furnished, had a door with a small window, and could be locked from the passageway. The confinement of a woman Marine in the barracks invariably affected the morale of the entire unit. Guards were posted around the clock causing many extra duty assignments for the NCOs; meals had to be brought in; and merely passing the locked door was unnerving to the others.<sup>20</sup>

With the disbandment of WM companies and the resultant loss of appropriate barracks, confinement posed additional problems. Punishment had not necessarily been diminished; on the contrary, policy changes have allowed a more liberal use of civilian jails. In 1977, a woman Marine convicted by a court martial could face restriction plus a fine or detention in an approved civilian prison—depending upon the judgment of the commanding officer.

Based on the number of courts martial per total strength, the woman Marine disciplinary rate was less than one percent.<sup>21</sup> Although there have been few cases, each one is disproportionately magnified due to the very rarity of occurrence and the lingering hesitancy to confine women.

## CHAPTER 12

# Promotions

### *Public Law 90-130—Enlisted Promotions*

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By law women officers had always been selected for promotion under a different process and by separate board action from their male colleagues. The provisions of the Armed Forces Integration Act of 1948 held until 1967 when certain restrictions were lifted.<sup>1</sup>

For 20 years women in the Marine Corps as well as the other Services could aspire to no higher permanent rank than lieutenant colonel. Additionally, the number of women allowed to serve in the grades of major and lieutenant colonel was rigidly limited by the number of regular women officers on active duty. As the women officers who integrated in the 1948-1950 period moved into the field grade ranks, two things occurred: it became irksome to them to stagnate for years in one rank as the male officers passed them by; and the upper ranks were virtually closed until the mid-1960s when these women became eligible to retire. During these years, women were selected for promotion by a separate board convened to consider all women officer ranks. The limited duty officer program, a major opportunity open to male enlisted Marines to achieve commissioned rank, was legally closed to women Marines.

Warrant officer status has been available to women and the early history of the first women Marine warrant officers is told in a letter from CWO-4 Ruth L. Wood:

Of course the biggest event for me was being selected for warrant officer. On 14 April 1952 we took the 3-hour examination. I believe there were about 57 women applicants, and Lillian Hartley (Disbursing) and I (Administration) were the two lucky ones selected. We took the same exam the men did, at the same time, which included making decisions on questions whether to dig a one-man or a two-man fox hole, when to retreat from an air strip and by whose authority, etc.! A couple of years later when the Marine Corps decided to select another woman warrant, the Testing and Education Unit at Quantico called me, as I was stationed at Quantico, to say they couldn't find a copy of the "women's exam" and were quite astonished when I told them we took the men's exam. They proceeded to make a separate exam for the women.

Lillian Hartley was stationed at HQMC so she received her warrant soon after selection. Mine didn't come so Colonel Hamblet called HQMC to ask about it as she wanted to assign me as adjutant and instructor at the Women Officer Training Detachment there before the next class be-

gan. At the time, Lieutenant Colonel Hamblet was the commanding officer of the detachment and not Director of Women Marines. When they told her the delay in my warrant was due to the break down of the "fancy typewriter," she suggested they write it in longhand if necessary to get it down here! It soon came typed, but not in the "fancy type."

Lillian Hartley's and my date of rank was 13 June 1952, but in the "Blue Book" (*Combined Lineal List of Officers on Active Duty*) I was listed first for some reason, with a man next, and then Lillian Hartley, so I am the senior woman warrant officer. Three years later we made CWO-2. That same year we had the opportunity to apply for permanent warrant officer, and on 16 Dec 1955 the list came out showing we had been selected over again with a permanent date of rank of 1 July 1954, and Lotus Mort was selected with a permanent date of 14 Dec 1955. Margaret Robertson was selected in 1956, Alice McIntyre in 1957, Elaine Freeman in 1958, and Mary Thompson in 1959, none in 1960, then one a year for some time thereafter.

When on 1 Jan 1961 I was the first woman promoted to CWO-4, they made a big event of it (altho' I had been the first CWO-2 and CWO-3 also so it was quite logical!), and I made permanent CWO-4 on 13 June 1967.<sup>2</sup>

A change was made in the warrant officer program in 1975 when for the first time women warrant officers attended the Warrant Officer Basic School with their male counterparts.

### *Public Law 90-130*

The first significant change in law directly affecting servicewomen occurred when Congress enacted Public Law 90-130. In a colorful ceremony in the East Room of the White House, President Lyndon B. Johnson on 8 November 1967 signed into law the bill giving women officers in the armed forces equal opportunity for promotion with their male colleagues. Present at the signing were servicewomen and former servicewomen, including directors and former directors of the WAC, WAVES, WAF, Women Marines, the three Nurse Corps, and three Women's Medical Service Corps. High-ranking male officers were there as well, including members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The Marine Band, which normally plays at Presidential ceremonies, relinquished the stage for the occasion to the 14th U.S. Army Band, the only all-women official band in the Armed Forces. The United States flag and the flags of the various services were carried



*WO Lillian Hartley, one of the first two women Marines to be promoted to warrant officer, receives congratulations from Col Katherine A. Towle, WM Director, on 7 August 1952.*

by a color guard of enlisted women, and the President entered the East Room through a cordon of 50 women from all branches of the Services, including 12 women Marines.

Heading the list of Marines present at the ceremony was General Wallace M. Greene, Jr., then Commandant. Four of the five women who had held appointment as Director of Women Marines were in attendance: Colonels Ruth Cheney Streeter, Julia E. Hamblet, Margaret M. Henderson, and Barbara J. Bishop. Sergeant Majors Ouida Craddock and Rosa Harrington topped the roster of enlisted women Marines at the historic ceremony.<sup>3</sup>

Significant among the President's remarks was the statement that:

Our Armed Forces literally could not operate effectively or efficiently without our women . . . So, both as President and as the Commander in Chief, I am very pleased and very proud to have this measure sent to me by the Congress.<sup>4</sup>

This long-awaited law repealed the legal limitations on the number of women in the Armed Services and also removed some, but not all, of the assignment and promotion restrictions. There were still certain legal limitations such as the prohibition against the appointment of women as limited duty officers, the legal limitations on the promotion of women officers to flag and general officer rank in the Navy and Marine Corps, and the differences in the criteria for the involuntary separation of male and female officers who were not selected for promotion. In the Marine Corps, a male first lieutenant or captain was involuntarily separated if he was considered as having twice failed selection for promotion to the next higher grade. Historically, due to the upper rank promotion restrictions for women, a female first lieutenant or captain was not involuntarily separated until she had completed seven or 13 years of commissioned service, respectively, and was not on a promotion list.

The law also precluded female commissioned of-

fficers in the Marine Corps from competing for promotion with male officers. This restriction combined with the smaller numbers of women officers made it difficult to maintain an equitable rank structure. As a result, women officers by the 1970s were sometimes promoted earlier than their male contemporaries. In order to achieve comparability, a goal was set to slow down the women's promotions and to "age them in grade." A selection board was not convened in 1976 to consider women for the rank of colonel nor in 1977 to consider selections to lieutenant colonel. In some cases, as a result, a few women served more time in grade than average.

Although the law required selection boards for male and female Marine officers, women since August 1974 had been selected for promotion by the same board

membership as the men with the addition of a woman officer. If that woman officer was a colonel, she also served as a member of the male officer selection board.

The law further precluded the selection of a woman officer to flag and general officer rank in the Navy and Marine Corps although there was a provision for temporary appointment as a rear admiral or brigadier general while serving in specific billets.<sup>5</sup>

On the positive side, PL 90-130 allowed for permanent promotions to colonel for women. In April 1968, some six months after it was enacted, selection boards were convened at Headquarters Marine Corps to select Regular and Reserve women lieutenant colonels for promotion. Colonels Towle and Hamblet were called from retirement to sit on these boards. The Director of Women Marines, Colonel Barbara Bishop,

*Lotus T. Mort, third woman Marine to be appointed a permanent warrant officer, receives her new insignia from Col Julia E. Hamblet (left), Director of Women Marines, and LtCol Pauline B. Beckley, in a ceremony at Headquarters Marine Corps, in January 1956.*



and Lieutenant Colonel Jeanette Sustad, former Deputy Director of Women Marines, were the first Regular women officers selected for permanent promotion to the grade of colonel. Of the six Reserve officers selected, two, Lieutenant Colonel Hazel E. Benn, deputy head of the Special Services Branch at Headquarters, and Lieutenant Colonel Ruth H. Broe, special projects officer for the Division of Information, were serving on active duty. The four remaining Reserve colonels were Lieutenant Colonels Mary L. Condon, Helen A. Wilson, Dorothy R. Dietz, and Rilda M. Stuart.<sup>6</sup>

### *Enlisted Promotions*

For the most part, promotions for enlisted women in the Marine Corps were made under the same policies and by the same boards as for the men. Except in scattered individual cases, there has never existed the dissatisfaction or charges of sex discrimination—voiced either by WMs who felt held back or by male Marines who thought the women to be favored—that was evident in the case of officer promotions.

The notable exception was the first sergeant and sergeant major program opened by the Marine Corps in 1955. At first only male Marines were eligible and the Director, Colonel Hamblet, fought the exclusion for three years. In a report dated 21 September 1956, after noting the defined duties of the first sergeants and sergeants major, she reasoned that all of them apply equally to men and women Marines. She continued:

Paragraph 4 g, however, denies the program to women on the basis that the "senior NCO present must have the capability of leading the unit in a combat, or other type situation.

It is felt that it is unrealistic to deny the first sergeant/sergeant major program to women on the basis that they cannot supervise a unit in the field nor lead a unit in combat. The mission of male Marines, officer and enlisted, is preparedness for combat; however, we do not refuse to commission women officers because they cannot lead combat platoons nor do we fail to promote enlisted women from private to master sergeant because they cannot serve "in the field."

Attention is invited to the fact that women Marines did attend First Sergeants School, were designated first sergeants/sergeant major, and did wear the distinctive insignia of those ranks during World War II; consequently, a precedent for the appointment of women Marines to first sergeants/sergeant major definitely exists.<sup>7</sup>

Recognizing the futility of her cause at the time, Colonel Hamblet made two practical recommenda-

tions that were in the realm of possibility. She asked that the:

... first sergeant/sergeant major program be opened to women Marines in event of national emergency when not only would the increased strength and billets in the women's program justify their selection, but undoubtedly women would, as they did during World War II, replace male first sergeants/sergeants major who were ordered to combat duty.<sup>8</sup>

and that:

... the policy be continued that women's units will have billets designated for first sergeants/sergeants major and the women assigned to these billets will hold the billet title while so serving even though they are not authorized the distinctive insignia.<sup>9</sup>

Two years later, on 20 November 1958, she personally brought her case to the Commandant, General Pate, and on the following day she submitted a report of the conversation to the chief of staff. She wrote:

The pros and cons of selecting women Marines for the permanent rank of sergeant major and first sergeant to fill sergeant major and first sergeant billets existing *within* the women's program were discussed. The Commandant and the undersigned were in accord that because of the limited number of these billets (probably 3 sergeants major and 10 first sergeants) it would not be in the best interests of the Marine Corps to select women to these ranks and restrict their assignment to the few billets in the women's program. Instead, it would appear more advantageous to have the women filling these billets have the rank, pay, title, and insignia while so assigned. It was agreed that the selection of women for these billets would rest with the Director of Women Marines.<sup>10</sup>

The brevet system discussed by the Commandant and Colonel Hamblet materialized when Marine Corps Order 1421.6, dated 3 May 1960, was published allowing for temporary appointments to first sergeant and sergeant major for women. They were not considered to be promotions as the women eligible for them had to be master gunnery sergeant in order to move into the sergeant major slot or master sergeants to become first sergeants—actually comparable pay grades.

These top-rated enlisted women held the appointment, wore the appropriate chevrons, and received full pay and the privileges of the rank as long as they were in the designated billets and reverted to their permanent rank on transfer out of the jobs. At the time, there were three sergeants major billets: the senior enlisted women at the Woman Recruit Training Battalion at Parris Island; the Women Marines Detachment at Quantico; and in the office of the Director of Women Marines. There were 10 first sergeant spots, one at



*CWO4 Ruth L. Wood, the first woman Marine to achieve that grade, has her insignia of rank pinned on by Col Clifford P. Quilici and Col Charles E. Dobson, in 1966.*

each of the existing women Marine companies which were then located at: Headquarters Marine Corps; Quantico; Norfolk; Cherry Point; Camp Lejeune; Parris Island; San Diego; Camp Pendleton; El Toro; and FMFPac, Hawaii.<sup>11</sup>

By modern standards, the policy appears restrictive, but, in fact, the brevet system was adopted to protect the women. The policies governing assignments of women at the time prohibited them from serving in these billets in male organizations. Had the appointment been permanent, the 13 women would have been limited to these billets, thereby restricting their potential utilization and at the same time, precluding others from serving as sergeants major and first sergeants.

As it turned out, for a number of years, there were so few women master gunnery sergeants that it was not until December 1964 that a woman Marine eligible for a sergeant major appointment reported to Parris Island. Sergeant Major Doris Derrick was the first WM to be authorized the chevrons, pay, and privileges inherent in the title of Sergeant Major, Woman Recruit Training Battalion.<sup>12</sup>

Women who served in the temporary positions could, upon retirement, ask for a permanent appointment to first sergeant or sergeant major as appropriate, providing they had performed satisfactorily in the rank for at least a year.

The brevet system was in effect for 12 years. Surprisingly, the suggestion that women be promoted permanently to the top enlisted ranks came from a man, the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Joseph W. Daily. In a memorandum to the Commandant dated 1 November 1971, the sergeant major stated:

It is realized that billets for Women Marine First Sergeants/Sergeants Major are few. However, I feel the Women Marines are treated unfairly, not being able to compete on the same promotion system as Male Marines. This subject was brought up as an agenda item at the SNCO Symposium. The vote was 95 percent in favor for Women Marines to be promoted to First Sergeant/Sergeant Major the same as Male Marines. It was surprising to learn the number of Male Marines who were unaware of the fact that Women Marines were not promoted the same as males in those two ranks.<sup>13</sup>

Furthermore, the Sergeant Major endorsed the idea

of women filling these positions in male units as he continued:

If Women Marines were ever promoted in First Sergeant/Sergeant Major, they could fill other billets as they are now interchangeable in many jobs with Male Marines. This would also help the Woman Marine become more professional in the First Sergeant/Sergeant Major billet.

It is strongly recommended that Women Marines be given the same opportunity as Male Marines in our promotion system and that it should commence with the Fiscal Year 1972 Board. . . .<sup>14</sup>

A debate on the issue ensued finding the Director of Women Marines, Colonel Sustad, opposed due to the short time given WMs to consider career alternatives. Directives at the time allowed male gunnery sergeants to indicate on their fitness reports their preference for promotion to either master sergeant or first sergeant—the selection having a bearing on their future assignments. Colonel Sustad recommended that action be deferred until a study could be conducted to determine whether a permanent system or the brevet system was actually best fitted for women Marines.<sup>15</sup>

In due time, the colonel was on the side of perma-

nent promotions, and her stand received timely support by way of a memorandum signed by Roger T. Kelley, Assistant Secretary of Defense, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, directing the Services to eliminate inequities. On 31 July 1972, the Commandant of the Marine Corps approved the selection of an unlimited number of women Marines as designated sergeants major and first sergeants. The new policy was implemented by the E-8/E-9 promotion board already in session, having convened on 18 July.<sup>16</sup>

Apart from the particular designations as sergeant major and first sergeant, the ninth pay grade was opened to women in the spring of 1960 when Geraldine M. Moran became the first and only WM at the time to hold the rank of master gunnery sergeant. She was promoted to that rank in April 1960 by Captain Valeria F. Hilgart, commanding officer of Woman Marine Detachment 1, El Toro.<sup>17</sup> Master Gunnery Sergeant Mary G. Vaughn, believed to be the first black woman Marine E-9, received her promotion warrant from Lieutenant General John N. McLaughlin, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, in Hawaii in April 1977.

## Marriage, Motherhood, and Dependent Husbands

*Marriage—Motherhood—Dependency Regulations—The Military Couple—Marine Wife, Civilian Husband*

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Right from the start, Colonel Towle had to field questions from newspeople insinuating that the Marine Corps was against matrimony for women Marines. Tactfully, she, and then later, her successors, Colonels Hamblet and Henderson, assured the reporters that Marines certainly were not antimarriage. The laws, Department of Defense regulations, and Marine Corps regulations of the time supported their statements: marriage was indeed acceptable; husbands and children, however, posed some problems. Generally, it can be said that from 1948 until 1964 a woman Marine could marry, and almost immediately ask for a discharge; the acquisition of natural, adopted, foster, or stepchildren under 18 years of age, in fact required discharge. Husbands were not considered dependents unless they were actually dependent upon the wife for more than 50 percent of their support.

### *Marriage*

Under the policy in effect from 1949 until the Vietnam War, enlisted WMs who married could ask for an administrative discharge based solely on marriage. Providing they had completed one year of their enlistment beyond basic training, they were discharged for the convenience of the government. Regular officers were eligible for release two years after their appointment. During the Korean War, regulations were more stringent, but were relaxed immediately after the emergency.<sup>1</sup> This liberal view toward discharges and release from contractual obligations reflected society's negative attitude toward working wives. Needless to say, it contributed to instability in the WM program.

With changing values, a manpower crisis in the 1960s, and a need to improve the attrition rate of women Marines, Colonel Barbara J. Bishop, by then the Director, led the fight to tighten the rules. Colonel Bishop reasoned that women must honor their enlistment contract. To make it easier, husbands and wives, whenever possible, would be stationed at the same or nearby bases. A joint household policy was put into effect on 14 July 1964 which stated:

A married enlisted Woman Marine may be discharged at her written request, provided she is not stationed at or sufficiently close to the duty station or residence of her hus-

band to permit the maintenance of a joint residence, and provided she meets all of the following conditions.

a. A transfer request to the same or nearby duty station or place of residence of her husband has been submitted to the Commandant of the Marine Corps and has been denied.

b. The separation of husband and wife has exceeded 18 months.

c. The enlisted woman is not serving on an extension of enlistment or reenlistment entered into subsequent to marriage.

d. The enlisted woman has completed 24 months of service subsequent to completion of a service school if the length of school was more than 24 weeks.

A married woman Marine officer does not become eligible for separation or release from active duty, simply because of her marital status, until she has completed her period of obligated service (3 years).<sup>2</sup>

In August of the following year, 1965, due to the demands of the Vietnam War, discharges based upon marriage were suspended regardless of place of residence. Then, once again, on 31 October 1966, the joint household policy was reinstated.

The desired effect of these new regulations—to lengthen the service of many WMs—was realized almost immediately. The rate of discharges for reasons of marriage was dramatically reduced from 18.6 percent in fiscal year 1964 to 6.3 percent in fiscal year 1965 and, finally, to 2.3 percent in fiscal year 1966.<sup>3</sup>

### *Motherhood*

A study group in 1948 meeting to discuss proposed regulations governing the discharge of women stated:

It is believed that pregnancy and motherhood *ipso facto* interfere with military duties. . . . Granting of maternity leave would result in having ineffectives; replacement could not be procured while the woman remained on the active list; and the mother of a small child would not be readily available for reassignment. Necessary rotation of duty assignments would require the family unit to be broken up for considerable periods of time, or at least until the husband made the necessary provisions to establish the home at the mother's new duty station. . . . It is believed that a woman who is pregnant or a mother should not be a member of the armed forces and should devote herself to the responsibilities which she had assumed, remaining with her husband and child as a family unit.<sup>4</sup>



*In 1971 a change in regulations allowed natural mothers to continue on active duty service. Capt Joan Collins, company commander, reenlists pregnant GySgt Donna Murray.*

This sort of reasoning, typical of the times, formed the basis for Marine Corps regulations on the subject until 1970. The rules were very strictly enforced, and any responsibility for children forced the separation of a woman Marine from the service.

The first step toward a more liberal view was taken in the fall of 1970 when Headquarters announced that a WM who is the stepparent of, or who has personal custody of, or adopts, a child could ask to stay on active duty. Each case had to be reviewed, taking into

consideration such factors as length of service, performance record, ages and number of children involved, and the commanding officer's evaluation of the situation. Waivers were granted if it could be determined that parenthood would not interfere with the Marine's job.<sup>5</sup>

On 12 August 1970, Colonel Jeanette I. Sustad, Director of Women Marines, startled the women attending the Women Marines Association Convention in Philadelphia by predicting the possibility of allow-

ing natural mothers to continue on active duty. It was, in fact, due to her personal efforts that many of the long-standing regulations were set aside. Times had changed, women had changed, mores had changed. It was 1970 and women no longer accepted the old order as dogma.

Colonel Sustad invested a great deal of her time locating and attempting to gain acceptance of this view at Headquarters. Colonel John L. Ostby of the Legal Division was her trusted advisor and mentor, supplying her with facts, legal interpretations, and whatever ammunition she needed to get by each stumbling block. Certain that success was within reach, Colonel Sustad kept at least one Reserve officer's separation papers in staffing—lost in the administrative maze—until the regulations were changed allowing for a more favorable disposition of her case.<sup>6</sup>

And, change did come in 1971 when a waiver policy for natural mothers was tested. Again, each case was carefully considered by Headquarters and women with good records who were able to show that they could adequately care for the child were allowed to remain on duty.<sup>7</sup> Gunnery Sergeant Frances L. Gonzales, the first WM to take advantage of the program, never missed a day of work other than annual leave and the travel time involved with her transfer at the time.<sup>8</sup> Lieutenant Colonel Carolyn Auldridge Walsh, the first officer to remain on active duty after having a child, lost little time as well. Colonel Sustad credits the positive example of these first cases with helping to calm the fears of some, but not all, of the opponents to the idea.<sup>9</sup>

Women who had been discharged from the Marine Corps for pregnancy took new hope, and some asked to be allowed to return. Major Mary Sue Stevens League, separated in March 1970 because of pregnancy, was one of these former WMs who sought to regain her commission. On 24 January 1972, she was given the commissioning oath in the Marine Corps Reserve by her husband, Lieutenant Commander William C. League, a Navy chaplain, in ceremonies at the Marine Barracks in the Naval Shipyard at Portsmouth, Virginia. She reportedly was the first woman Marine to regain her commission after becoming pregnant and being separated.<sup>10</sup>

The Department of Defense in 1975 published instructions which precluded the involuntary separation of servicewomen on the sole basis of pregnancy. Marine Corps Order 5000.12, dated 16 July 1975, specified that WMs who are pregnant may, upon request,

be discharged or retained on active duty if otherwise qualified. Women who chose to remain in the Service were cautioned that parenthood did not entitle them to special treatment or consideration in duty assignments, and commanding officers had the obligation to initiate action for discharge in cases where women failed to carry out their duties after the birth of the child.<sup>11</sup>

Pregnant WMs could wear civilian clothes when the uniform no longer looked appropriate. The seemingly unlikely prospect of a regulation maternity outfit was under study by the military services and later approved.

Under normal circumstances, and based upon the advice of a medical officer, a pregnant servicewoman was expected to lose no more than 10 weeks of duty—four before delivery and six after. If the mother wanted more time off, for reasons other than medical, she could ask for annual leave. A 1977 study showed that even with time off for maternity leave and other strictly female matters, servicewomen lost much less time than men because of their lower incidence of absence without leave, desertion, and drug- and alcohol-related problems.<sup>12</sup>

Finally, in respect to the demands of both motherhood and her job, if a Marine asked to remain on duty, but later found it impossible to do justice to her responsibilities, she could ask for an administrative discharge.

In early 1949, when the policies were being formulated that would eventually cause the discharge of all pregnant servicewomen, Rear Admiral Clifford A. Swanson, Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Department of the Navy, stood alone in an attempt to protect the careers of women in the military. Taking a somewhat radical position, one not even espoused by the leading military women of the day, he wrote:

Inasmuch as pregnancy is a normal biological phenomenon in women in the military age group it must be assumed that the possibility that women entering the regular military service become pregnant was recognized by Congress when reference (a) [Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948] was enacted. It would appear to this Bureau that the apparent purpose . . . was to afford women an opportunity to enter into and remain in the military service as a career and that the subject proposed regulation is inconsistent with this apparent purpose of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948.

In connection with the foregoing, it cannot be presumed to be the policy of the military service to regard either the institution of marriage or the raising of a family with disfavor. However, it is recognized that if such personal interests

seriously interfere with military duties, or if female military personnel desire to give up their military career voluntarily in order to raise a family . . . it would be desirable to have means available whereby such personnel can be expeditiously separated from the service. Aside from these considerations there would appear to this Bureau to be no reason for terminating the service of personnel who are pregnant but physically able to perform their duties. . . .<sup>13</sup>

Admiral Swanson made specific recommendations regarding time off, maternity leave, and discharges, and while the regulations published 27 years later are not precisely his, the philosophy is unmistakable.

#### *Dependency Regulations*

In a report to the House Armed Services Committee on 6 March 1972, Colonel Sustad wrote:

*Chaplain (LCdr) William C. League, USN, pins leaves on his wife, Maj Mary Sue League, the first woman to regain her commission after being separated for pregnancy. Joining in the ceremony are Maj Nannette I. Beavers, USMCR (second from right), and her mother, Mrs. Leola A. Beavers (far right), a World War I Marine, on 24 January 1972.*



Title 37 contains different criteria for defining dependents of men and women military members. This results in an inequality of treatment between the married military man and the married military woman. It also causes a difference in treatment between the military man married to a civilian and the military man married to a military woman.

To this simple statement of fact, she added her personal view, "The present law is clearly unfair to the military woman. In recent years this inequity has become the primary complaint among women in the Marine Corps."<sup>14</sup>

The question of dependency had long been an irritant causing ever increasing dissatisfaction to those who found themselves adversely affected by the law and policies. When women first entered military ser-

vice, the traditional American family concept was that of a unit financially supported by the male member. For many years, women accepted the inequities with only a minimal amount of grumbling; but few, if any, considered challenging the law until the era of women's rights—approximately 1970.

#### *The Military Couple*

For WMs married to servicemen the problems focused on quarters and the basic allowance for quarters (BAQ) normally provided to members of the Armed Forces with dependents. Since the Marine wife in a military family received military pay, she was not considered a dependent. It then followed that the husband was entitled only to the lower BAQ provided to members without dependents. Furthermore, if the husband was assigned to sea duty, field duty, FMF duty, or combat, where presumably adequate quarters were furnished him, even the without-dependents allowance was denied to him as it was denied to all of the bachelors. The wife was not entitled to any allowance for quarters unless she was a major or above, and unless there was no available space for her in the Bachelor Officers' Quarters (BOQ).

Put into effect, this policy financially penalized not only WMs, but their service husbands. The experience of two lieutenants stationed at Camp Lejeune in the mid-1960s is typical of the inconvenience caused many. Since there was at Camp Lejeune a BOQ for women with plenty of available space, the WM lieutenant, although married, was assigned a room. She, therefore, was not entitled to a monetary allowance. Her Marine husband, because he was married, was not required to live in the BOQ, but since his wife was a Marine, he was paid BAQ at the rate of a single man. They rented a house together and she merely ignored the assigned quarters. When the husband left for a six-month Mediterranean cruise, his entitlement to an allowance stopped and they were left with two alternatives: maintain the house anyway or put their furnishings in storage at their own expense for six months, and have the wife move into the BOQ. They kept their house.

As to public quarters for families on board a base, when they were available, only the husband was eligible, and the assignment was based upon his grade regardless of who was senior.

#### *Marine Wife — Civilian Husband*

During the legislative hearings that preceded the passage of the Women's Armed Services Integration

Act of 1948, much attention was paid to the question of military women with civilian husbands. There was, in the minds of many, a real fear of an army of indigent men—camp followers, in effect—who would take unscrupulous advantage of the largesse of the United States Government and military wives. The ensuing laws, Title 10 and 37 of the United States Code, laid down specific tests of dependency which were interpreted for 25 years to mean that a civilian husband was not the dependent of his military wife unless he was dependent upon her for more than 50 percent of his support due to total and permanent mental or physical disability. The ramifications were considerable, and especially difficult for young Marines who upon discharge enrolled in college while their Marine wives continued on active duty.

The civilian husband had no type of identification card and hence had to obtain a visitor's pass each time he came on the base, and could not, of course, go to the service club, post exchange, or commissary, or use any recreational facilities such as the swimming pool, golf course, or theater unless accompanied by his wife as her guest. Additionally, he was not entitled to medical care. The couple was not eligible for family housing, travel and transportation allowances for the husband, dislocation allowance, overseas station allowances, or a family separation allowance.<sup>15</sup>

Because of a quirk in commissary regulations which used the term "authorized agent" rather than "dependent," occasionally local authorities ruled that civilian husbands could, with a special pass, shop for groceries. Other times, under stricter interpretations, the man was given a pass that only allowed him to accompany his wife into the store and help her carry out the purchase, but not to shop on his own. Most often, the civilian husband was not allowed to enter the commissary at all. The Armed Services Exchange Regulations, on the other hand, specifically limited the use of post exchanges to dependents, thereby summarily barring all civilian husbands of servicewomen.<sup>16</sup>

Lieutenant Colonel Clowers, perhaps the only woman Marine officer of her time to be married to a civilian husband for the majority of her career, was never permitted to live on board a Marine base with her husband. In fact, although she was always permitted to draw the single quarters allowance, she lived under the constant threat of being assigned quarters in a BOQ and losing that entitlement. In 1956, the colonel was ordered to Parris Island to take command of the Woman Recruit Training Battalion and she was advised

of the commanding general's desire that all battalion commanders live on board the base. The Quartermaster General at Headquarters, however, ruled that her husband absolutely could not live with her on base except for visits of a maximum of 30 days since he was not dependent on her due to mental and physical incompetence. In the end, the dilemma was solved by cancelling Lieutenant Colonel Clower's orders to Paris Island, and sending her instead to Quantico to command the Women Officers Training Detachment.

The first major change in interpretation of the law came on 3 July 1972 when it was ruled that a husband could be considered a dependent when there is sufficient evidence to establish his dependence on his service wife for over half of his support without regard to his mental or physical capacity to support himself. Thus, a student husband, for example, if his veteran's benefits did not make up more than 50 per-

cent of his support, became eligible for an identification card and the attendant privileges.

Women Marines, as all married servicewomen, still resented the narrow interpretation of the term "dependent" since wives of servicemen were automatically granted all privileges regardless of their financial, physical, or mental status. Morale was significantly raised in the female ranks therefore, when on 14 May 1973, in the *Frontiero vs. Richardson* case, the Supreme Court ruled that servicewomen were eligible for all benefits, privileges, and rights granted servicemen under the same circumstances. Furthermore, former or retired servicewomen could file claims for retroactive payment of with-dependents quarters allowances for periods of active duty during which they were married but not receiving the increased allowances.<sup>19</sup> The single, major complaint of WMs at the time of the ruling was thus resolved.

## CHAPTER 14

# Uniforms

*The Beginnings of Change, 1950—The Mainbocher Wardrobe, 1950-1952—After Mainbocher Grooming and Personal Appearance—Utilities*

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A composite of the 1943 Marine Corps Women's Reserve uniform regulations with several changes made during World War II was published on 30 April 1945 as *Uniform Regulations, U.S. Marine Women's Reserve, 1945*.<sup>1</sup> These regulations remained in force until 1952 when newly designed uniforms were introduced. When women joined the Regular Marine Corps in November 1948, the subject of uniforms was on their minds since fashions had changed, most noticeably skirt lengths. From short knee-length styles, hems dropped to midcalf with the coming of the "New Look." Male Marines responsible for supplies and money were unshakeable. There would be no new uniforms until the wartime stocks were depleted.

Generally, women Marines, officer and enlisted, wore identically styled uniforms of the same fabric. This was not true of male Marines. Women officers wore green, detachable epaulets on the shoulder straps of summer uniforms and had additional dress uniforms. For dress, officers wore gilt and silver-colored emblems traditionally worn by Marine officers while the enlisted women wore the gilt emblems of enlisted Marines. Both wore the bronze eagle, globe, and anchor on their service uniforms. While the vertical axis of the hemisphere paralleled the crease line of the jacket collar for officers, it was worn perpendicular to the floor for enlisted women. Coats, caps, shoes, gloves, handbags, and mufflers were the same for all ranks. Enlisted women wore the same large chevrons as the men.

*Winter Service:* The winter service uniform consisted of a man-tailored jacket and straight-lined skirt made of forest green serge. A long-sleeved khaki shirt with four-in-hand necktie, green cap, brown shoes and gloves, and bronze metal buttons completed the outfit. A heavy green overcoat or khaki trenchcoat with detachable lining, and a red wool muffler were worn when needed. All women Marines were required to maintain a pair of plain black galoshes, boots, or rubbers to fit the oxfords.

*Officer Winter Dress:* Women Marines did not have a dress blue uniform until 1952. During World War II and the seven years following, officers turned the winter service uniform into a dress uniform by ex-

changing the khaki shirt for one of white and the khaki necktie for one of forest green. Enlisted women had no comparable dress outfit.

*Summer Service:* The summer service uniform was a two-piece green and white seersucker or plisse dress. It was V-necked and was fastened with green plastic buttons. The jacket came in both short and long sleeves. The traditional dress cap in matching green, with white cap cord and bronze buttons, or a garrison style cap in the same shade was worn with the summer service uniform. Shoes, oxfords or pumps, were brown. When the trenchcoat was worn, a white rayon muffler was required.

Officers' uniforms were distinguished by green shoulder boards worn over the regular epaulets and held in place by the shoulder strap button and rank insignia.

*Summer Dress:* Perhaps the favorite uniform of World War II WRs was the short-sleeved, V-necked white twill uniform worn with gilt buttons on the jacket and cap, dress emblems, and white pumps. The stiffly starched uniform never failed to evoke compliments. Enlisted women Marines were disappointed when a white uniform was not included in the new 1952 wardrobe. It was discontinued because male enlisted Marines had no equivalent uniform.

*Officer Summer Dress:* Officers had three summer dress uniforms: the one worn by the enlisted women with the green shoulder straps, summer dress "B," and summer undress "C." The latter two were made of white twill, worsted, or palm beach fabric. Both were worn with a short-sleeved white blouse, and without a necktie or shoulder strap. The "C" uniform was long-sleeved and collarless. On these two uniforms the dress uniform emblems were worn, not on the collar as usual, but on the epaulet, three-fourths of an inch from the armhole seam. The insignia of rank was then centered between the ornament and epaulet button. Lieutenant Colonel Nita Bob Warner remembered that even a lieutenant looked like a four-star general with so much metal on her shoulders.<sup>2</sup>

*Handbags, Shoes, and Hose:* There was only one handbag, a brown, rough textured leather purse with a spring closure and shoulder strap. It was always worn



*Issued uniform items and gear, cleaned, ironed, and labeled are displayed according to regulations for a "junk on the bunk" inspection in the early 1950s.*

over the left shoulder, leaving the right arm free to salute, and until 1952 the strap could be worn either over or under the epaulets of coats. A green cover and strap were added for wear with the summer service and summer dress uniforms.

Women Marines wore smooth leather oxfords or pumps in dark brown, dark russet, or cordovan color with the service uniform. The pumps, with heels between one and one-half and two and one-half inches were trimmed with a flat bow. Similar white pumps were prescribed for wear with the summer dress uniforms.

Full length, beige stockings were worn with all uniforms. Mesh and seamless hose were prohibited, and cotton hose were worn in ranks. When, during World War II and immediately after, nylon, rayon, and silk stockings were rationed, some women in the other Services used leg makeup, but the Directors of the Women Marines remained firm. Women in the Marine Corps would wear stockings, but never with more than three runs.<sup>3</sup>

*Utilities and Exercise Suits:* During World War II, WRs had covert slacks which could be worn for certain duties. The most common work uniform, however,

was the olive-drab, cotton utility uniform. The trousers were topped by a bib front and long crossed straps in back. A short-sleeved, matching shirt was worn underneath, and a long-sleeved jacket over all. Enlisted women stenciled their rank on the shirt and jacket sleeves.

The exercise suit was a light beige, seersucker, one-piece bloomer outfit covered by a front-buttoned skirt. Known as the peanut suit, because of the color and the crinkled appearance, it was issued until the late 1950s.

*Grooming, Handkerchiefs, and Unmentionables:* During this period, the regulations specified that, if worn, lipstick and nail polish would harmonize with the color of the red cap cord on the winter service cap. The same rule applied in the summer, even though the red cap cord was stored out of sight for the season. Rouge, mascara, and hair tints, if used, had to be inconspicuous. It was nearly impossible for a woman to color or bleach her hair since it had to be the color indicated on her identification card. Hair could touch, but not cover, the collar.

*The woman Marine winter service "A" uniform is modeled by "PFC" Sgt Mary Ann Kennedy, in 1952.*





*Officer summer dress "A" adorned 2dLt Marcella J. Greene in 1950. Emblems are worn on the epaulets.*

Slips and girdles were required in uniform. At the time, the regulations did not specify color or style. Handkerchiefs could be khaki when the khaki shirt was worn, otherwise, they had to be white.

*The Beginnings of Change—1950  
Formal Evening/Mess Dress Uniforms*

*Officers:* A new uniform was added in November 1950 when the famed designer, Mainbocher, designed a formal evening dress uniform for Colonel Towle. She wore it, the first time, to the Marine Corps Birthday Ball on 10 November, held at the Sail Loft of the Naval Gun Factory in Washington, D.C.

Tall and stately, Colonel Towle wore the uniform beautifully, and Major Harry D. Elms, a member of the Uniform Board at the time, remembers that Mainbocher was much taken with Colonel Towle's appearance and demeanor.<sup>4</sup> When she suggested to the couturier that the uniform fit too closely, Mainbocher told her "Just remember, Colonel, when you drink a martini, do not eat the olive."<sup>5</sup>

Patterned after the full dress uniform of the men, Colonel Towle's uniform consisted of a midnight blue mess jacket with a straight, formal skirt slightly flared at the hem, over a tailored blouse of white silk, trimmed at the waist with a scarlet silk cummerbund. The jacket, which bore an even dozen gilt buttons,

six on each side, was worn open. Its scarlet collar and the cuffs of the sleeves were adorned with gold and silver bullion embroidery in the form of oak leaves and acorns.

A broad, square-tipped tie was worn at the neck, held with a silver ring bearing the Marine Corps officer's dress ornament.

Colonel Towle's insignia of rank, the eagle, was em-

*Col Katherine A. Towle poses in the evening dress suggested for women officers. The uniform designed by Mainbocher was patterned after the evening dress uniform of the men. It was officially adopted one day prior to the Marine Corps' 175th birthday celebration.*



broidered in silver bullion on the shoulder tabs. Also in silver and gold bullion were small replicas of the Marine insignia on the collar points. The headpiece was a scarlet wool tiara, also embroidered. Colonel Towle carried a small, envelope-style handbag of her own on which she pinned her insignia of rank. A cloak was not designed so she borrowed a male officer's boat cloak for the occasion. Newspaper accounts spoke of the stunning ensemble and dazzled guests.<sup>6</sup>

The evening dress uniform was initially intended to be worn by women officers at state and diplomatic functions, but its manufacture presented some problems. The original had been made, in the manner of high fashion, expressly for Colonel Towle. There was no pattern to be adopted for general use. All the embroidery had been done by hand by an Italian woman in New York City and mass production was out of the question.<sup>7</sup>

When Colonel Hamblet became Director of Women Marines in 1953, she had a similar uniform made up by Rienzi in Philadelphia. She selected a softer, more feminine shirt with a pleated front to conceal the buttons.<sup>8</sup> She felt, however, that the new uniform fit her poorly, so Mainbocher was commissioned to make another and she subsequently gave the Rienzi uniform to Colonel Henderson, her successor. When Colonel Hamblet left for Naples in 1959, it was discovered that there was no sample woman's cloak at the Marine Corps Uniform Board, so she left her own behind. The third Director of Women Marines, Colonel Henderson, borrowed the cloak on the occasions when she wore the evening dress uniform. Between 1950 and 1964, only two evening dress uniforms for women were made: one for Colonel Towle and the other for Colonel Hamblet.<sup>9</sup>

Colonel Henderson was not completely satisfied with the tiara. To begin with, the scarlet color was not becoming to the redheaded Director. During her tenure a black tiara was made optional, a uniform modification that caused no concern since only the Director was required to have the formal dress outfit. When asked by the President of the Uniform Board for comments on the evening dress uniform, she submitted:

Tiara—It is suggested that an attempt be made to slightly redesign this tiara. As it is presently designed, the wearer has difficulty in keeping it on her head. In addition, the extreme points on the tiara makes the wearer feel as if she had wings or horns on her head—depending upon her mood.<sup>10</sup>

The tiara was not redesigned. When in 1964 evening dress uniforms finally became available to all officers, a plain unembroidered one in keeping with tradition was made for company grade officers. Field grade officers still wore the tiara decorated with gold bullion embroidery. Finally, in 1973, to the pleasure of some, and the dismay of others, it was deleted as a uniform item.

In 1964, Major Jenny Wrenn, on her own initiative, designed an evening dress uniform that resembled a long, formal, evening suit. It was much less complicated than the Mainbocher model. Master Sergeant Barbara Jean Dulinsky made the sketches which were sent to the Marine Corps Supply Depot at Philadelphia for evaluation. The Marine Corps tailors made a uniform, of Major Wrenn's design, for the Director of Women Marines, Colonel Barbara J. Bishop.<sup>11</sup>

The Wrenn uniform included a white mess dress jacket, as well as the midnight blue evening dress jacket, both trimmed with a scarlet collar. The collar of the field grade model was lightly embroidered. Rank insignia and Marine emblems were the standard detachable type rather than of embroidered gold bullion. A short skirt was added for less formal occasions and a plain black envelope style handbag was carried. Shoes were black suede or fabric.

In November of 1964, when Lyndon B. Johnson was elected President, the Presidential Inaugural Committee asked for Marine field grade officers to act as military aides during the Inaugural events. For the first time, two women were nominated, Lieutenant Colonels Wrenn and Mary E. Bane. Since neither owned the requisite evening dress uniform, the Marine Corps tailors in Philadelphia again made up the Wrenn-designed uniform. There was little time between the election and the Inauguration, so the women had to make several quick round trips to Philadelphia and at the very last moment the uniforms were delivered to them in Washington by staff car. Unfortunately, the beautifully tailored uniforms were not worn for the intended occasion as the women officers were assigned to less formal functions, a reception for the governors and a distinguished ladies reception at the National Gallery of Art to which they wore their dress blues.<sup>12</sup>

By 1966, the pattern and a kit of fabric and findings was available to women officers. Due to the small number involved no manufacturer was interested in making the uniform, so each had to find a willing tailor. It was not an easy task because the pattern and



Sergeant Major June V. Andler was the first to wear the test uniform. She introduced it at the Marine Corps League Banquet on 11 August 1972 in Anaheim, California, and at the Woman Marine Association convention a week later in Hawaii. She took it on inspection trips and modeled it for the WMs at Parris Island, El Toro, Camp Pendleton, San Diego, Hawaii, and, of course at Headquarters Marine Corps. The response was enthusiastic and the uniform was approved on 30 May 1973. Subsequently, long skirts became very stylish and acceptable at even casual affairs, a fashion change that prompted the Marine Corps to add a long skirt to the staff noncommissioned officers' evening dress uniform on 13 September 1976.

*The Mainbocher Wardrobe, 1950-1952*

The Commandant, General Clifton B. Cates, wanted SgtMaj June V. Andler, Sergeant Major of Women Marines, is photographed in 1972 wearing the staff noncommissioned officer evening dress uniform with short skirt, red cummerbund, and miniature medals.

*Col Barbara J. Bishop, the Director of Women Marines, wears the officer mess dress uniform with a short black skirt, a red cummerbund, white gloves, and white jacket trimmed with scarlet collar, in June 1964.*

specifications resembled a technical manual. The kit cost between \$70 and \$100, depending upon rank. The tailoring could run an additional \$500.

*Staff Noncommissioned Officers:* On 11 May 1972, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Cushman, approved a recommendation of the Uniform Board that an experimental staff noncommissioned officer evening/mess dress uniform be made for, and tested by the Sergeant Major of the Women Marines. It was styled after the officer uniform with a few modifications. There were no shoulder straps, nor collar or cuff ornamentation. The sleeves were finished with the traditional peaked cuffs. Since male staff noncommissioned officers had no corresponding formal uniform, it was decided to forego the long skirt. The dress insignia of grade, gold on scarlet, was sewn on the sleeves. Gilt Marine Corps emblems were worn.



ed dress blue uniforms for the women Marines. In the fall of 1950 well-known American designers were contacted, and First Lieutenant Ben Alice Day (later Munn), a World War II supply officer, and Captain Harry Elms of the Uniform Board personally interviewed couturiers including Hattie Carnegie and Mainbocher.<sup>13</sup> Mainbocher was the unanimous choice of the Uniform Board, Quartermaster General of the Marine Corps, and the Director of Women Marines. The Chicago-born designer, most expensive of the world's dressmakers, was not very interested, but his enormous respect for Colonel Towle prevailed and he accepted. Lieutenant Colonel Munn believes his lack of enthusiasm stemmed from the fact that when he designed the World War II WAVE uniform he was not paid the one dollar stipulated in the contract and would have liked it as a remembrance. When the new WM uniforms were finished, Lieutenant Day and Captain Elms made a point of presenting him a framed dollar bill, the price agreed upon.

Mainbocher, once involved, asked to do an entire new wardrobe, redesigning the current uniforms to be more feminine and more becoming. Further, he wanted to work with the accessories, to include chevrons and service stripes, which he found too large and out of proportion for women. One item he did not change was the cap which Mainbocher said was the most attractive hat worn by women of any service.

He not only designed the uniform but coordinated manufacturing and fabric selection. He personally supervised every run at the manufacturers, since at the time quality control was not yet a standard business practice.

Lieutenant Day and Captain Elms visited his elegant salon in New York bringing with them photographs of the male Marines' complete wardrobe as well as historical prints of old Marine Corps uniforms. Working with these and aware of Marine Corps traditions and standards of appearance, he produced a blue uniform, winter and summer service uniform, raincoat and overcoat for all WMs along with new chevrons for the enlisted women and a white uniform for the officers.

When interviewed by the press, Mainbocher expressed his theories on feminine uniforms thus:

Whether a woman is wearing a custom designed suit or a uniform, she should look feminine. That was the thought I kept in mind while working on the Marine uniforms, and it was quite a job, considering all the traditions that had to be incorporated in the design.<sup>14</sup>

The final designs, approved on 27 December 1951, went into production, with the exception of the officer's white uniform. Mainbocher supervised all fittings and was a meticulous taskmaster not only of his tailors, but of the women Marine models. With a glance, by the drape of the uniform, he could tell whether or not a model was wearing a girdle and slip. He never allowed his fashions to be worn without either item no matter how thin and svelte the wearer. When all was ready, a formal presentation was held on 28 August 1952 in the auditorium of the Marine Barracks, 8th & I Streets, Washington, D.C. The Commandant sent invitations to a selected guest list including all the Marine Corps general officers in the area. At the showing, each model was escorted by a male Marine in comparable uniform. Colonel Towle modeled her formal evening dress ensemble.

Sergeant Mary Ann Kennedy modeled the summer uniform, a one-piece shirtwaist dress of green and white striped nylon-dacron, with a matching long-sleeved jacket. The jacket worn over the short sleeved dress had a nipped-in waist and its collar, epaulets, and cuffs were outlined in green piping. The accompanying overseas cap was of the same fabric. Washing ease and wrinkle resistance were the chief features of the new summer fabric.

Sergeant Lois King modeled the forest green serge winter uniform. The fitted jacket featured sleeves finished with the traditional peaked cuff. A six-gore skirt, an entirely new pale green cotton broadcloth skirtwaist, and an ascot-shaped forest green necktie completed the outfit.

Technical Sergeant Margaret Babcock introduced the new dress blue uniform of a design similar to the green serge. Inspiration for the trim was provided by a print of an 1859 Marine officer's overcoat. Scarlet piping emphasized the collar and shoulder detail of the blue jacket, traditional Marine bracket-shaped cuffs had three gold buttons. Chevrons for the enlisted women were gold on scarlet. A short-sleeved, action-backed dacron shirtwaist was worn with a blue, ascot-shaped tie.

Sergeant Patricia Norman modeled the lightweight, green raincoat of nylon and rayon. It featured a squared-off collar rather than points, bone buttons, and a full belt.

Sergeant Jo Anne Monette wore the forest green double breasted overcoat of kersey. Of a modified princess design, a box pleat held in by a belt gave fullness in the back.



*Designed by Mainbocher in 1952, new uniforms are modeled on the lawn of the National Capitol by PFC Margaret Keefe and Sgts Margaret Dill and Jo Anne Monette.*

The fashion show over, the guests attended a sunset parade followed by a reception at Quarters 1 hosted by the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Lieutenant General Gerald C. Thomas and Mrs. Thomas.<sup>15</sup> This was the same General Thomas who, as the Director, Plans and Policy Division in 1946, opposed so steadfastly the integration of women into the Regular Marine Corps.

The new uniforms were well received and a model in dress blues was featured on the cover of *Parade*, the Sunday picture magazine, on 31 August 1952.

Mainbocher was willing to design a utility uniform but since there were plans for a standardized utility uniform among the services, his offer was declined. Rather, Headquarters Marine Corps had the bib overalls redesigned. The bib was removed and the olive green slacks were made of the male Marines' utility fabric. The aim was to keep it simple. The overseas cap was redesigned slightly to follow the new dacron one which fit the women better. To get a manufacturer to accept such a small order, it was appended to a much more lucrative order for men's uniforms, a ploy often used in procuring WM uniform items.

Male Marines at Headquarters became uncommonly interested in the new uniforms, not because of style but due to the new fabrics. Dupont Corporation sent a team of scientists to demonstrate the properties of dacron, a new material at the time. It was a pure, fire-proof fabric and the men were greatly impressed. They could picture its usefulness for men's uniforms to save laundry expense and for combat purposes. When first introduced this particular dacron was used to make firehoses.

Eventually the World War II uniforms were declared obsolete; old summer uniforms could not be worn after December 1956, winter uniforms after June 1957.

*Officers' Dress White Uniform:* Mainbocher designed a white uniform at the time he did the new wardrobe in 1952. Distribution was delayed until 1958 due to difficulty in obtaining a suitable wash-and-wear fabric that would remain white. The uniform was styled after the winter service uniform, and worn with the same white short-sleeved dacron shirt prescribed for the dress blues. A bright blue-green cap, ascot shaped tie, and white pumps completed the outfit. At first, a green cover was worn over the brown handbag, just as was done in World War II. When the brown handbag was later replaced by a new style, a small envelope-styled purse was adopted for certain

dress uniforms. When carried with the whites, it was, of course, slipped into a blue-green cover.

The white uniform is worn only by officers, in keeping with Marine Corps tradition. During World War II, enlisted WRs had a dress white uniform while the men did not. Conversely, the men had a dress blue uniform while the women did not.

#### *After Mainbocher*

The Mainbocher wardrobe was the only large-scale uniform change for women Marines. His theories on dressing military women have proved sound since at least two of his designs, the dress blue and winter service uniforms, have remained virtually unchanged for the 25 years from 1952 until this writing. Ensuing changes came piecemeal and usually were directed by economy rather than style.

The Department of Defense plan to standardize certain items and fabrics made their impact on WM uniforms in the early 1960s.

*Summer Uniforms 1961-1977:* There was no middle ground for the acceptance of the one-piece dress. Either a woman liked it or did not. For those who were long- or short-waisted, the summer uniform with its band at the waist was nearly impossible to alter properly. But the fabric was all it was touted to be. After wearing and caring for the easily wrinkled seersucker uniform which by custom was starched so that a skirt could stand at attention, unsupported on the laundry room floor, the women Marines found the dacron dress to be truly carefree. One could wear it all day, get caught in the rain, and still look fresh. Unfortunately, the fabric became scarce and expensive and the Marine Corps had no choice but to consider a material shared by the other services since the increased quantity ordered reduced the price. Colonel Margaret M. Henderson remembers that one of her most disappointing days as Director of Women Marines was one when she had to acquiesce on the fabric for the summer uniforms.<sup>16</sup>

In 1962, a dacron-cotton cloth used by the Women's Army Corps was approved for use by women Marines. Logistically, it became very complicated since uniforms of mixed fabric could not be worn. The dress, jacket, and cap had to match, and supplies available for each issue to recruits varied from one item to another and from one size to another. When the fabric was again changed to polyester-cotton, more confusion resulted.

In 1966, an entirely new two-piece dress made of the same polyester-cotton, corded, green-and-white



*A green dacron raincoat worn with the winter red wool scarf is modeled by Cpl Carla J. Sacco in 1959.*

striped material was approved. Recruits began to receive it in July 1967. The old-style uniform became obsolete and could no longer be worn after 1 July 1972. Women officers did not wear rank insignia on their new summer caps. Because male Marines continued to wear rank ornaments on their garrison caps, this difference for the women caused a certain amount of confusion. Marines who failed to salute were justified in their claim that it was difficult to recognize women officers. On 20 October 1971, the rank insignia officially was reinstated on the women officers' caps.

Another change involving summer uniforms was seen in 1966 when women officers were authorized to wear the summer dress cap, a bright green version of the winter service and dress blue cap, as an optional item when on leave or liberty. When worn with summer uniform, bronze buttons and insignia were worn rather than gilt buttons and dress insignia. Field grade officers, if they elected to wear the dress cap with the service uniform, were required to wear one with a plain

visor, without gold embroidery. In 1969, the regulations were broadened and officers could wear the dress cap on an everyday basis except when in formation. This privilege was extended to staff noncommissioned officers in 1971.

*Coats:* In time the nipped-in waist and full-pleated back of the Mainbocher coat went out of style. Furthermore, the complicated styling, and excess fabric made it expensive to manufacture. It clearly did not flatter short, stocky figures. In 1966 Mario Mariani, the Marine Corps' designer, introduced a straight-lined, serge overcoat styled after the civilian coats in vogue at the time.<sup>17</sup> By the winter of 1967, as old stocks were depleted the new overcoat was issued to recruits.

*Shoes:* In 1954 the bows on the brown dress shoes became optional except that they could not be removed from the issue pumps. By 1962, long after they became socially acceptable, women Marines were allowed to wear seamless hose as an optional item, but

*The green utility uniform with rank stenciled on the sleeves is worn by Sgt Mary A. Kennedy in 1952.*



never in formation. The regulation was reversed in 1965 when hose with seams became optional and could not be worn in formation. Finally in 1966, snag-proof, run-resistant stockings of inconspicuous mesh were authorized. In January 1971, the color of hose to be worn with dress blues changed from everyday beige to a gray, smoke shade.

The cotton hose worn by WRs in World War II and for years by WM recruits and officer candidates were universally unpopular. Because of the extreme heat and strenuous schedule followed at both training commands, the absorbent property of cotton stockings was long considered to be a health and comfort feature. Civilian women, upon arriving at Parris Island or Quantico and seeing staff members wearing the unbecoming lisle hose were disbelieving that anyone

*The woman officer white dress "A" uniform with a green tie, purse, and field grade gold embroidered hat, is modeled by Maj Adele Graham in 1971.*



younger than a grandmother would allow themselves to be seen in public in such an item. It was not an unwelcome announcement that Colonel Bishop made in the *Woman Marine Newsletter*, Winter 1968, when she wrote:

A traditional article of clothing—not altogether appreciated by the recruits wearing them—will be obsolete when the current stock of cotton hose is exhausted. The old lisle or cotton hose were a necessity for WRs when nylons “went to war”. . . Discarded years before by other women’s services, the Marine Corps—always long on tradition—became the “sole user” of cotton hose. At some future date this year, Women Marine recruits may have “lighter” pocketbooks and tender feet, but higher morale and trimmer limbs.<sup>18</sup>

*Umbrellas:* All Marines know that umbrellas are not a military item. There is a theory that several armies of old who carried umbrellas went down in defeat because they were more concerned with keeping dry than winning the battle. Women Marines had a plastic cover called a havelock that fit over their cap and a hood that matched their raincoat, but there was always some question about wearing them without the outer coat. The havelocks were difficult to procure and tore easily; the rainhoods were not authorized with the overcoat. Clearly, many WMs wanted an umbrella. In 1972, the Commandant authorized WMs to carry an all-black, plain, standard or folding umbrella as an optional item. The announcement included the caution to carry the umbrella in the left hand so that salutes could be properly rendered. They were not permitted in formation. A story circulated that Colonel Sustad, Director of Women Marines, in her effort to have the umbrella adopted as a uniform item, slipped the proposal through the Commandant by asking him to approve a red umbrella to harmonize with the red cord. He was said to have replied, “Absolutely not! They’ll carry a black umbrella,” thereby sanctioning its use. When asked about the story, Colonel Sustad disclaimed it saying, “I would never have been so fresh with the Commandant.”<sup>19</sup>

*Handbags:* When black accessories became mandatory, and women of all services adopted a single handbag, WMs lost the rough-textured leather bag for a black vinyl model. In 1970 regulations changed to permit the individual option to carrying the handbag over the left shoulder as usual or with a shortened strap, over the arm. A woman sergeant major asked, “How can you stand at attention for morning colors with a handbag over your arm?” The question remains unanswered.

### *Grooming and Personal Appearance*

The grooming and personal appearance of women Marines changed slowly. World War II regulations prevailed for nearly 30 years. Bright red lipstick, "Montezuma Red," created by Elizabeth Arden for the WRs, and later Revlon's "Certainly Red" were the only shades sold at post exchanges that catered to WMs. The policy was clear: lipstick had to harmonize with the red cap cord of the blue and green caps and the scarlet trim on the formal evening dress uniform, even when the wearer was in the green and white summer uniform or dress whites. In 1971, the regulations were relaxed to allow others shades of lipstick in the summer. Extremes of lavender, purple, white, or flesh color remained prohibited. Nail polish, if worn, had to harmonize with the lipstick or be colorless.

*Hairstyles and Wigs:* The first major change to hair styles and color regulations came in 1970 when specific hairstyles were not prohibited as long as they were feminine and allowed for the proper wearing of the cap. One reason for the change was the popularity of the Afro hairdo worn by young black women. It also accommodated chignons and twists. Hair tints and bleaches were no longer taboo but were required to harmonize with the person's complexion and color tone. Natural looking wigs were permitted as long as they conformed to regulations.

*Lingerie:* Girdles and light-colored, full-length slips were the modest underpinning of WMs for 30 years. Paula W. Sentipal remembers that when she reported to boot camp in 1950 she was so thin that with a girdle on her uniform could not be taken in enough to fit her, so she was ordered to buy a larger girdle that would not hold her in.<sup>20</sup> Bras were one unmentionable that did not have to be mentioned. Until the women's liberation movement made going braless fashionable in the 1970s, it was never an issue. The uniform regulations of 1976, in the spirit of the times, stated:

Adequate undergarments to include support garments shall be worn to ensure the proper fit, appearance, and opaqueness of the uniform. The conservative appearance of the uniform shall be maintained and undergarments shall not be conspicuously visible.<sup>21</sup>

*Hem lengths:* The style of the uniform was able to withstand fashion changes from 1952 to 1977, but hem lengths were as controversial for servicewomen as civilians. When the Mainbocher wardrobe was issued, the regulations specified that skirts would be of a conventional sweep and length, approximately mid-calf.



*The green and white striped two-piece summer service dacron uniform with black handbag and pumps was worn by officers and enlisted women in the 1970s.*

By the early 1960s, fashion dictated shorter skirts, but regulations persisted. At one point, Lieutenant Colonel Elsie E. Hill, Commanding Officer, Woman Recruit Training Battalion, wrote to the Director of Woman Marines, Colonel Henderson, and asked for guidelines since she agreed with the women that "... we look like a bunch of hicks from the sticks."<sup>22</sup> Women's fashions being fickle, Headquarters did not want to give specific rules that would necessitate printed changes as skirts went up and down, so in 1963, following the phrase "midcalf" a parenthetical guideline was added that read, "(adjusted to current styles but not extreme)."<sup>23</sup> At the same time, the Director's

office passed the word informally that two inches below the knee was officially considered acceptable. In more than one women Marine company, skirt shortening parties were held under the watchful eyes of staff noncommissioned officers and officers, who, on their knees and using the width of two fingers as a measuring device, passed judgement on the length of uniform skirts, dresses, and coats.

Skirts continued to rise to the mini-length, and all services except the Marine Corps relented. In a *Woman Marine Newsletter* of 1970, Colonel Bishop wrote:

... conventional sweep and length is currently interpreted as mid-knee, i.e., between the top of the knee and the bottom of the knee. Since the skirt can be worn anywhere between the top of the knee and the bottom of the knee, this allows for some flexibility so that the individual can wear her skirt the length that is most becoming to her.

No doubt the young WMs hoped for more flexibility since civilian skirts were being worn 4 to 6 inches above the knee, but the message from the top woman Marine clearly marked the limits.

The 1976 regulations called for knee-length skirts, not more than one inch above the top of the knee cap nor one inch below the bottom of the knee cap. Alas, as the order was being printed, civilian skirts were back down to mid-calf, completing the full cycle.

#### *Utilities*

The hastily designed green utilities available in the early 1950s were not beautiful, but they served their intended purpose as a work uniform. Unfortunately, they were part of the woman Marine wardrobe when most WMs were working in offices. Wearing utilities was vigorously discouraged except when considered absolutely essential because the effect was too masculine. Great pains were taken to keep them out of view and it was an unwritten law that photographs of WMs in utilities were not to be published. The standardization of uniforms by the four services resulted in a com-

mon blue utility outfit, dark blue slacks, cap, and sweater, and a light blue shirt. Recruits received the new blue utilities in July 1967 and the green ones were not permitted after July 1971. The new uniform, while more feminine in appearance, was never truly accepted by WMs because it made them look like WAVES and was not durable. Even male Marines who were chauvinistic about keeping the Marine Corps for men found the blue uniform offensive and decided that they preferred their women Marines to look like Marines. At first, the black insignia of service was worn on the blue cap but the dark color lacked contrast and the gold emblem was adopted on the utility cap in 1970.

The blue utilities were threadbare by the time a woman graduated from boot camp and commanders made their dissatisfaction known to Headquarters. With women Marines subject to assignment as heavy equipment operators, welders, and to similar occupations, a more functional work uniform was needed. On 22 September 1975 the Commandant authorized as an interim measure, a supplementary allowance of male utilities to women to be worn under restricted conditions depending upon their job.<sup>24</sup> Wear-testing of several styles began in an effort to find a suitable uniform to replace the blue, which by 1975 had been abandoned by all the other services. In June 1977, General Wilson approved the wearing by women of the male camouflaged field uniform. Combat boots replaced the black oxfords and cushion-sole socks took the place of anklets for WMs at work in certain jobs and in training.<sup>25</sup>

Consistent with an age when male/female roles were less clearly defined, there appeared to be less urgency to prove that service women were feminine. Photographs of the jet mechanics, welders, and officer candidates wearing utilities were taken and published and only the older officers and staff noncommissioned officers were scandalized.

## CHAPTER 15

# Laurels and Traditions

*Legion of Merit—Navy and Marine Corps Medal—Bronze Star Medal—Joint Service Commendation Medal  
Dominican Republic—WM Anniversary—Women Marines and Mess Night  
Molly Marine—Women Marines Association*

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Women Marines recognized for meritorious performance and bravery have been awarded many of the same medals, ribbons, and letters of appreciation and commendation presented to male Marines under similar circumstances. The highest decoration, at this writing, worn by women in the Corps is the Legion of Merit. A few are privileged to wear the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, Bronze Star, and the Navy Commendation Medal, and a number have been awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal and the Navy Achievement Medal.

### *Legion of Merit*

Following a tradition set in World War II, the Legion of Merit, the Navy's fifth ranking decoration, falling immediately below the Silver Star and conferred on individuals ". . . who have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services. . . ." has been awarded to all Directors of Women Marines. Their citations underscore the particular challenges faced by each one, and read consecutively, they trace the history of women in the Marine Corps through the stages of organization, expansion, and total integration.<sup>1</sup>

Only one woman Marine, other than the Directors, was the recipient of the Legion of Merit. Upon retirement in May 1975, Colonel Hazel E. Benn, Head, Educational Services Branch, was cited for her work in formulating educational programs for both officers and enlisted Marines.<sup>2</sup>

Colonel Benn's career was unique in that as a Reserve officer on active duty, she worked for 24 years at the same job. She was the Marine Corps' expert on education and as new programs developed, her responsibilities increased. A member of the second officer candidate class at Mount Holyoke College in 1943, she served as a personnel/administrative officer in World War II. Following the war, after receiving a graduate degree in education, she worked for the Navy as an education specialist, and in 1951, was asked to return to the Marine Corps. A principal architect of the Serviceman's Opportunity College, she helped to develop the concept that removed the traditional academic bar-

rier in the areas of residency, transfer of credit by examination, and acceptance of service schools and service experience for academic credit, thereby easing the road to college degrees for countless Marines.<sup>3</sup> Colonel Benn was among the first women Marines to be promoted to colonel in 1968, only months after that rank was opened to women.

### *Navy and Marine Corps Medal*

The Navy and Marine Corps Medal, ranking eighth in precedence—between the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Bronze Star—and the Naval Service's highest recognition for heroism not involving combat has been awarded to four women Marines. Staff Sergeant Barbara O. Barnwell, first woman ever to win the medal, was decorated on 7 August 1953 by General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, for saving a Marine's life in the Atlantic Ocean off Camp Lejeune. A Marine since May 1949, she was attached to the staff of the Inspector-Instructor, 1st Air and Naval Gunfire Liaison Company at Fort Schuyler, New York, at the time of the incident.<sup>4</sup> Her citation reads:

Hearing a cry for help from a man struggling in the heavy surf some 50 feet outward from her position while she was swimming in deep water approximately 120 yards from the shore, Sergeant Barnwell immediately swam to the rescue and, although severely scratched on the arm and repeatedly dragged beneath the surface by the drowning Marine, secured a hold on him and commenced to swim to the beach. Despite the treacherous undertow which constantly carried her outward from the shore, she bravely maintained her hold until she had reached shallow water and, assisted by a lifeguard, succeeded in bringing the unconscious man to the safety of the beach. By her exceptional courage, daring initiative and selfless efforts on behalf of another in face of grave peril, Sergeant Barnwell was directly instrumental in saving the Marine's life and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.<sup>5</sup>

Staff Sergeant Barnwell struggled for 20 exhausting minutes to rescue Private First Class Frederick Hernandez Roman. Once she saw that artificial respiration was successful and that the man was going to live, she walked away without even giving her name. Roman's was, after all, the third life she had saved. When she



*In 1955, Maj Hazel E. Benn, USMCR, was head of Education and Information Section, Special Services, Personnel Department, HQMC. She received the Legion of Merit upon retirement in 1975 for formulating innovative educational programs for Marines.*

herself was only a child of 11 she saved a seven-year-old from drowning. Later, at 16 she brought a young woman safely to shore.

In addition to the medal presentation in the Commandant's office, Staff Sergeant Barnwell was honored, along with six male officers, at a retreat ceremony at the Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. It was the first time that a woman was so honored.<sup>6</sup>

Gunnery Sergeant Dorothy L. Kearns became the second woman Marine in history to receive the Navy and Marine Corps Medal when it was presented to her by Colonel Margaret M. Henderson, Director of Women Marines, on 25 June 1963 at a parade at the Iwo Jima Memorial in Arlington.<sup>7</sup> The award read:

For heroic conduct on the morning of 5 February 1961 while serving with the United States Marine Corps Recruiting Station, San Francisco, California. Hearing cries from help emanating from an upstairs apartment in the same building in which she resided, Gunnery Sergeant Kearns immediately rushed to the assistance of a woman who was being attacked with a knife by a mentally deranged man. After

*SSgt Barbara O. Barnwell (third from left) was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal on 7 August 1953 by Gen Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., for saving a Marine's life in the Atlantic Ocean off Camp Lejeune. Director Col Julia E. Hamblet (right) attended.*



pulling the assailant from the victim, disarming him, and forcing him away, she rendered first aid to the victim and attempted to calm the attacker. She then telephoned the hospital which, in turn, notified the police. While Gunnery Sergeant Kearns was admitting the police at the apartment building entrance, the deranged man again armed himself and succeeded in inflicting fatal wounds upon the victim as the police were entering the room. By her courageous and selfless efforts in the face of grave personal risk, Gunnery Sergeant Kearns upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.<sup>8</sup>

A World War II Marine, Gunnery Sergeant Kearns had been one of the women retained at Headquarters Marine Corps after the war, serving continuously until her retirement in May 1966.

First Lieutenant Vanda K. Brame (later Bresnan), serving at the Marine Corps Officer Selection Office in Des Moines, Iowa, was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for thwarting the holdup of a blind man's shop on 10 April 1970. Having lunch in the Federal Building Lunch Shop, the petite lieutenant saw a man taking money from an unattended cash draw-

*GySgt Dorothy L. Kearns is presented the Navy and Marine Corps Medal by Col Margaret M. Henderson, Director of Women Marines, in 25 June 1963 ceremonies, for rushing to the assistance of a woman being attacked with a knife by a mentally deranged man.*



*1stLt Vanda K. Brame was presented the Navy and Marine Corps Medal by BGen Harry C. Olson, Commanding General, Marine Corps Supply Center, Barstow, California, on 24 November 1970, for heroism in thwarting the holdup of a blind man's shop in Iowa.*

er while an accomplice stood guard. The citation describing her heroic reaction read:

Immediately realizing that the owner was unaware of the attempted robbery and helpless to defend his property, First Lieutenant Brame unhesitatingly, and without regard for her own safety, pursued, seized, and threw the thief to the floor. The accomplice became unnerved by her aggressive action and fled. The thief succeeded in breaking away, but he dropped the stolen money as he attempted to escape on foot. She continued to pursue him and attracted the attention of several onlookers who joined the chase and apprehended the man after he had run several blocks. It was through her courageous and heroic determination in the face of danger that the handicapped owner was saved from bodily harm and personal loss, and the thief was captured, placed in the hands of the police, and finally identified as a potentially dangerous user of narcotics. First Lieutenant Brame's heroic action reflected great credit upon herself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.<sup>9</sup>

Brigadier General Harry C. Olson, Commanding General, Marine Corps Supply Center, Barstow, presented the medal to Lieutenant Brame, then commanding officer of the Woman Marine Company there, at an awards and retirement parade on 25 November 1970.<sup>10</sup>

Lance Corporal Sheryl L. Young received the highest noncombat decoration for heroism in June 1977 for her part in freeing a mother and two small children from a wrecked car moments before it exploded. On 15 October 1976, while students at the Legal Services



*LCpl Sheryl L. Young was presented the Navy and Marine Corps Medal by BGen Robert J. Chadwick, Director, Judge Advocate Division, in June 1977, for her part in freeing a mother and two small children from a wrecked car moments before it exploded.*

School at Camp Pendleton, then Private Young and a companion, Private First Class Thomas J. Maue, were walking in town when they heard a crash. Running to the intersection, they heard cries from an auto engulfed in flames. Private First Class Maue removed the occupants one by one, handed them to Private Young, and both Marines administered first aid and comforted the victims until the police and fire departments arrived.<sup>11</sup>

Brigadier General Robert J. Chadwick, Director of the Judge Advocate Division, presented the Navy and Marine Corps Medal to Lance Corporal Young on behalf of the President of the United States for the daring rescue. Her citation read:

Upon arriving at the scene of a traffic accident in Ocean-side, which left three victims pinned in a burning automobile, Lance Corporal Young, with complete disregard for her own safety and fully aware of the personal dangers involved, unhesitatingly assisted her Marine companion in removing the victims from the vehicle before the gas tank exploded. Her courageous and prompt actions in the face of great personal risk undoubtedly saved three lives; thereby reflecting great credit upon herself and upholding the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.<sup>12</sup>

#### *Bronze Star Medal*

The Bronze Star, with combat "V," awarded to persons who have distinguished themselves by heroic or meritorious achievement or service in connection with military operations against an armed enemy, has been awarded to three women Marine officers, all of whom served in Vietnam. The first recipient, Captain Shirley E. Leaverton, served as the Marine Corps Officer in Charge, Marine Corps Personnel Section, on the staff of the Commander, Naval Forces, Vietnam, from April 1970 until 1971. Serving as Historians, Military History Branch, Secretary, Joint Staff, United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, Lieutenant Colonel Ruth J. O'Holleran and later Lieutenant Colonel Ruth F. Reinholz were also awarded the Bronze Star Medal.<sup>13</sup>

#### *Joint Service Commendation Medal*

Women Marines recognized for superior performance on joint staffs, especially for duty in Europe and in Vietnam, have often been awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal. The first recipient, Captain Elaine I. Primeau, who was fatally injured in an automobile accident while on duty on the staff of

the Commander in Chief, U. S. Forces, Europe, was decorated posthumously in the spring of 1964.<sup>14</sup>

### *Dominican Republic*

The first woman Marine to be assigned attache duty coincidentally became the first to serve under hostile fire. Staff Sergeant Josephine S. Gebers (later Davis), intelligence specialist and administrative assistant to the Air Force attache, reported to Santo Domingo in July 1963. During the turmoil that followed the overthrow of the government in April 1965, Staff Sergeant Gebers was offered the opportunity to leave with the American women and children but chose to remain at her post. She assisted in the evacuation and then, in addition to her duties, took charge of the commissary to ensure equitable distribution of available supplies; prepared food armed with only an electric fry pan, a toaster, and a hot plate; brought meals to the ambassador twice daily; and took turns at the embassy switchboard.<sup>15</sup>

At the outbreak of the revolt, rebels surrounded the embassy complex and the staff was confined for nearly 10 days until the 6th Marine Expeditionary Unit landed. In a letter to Staff Sergeant Joan S. Ambrose, dated 7 May 1965, Staff Sergeant Gebers wrote:

I have been living in the Attache office, sleeping on the floor, chair or anything I can grab, fixing chow for the attaches and male clerks etc., running across the street with messages as the telephones were out under gunfire, wandering around in the dark . . . no electricity or water, everything was out. Almost all the Americans here have invested in freezers and we all lost hundreds of dollars of frozen foods. I managed to get back to my apartment in time to give all my frozen food to my Dominican neighbors, so I don't feel it was a total loss. My apartment is located in a neutral zone and has not been the center of activity. My landlord and neighbors are watching my apartment so no one can loot it.

Joannie, I still can't believe all that has happened. The first day, the Marines landed of course, was quite a thrill and all so exciting. They drove in in trucks, jeeps, tanks, LVTs, etc. and scattered into their positions all around the embassy. Of course that night and for a few days following,

*SSgt Josephine S. Gebers, who later was authorized to wear the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and Combat Action Ribbon as a result of hostile action in the overthrow of the Dominican Republic government in April 1965, reads the Commandant's Marine Corps birthday message on 10 November 1965, at the U.S. Embassy, Santo Domingo.*





*Capt Elaine T. Carville, company commander, serves cake to TSgt Mary Quinn on the 8th anniversary of the Women Marines, 13 February 1951, at Marine Corps Schools.*

it wasn't so thrilling as we were being fired on by nearby snipers.<sup>16</sup>

On 1 September 1966, in a ceremony in his office, General Wallace M. Greene, Jr., presented the Joint Service Commendation Medal to Gunnery Sergeant Gebers, then administrative chief to the Commandant. Additionally, she was authorized to wear the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and later, the Combat Action Ribbon—reportedly the first WM to do so. First Sergeant Josephine Gebers Davis remained on active duty until August 1971.<sup>17</sup>

#### *WM Anniversary*

The tradition began on 13 February 1944 when much was made of the first anniversary of the entry of women into the Marine Corps. Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, wife of the President; Acting Secretary of the Navy Ralph A. Baird; the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Vandegrift; and Colonel Streeter headed the list of dignitaries at a ceremony conducted at Fort Myer, Virginia.<sup>18</sup> Since then, the anniversary of the women Marines has been the subject of

some controversy—at times celebrated with much encouragement and at other times purposely neglected by the upper levels at Headquarters in an effort to encourage all Marines to acknowledge one birthday, the 10th of November. To further complicate the issue, the women who served in World War I questioned the use of 1943 as a point of reference. Colonel Towle wrote a memorandum on the subject in 1951 stating:

The formation of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve of World War II was officially announced by the CMC, General Thomas Holcomb, on 13 February 1943, under the provisions of the Naval Reserve Act of 1938, as amended. It is that anniversary which is recognized each year by women who served in World War II; hence the Eighth Anniversary, 13 February 1951.<sup>19</sup>

During World War II and immediately after, the celebration of the occasion was an effective way to raise morale, keep up the interest of former WMs, and in general to enhance the prestige of women in the service. Celebrations have varied according to local customs, but normally included a cake-cutting ceremony attended by the commanding general, the battalion commander, and all WMs, officers and enlisted, at the

noon meal at the mess hall; formal messages from the Commandant and the Director of Women Marines; a women Marine color guard to raise the flag; and an evening party, often a formal dance. A sizable number of male Marines took up the habit of joining the women in celebrating the anniversary. Long after he retired, former Commandant General Greene continued to call the Director of Women Marines on 13 February to wish her a "Happy Anniversary."<sup>20</sup>

Mrs. John B. Cook, wife of Brigadier General Cook, said that she never can forget the date of the WM anniversary since it coincides with her wedding anniversary. Twice the battalion commander of women Marines, the general made it a point to celebrate their mutual anniversaries together. Mrs. Cook remembers that one 13 February in Philadelphia, when he was not commanding women Marines, the general took her to a restaurant for dinner, but as soon as the meal was finished, he said, "Well, let's go the club and have a drink with the WMs."<sup>21</sup>

Colonel Randolph McC. Pate, Director of Division of Reserve during the post-World War II period, inaugurated the tradition of giving red roses to the Director of Women Marines on 13 February—one for each year being commemorated. Major Hamblet, as

*Woman Marine anniversary cake prepared by the Mess Hall, Camp Pendleton, California, in February 1966.*



Director of the Women's Reserve, received the first bouquet. Later, when the Director became a member of the Commandant's staff, each succeeding Commandant continued the custom.<sup>22</sup> Sometime in the 1970s, as emphasis on a separate anniversary for women waned, Colonel Sustad received the last bouquet of red roses from General Cushman.

In addition to the roses, for many years, the Commandant sent a formal message to all women Marines to mark the special day. On the occasion of the eighth anniversary of the founding of the Women's Reserve, General Cates, then Commandant, wrote gallantly to Colonel Towle:

It was a proud day in the annals of the Corps when the women joined us in 1943. Your record of achievement since then well merited the permanent recognition of Women Marines. The filling of your ranks by Regulars and Reserves since the outbreak in Korea has greatly aided our Corps to attain new glories. All ranks in the Corps join me today in a fond salute to our "lady Marines."<sup>23</sup>

In 1953, Headquarters encouraged all commands to promote, celebrate, and publicize the observance, but in 1954, the Chief of Staff directed that nothing should "... emanate from this Headquarters in connection with the 11th anniversary of the women Marines, 13 February 1954."<sup>24</sup> Two years later, the Commandant, General Pate sent a similar message to the Director which stated:

I have directed no specific Marine Corps-wide observance of the 13th Anniversary of the service of women in our Corps. This was for the sound and satisfying reason that Women Marines are now a completely integrated part of our Corps. I felt certain that as a permanent and integral part of our Corps and sharing alike in all our traditions, our Women Marines would consider a separate celebration to be inappropriate.

However, I cannot let this occasion pass without extending a greeting to you as the representative of all Women Marines. I should also like to congratulate you on the splendid manner in which you are discharging this responsibility.

My very best wishes to you and all Women Marines for the future.<sup>25</sup>

The local celebrations continued, nevertheless, and General Pate relented by resuming the habit of sending greetings to all women Marines in the ensuing years.

Apparently, when General David M. Shoup became Commandant the propriety of the observance was again questioned. Colonel Henderson, the director, prepared a year-by-year study of the celebrations and concluded with the thoughts:



*The women Marines of Camp Pendleton are aided in celebrating their 28th anniversary at the traditional cake-cutting ceremony by Col Emil J. Radics, base chief of staff. From left are PFCs Julia Krauss and Brenda Baker, Col Radics, and Maj Georgia Swickheimer.*

It is my personal belief that the Women Marines think of 13 February 1943 not as a birthday, but as the date which commemorates the opportunity given them to become a part of the Marine Corps and to share in all its traditions. Because of this belief and their esprit de corps, I recommend that they continue to celebrate their anniversary.

I know that it will please every woman in the Corps to have a personal message of recognition from the Commandant and make her prouder than ever of being a woman Marine.<sup>26</sup>

And so it went until the question was settled once and for all in 1974. The Commandant made known that in the future only 10 November would be acknowledged by a CMC message. Colonel Brewer, Director of Women Marines, agreed with the theory that, with “. . . increased effectiveness in the utilization of women Marines as an integral part of the Corps, it is appropriate and timely to discontinue the practice of publishing ‘WM Anniversary’ messages by the

Commandant and the Director of Women Marines.”<sup>27</sup> Referring, however, to the wide reaching changes in policy approved by the Commandant in 1973, she reasoned that a final message would be an excellent way to reemphasize the increased opportunities for women Marines and to announce the discontinuance of the tradition.<sup>28</sup> General Cushman, therefore, in the final anniversary message, said:

With each passing year, we Marines working together will meet the challenges of the future, willing and able to fulfill our responsibilities as the “Nation’s Force In Readiness.”

In recognition of the role of the women members of our Corps in fulfilling this mission, and since all Marines share one Birthday, it seems appropriate to recognize your achievements for this, the last time, as a separate, special occasion. Accordingly, we pause today to reflect on the day 31 years ago when women became members of our Marine Corps team ready to meet all challenges.<sup>29</sup>



*The tradition of giving red roses, one for each year, to the Director of Women Marines on 13 February was begun by Col Randolph McC. Pate, post-World War II Director of Reserve. Col Jeanette I. Sustad receives the bouquet of roses from the Commandant, Gen Leonard F. Chapman, Jr., in the early 1970s.*

### *Women Marines and Mess Night*

For a number of years, it was generally understood that formal mess nights were for men only.<sup>30</sup> Women officers did not expect to be included and indeed they were not. As women were assigned to more and more billets outside the WM program, the situation became increasingly awkward, and on rare occasions, they were invited to take part in the ancient social custom. The first woman to attend a mess night was probably Colonel Helen A. Wilson.\*

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\*"In August, 1957, while on active duty for training at the Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, to attend the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Administrative Course, I took part in a formal mess night. The announcement was made that I was the first woman in history to participate in this ancient and solemn ceremony. For me, it was almost a terrifying experience, having been direly warned and incriminated by my fellow Marines as to the solemnity of the occasion. They coached me and warned me of the deep significance of a formal mess night, and the importance of my role on this auspicious occasion. My memorized speech dissolved into a few halting (but sincere) phrases memorializing the important event itself, and the Marine Corps. After the meat was declared "fit for human consumption," the feast began, the wine flowed freely—and glasses were raised in countless toasts, each more fervent than the last. Then, as I quivered, my turn came—"Gentlemen—a toast to the Director of Women Marines!"—which was by then most enthusiastically received. In my "memento box" I still have the cigar they gave me that night, carefully wrapped and labeled—and unsmoked!" Col Helen A. Wilson comments on draft manuscript, dtd 1Jan80.

The date of the first formal mess night sponsored by a WM unit is known—12 February 1970. To celebrate the 27th anniversary of the women Marines, officers of the Women Marine Recruit Training Battalion, Parris Island, and the women officers of the neighboring Marine Corps Air Station at Beaufort, gathered at the officers' club and followed the time-honored procedures under the direction of Major Roberta N. Roberts (later Patrick), Madam President. Madam Vice, the junior officer present, was Chief Warrant Officer Bertha Peters Billeb, who had been one of the original staff members when the battalion was activated in 1943, and later in 1961 became the first Sergeant Major of Women Marines.

The battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Jenny Wrenn, invited the guests of honor, Major General Oscar F. Peatross, Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, and Colonel Richard J. Schriver, Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Air Station. In his remarks, General Peatross praised the women for their patriotism. He said:

You have no obligation to serve in the military. You are not subject to the draft or to any other impetus to serve except your own patriotism and desire to serve your country and fellow man. You must be counted as the most patriotic among the citizens of our nation.<sup>31</sup>

Subsequently, the most frequent WM-sponsored mess nights occurred at The Basic School, Quantico, when the training schedule precluded a joint affair. With the complete integration of women into the Basic School program in 1977, scheduling problems disappeared and separate mess nights along with them. At all commands where women now serve, they take their place at formal mess nights along with their male colleagues.

### *Molly Marine*

"Molly" is the nickname of a statue which has stood at the intersection of Elk Place and Canal Street in downtown New Orleans, Louisiana, since it was originally dedicated on the Marine Corps Birthday in 1943.<sup>32</sup> Originally cast in marble chips and granite because of wartime restrictions, Molly had become weather beaten. In 1961, a local committee decided to erect a monument to women who had served in all branches of the service in all wars, but, they proposed to erect their monument on Molly's beachhead, and remove the statue of the woman Marine.

Molly's many friends blocked this action. Heading the long list of her benefactors was Mr. Frank Zito,

Jr., former State Commandant, Marine Corps League, Louisiana, who pledged that Molly would be bronzed and placed on a new pedestal. Thus, Mr. Zito established the *Molly Restoration Fund* for her refurbishing.

During the ensuing controversy, it was pointed out that New Orleans was the site of the first statue of a woman in the United States, that of Margaret Haughery, erected in 1884; that the first statue of a woman in uniform anywhere in the world was Joan of Arc, in her armor, in Orleans, France; that New Orleans was the namestake of Orleans, France; and that therefore, it was appropriate that Molly Marine, the first statue of a woman in uniform in the United States, should remain in New Orleans.

At the 1964 national convention for the Women Marines Association and the Marine Corps League, both organizations unanimously passed resolutions pledging support to the restoration project. The Marine Corps Reserve Officers Association added its aid with a Support the Restoration of Molly Marine resolution passed by the national delegates in 1966 at Houston, Texas. Through the efforts of the New Orleans Cajun Chapter of the Women Marines Association, and lo-

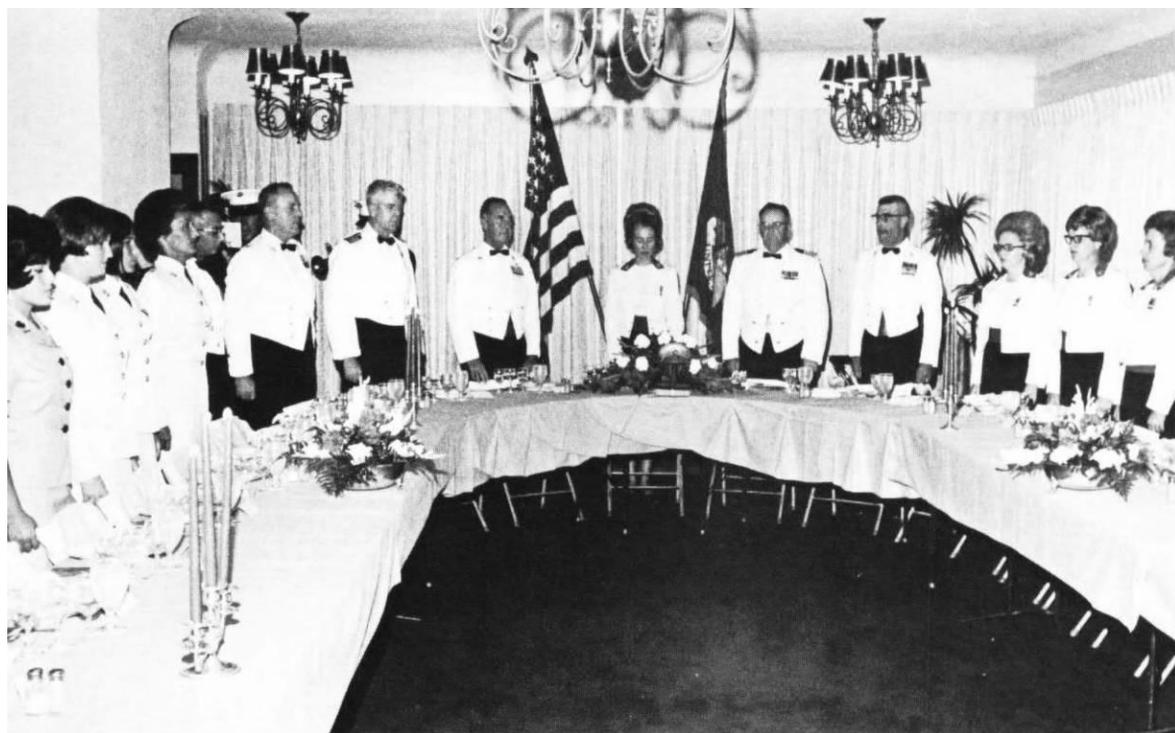
cal friends of the Corps, a full-scale drive was launched for the final completion of Molly.

After many years of working and waiting, Molly received her new dress. She was taken from her post to be returned dressed in her new bronze finery where she awaited her unveiling which took place during the Women Marine Association National Convention, 29 June-1 July 1966.

On hand for the occasion, as personal representative of the Commandant, was Brigadier General Edward H. Hurst, Director, Marine Corps Landing Force Development Center, Quantico, who as a major in 1943 had been the commanding officer of the Marine Training Detachment, Naval Reserve Midshipmen School (WR), Northampton, Massachusetts, and later the commanding officer of the Officer Training School, MCWR, Camp Lejeune; Colonel Barbara J. Bishop, Director of Women Marines; and Gunnery Sergeant Helen Hannah Campbell, USMCR, President, Women Marines Association. Many of Molly's benefactors were at the ceremonies to see the culmination of their efforts in the restoration.

The original inscription, which read:

*LtCol Jenny Wrenn, Commanding Officer, Woman Recruit Training Battalion, Parris Island, presides at the first Mess Night sponsored by a woman Marine unit, in 1970.*





*Molly Marine, monument in New Orleans, dedicated to women who served as Marines.*

Dedicated by the People of New Orleans  
TO THE WOMEN OF AMERICA  
In the U.S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve  
for recognition of the patriotic service  
rendered their country  
10 November 1943

was changed to:

Molly Marine  
November 10, 1943  
FREE A MARINE TO FIGHT  
REDEDICATED JULY 1, 1966 IN HONOR OF  
WOMEN MARINES WHO SERVE THEIR COUNTRY  
IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS  
OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

*Women Marines Association*

The Women Marines Association (WMA) traces its origin to a 1923 dream of a couple of World War I veterans, Florence Miller and Louise Budge, who tried without success to organize the "Girl Marine Veterans."<sup>33</sup> The idea lay dormant for years until a handful of members at large met at the first WMA convention in Denver in 1960. The founders who laid the groundwork for the unofficial organization of

women Marines were headed by Reserve Major Jean Durfee and included former WRs Marion A. Hooper Swope, Mary Jeane Olson Nelson, June F. Hansen, Lois Lighthall, Ila Doolittle Clark, and Barbara Kees Meeks. Colonel Margaret M. Henderson, the Director of Women Marines, attended the convention and gave her support and encouragement.

A constitution was adopted, setting forth WMA objectives and providing for biennial conventions, national officers and directors were elected; and the attendees returned home to mount a vigorous membership campaign which netted approximately 350 charter members by February 1961. Shortly thereafter, the first issue of a quarterly newsletter, *WMA Nouncements* appeared. Subsequent conventions were held in Cleveland, Saint Louis, New Orleans, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Honolulu, Galveston, and in 1976, the nation's bicentennial birthday, in Boston. For the first time in WMA history, the women were addressed by a Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Robert E. Cushman, Jr., at the 1974 Texas meeting. The WMA is the only national organization open exclusively to women who serve or have served as United States Marines.

## CHAPTER 16

# The Sergeants Major of Women Marines

*Bertha L. Peters—Evelyn E. Albert—Ouida W. Craddock—Mabel A.R. Otten—June V. Andler—Grace A. Carle*

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With the publication of MCO 1421.6 in April 1960, three WM sergeant major billets were designated, one of which was marked for the senior enlisted woman in the office of the Director of Women Marines. The system at that time provided for the temporary appointment to sergeant major of women already in the ninth pay grade, master gunnery sergeant. The first woman to be promoted to master gunnery sergeant, Geraldine M. Moran, was stationed at El Toro where no billet for a WM sergeant major existed. The second woman to be selected for the top enlisted pay grade was Bertha Peters (later Billeb), who at the time was in the Director's office. Promoted on 18 January 1961 to master gunnery sergeant, Peters coincidentally became eligible and was appointed as the first Sergeant Major of Women Marines.

Officially, no special provisions were made for the billet, but much ceremony and publicity attended the appointment. Colonel Henderson strongly believed that an experienced staff noncommissioned officer, through close liaison with enlisted WMs in the field, could provide the Director with valuable insights which would help in the development of meaningful policies concerning women Marines. She enhanced the prestige and position of the sergeant major most notably by taking her on trips to inspect women Marine units. The top enlisted WM visited the women on the job and in their barracks. She spoke to work supervisors and the WM company staff. Back at Headquarters, she made public appearances and she was the expert in residence on enlisted women Marine matters.

Selection of the succeeding sergeants major was done by a special board convened at Headquarters. The senior member was a woman officer and the Director of Women Marines was an advisor. The guidance given board members describing the desirable qualifications specified:

1. In personal appearance, an outstanding representative woman Marine for her age and grade. Feminine in mannerism and person; impeccable in uniform and knowledgeable in presenting an appearance in civilian clothing appropriate to any social occasion.
2. Poised and mature in military presence; socially aware and approachable; tactful and capable of achieving a nicely

balanced relationship with officers, senior staff NCOs, and personnel of lower pay grades, men and women.

3. Possessed of an excellent ability to communicate orally and in writing; particularly well qualified to speak before a sizable audience.

4. A Marine Corps career of widest possible experience, particularly in regard to billets in the women's program and in contrast to assignments limited solely to duty in her MOS. Consideration should be given to her performance in her OF and to the past selection for such other assignments as instructor, recruiter, DI, or as 1stSgt/SgtMaj.<sup>1</sup>

Six women were eventually designated through 1976 as Sergeant Major of Women Marines. They are:

Sergeant Major Bertha L. Peters (Billeb)—18Jan1961-13Nov1963  
Sergeant Major Evelyn E. Albert—13Nov1963-1Dec1966  
Sergeant Major Ouida W. Craddock—1Dec1966-1Aug1969  
Sergeant Major Mabel A. R. Otten—1Aug1969-30Apr1972

*Bertha L. Peters, Sergeant Major of Women Marines  
18 January 1961-13 November 1963.*





*Evelyn E. Albert, Sergeant Major of Women Marines  
13 November 1963-1 December 1966.*

Sergeant Major June V. Andler—30Apr1972-30Apr1974  
Sergeant Major Grace A. Carle—30Apr1974-30Oct1976

*Sergeant Major Bertha L. Peters*

Sergeant Major Bertha L. Peters (Billeb) of Wasco, California, having been recruited by Lieutenant Colonel Lily H. Gridley (who was still in a WAVES uniform) in San Francisco, was enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve on 5 March 1943 and entered training on 19 April 1943 in the second recruit class of WRs at Hunter College in New York. She served on continuous active duty at Headquarters Marine Corps in the Division of Aviation throughout World War II. On 10 November 1948 she was one of the first eight enlisted WRs to be sworn into the regular Marine Corps by General Clifton B. Cates.

In February 1949, she was transferred to Parris Island where she became the Battalion Chief Clerk for the newly organized 3d Recruit Training Battalion. Upon the discharge of MSgt Elsie Miller, the Battalion Sergeant Major, GySgt Peters assumed the duties of Sergeant Major. Subsequently she was assigned as Sergeant Major of the Woman Marines Officer Train-

ing Command, Quantico; First Sergeant, Company A, Pearl Harbor, and in 1955 once again, as Sergeant Major, Women Recruit Training Battalion. In 1959 she was selected and assigned to the senior enlisted woman Marine billet, Office of the Director of Woman Marines. She was selected for promotion to master gunnery sergeant in 1961 and redesignated as sergeant major. She became the first Sergeant Major of Women Marines. After her marriage in 1962 to Gunnery Sergeant William N. Billeb she joined her husband at Quantico and was assigned for the second time as Sergeant Major, Women Officers Training. In 1966 after her husband had been promoted to warrant officer (temporary) she accepted promotion to warrant officer (temporary) and was transferred to her third tour of duty with the Woman Recruit Training Battalion, Parris Island, where she was assigned to the billet of Battalion adjutant. In 1970 the Billebs, both commissioned officers, reverted to their permanent ranks. Master Gunnery Sergeant Bertha Billeb was transferred to MCB, Camp Pendleton. She was redesignated to permanent sergeant major in 1972 when all women Marines who held that rank were given permanent warrants. At this time the Billebs were the only husband-wife sergeant major team in the Marine Corps. In 1973, Sergeant Major Bertha Billeb, being the first woman to complete 30 years' continuous active duty, was retired with honors at MCB, Camp Pendleton. She requested and was placed on the retired list as a commissioned warrant officer.

*Sergeant Major Evelyn E. Albert*

Sergeant Major Evelyn E. Albert assumed the assignment as Sergeant Major of Women Marines, Headquarters Marine Corps, on 13 November 1963. She was the second woman to hold that billet since its creation in April 1960.

A 1943 graduate of Wagner College, Staten Island, New York, with a BA degree in English, Sergeant Major Albert enlisted from her native New Jersey in April 1943, following the call to active duty of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve in February. She was in the third class of WRs to train at the Naval Training School at Hunter College prior to the transfer of the WR training to Camp Lejeune. One of the first WRs assigned to Camp Lejeune, she served there until July 1943, when she was transferred to the Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point.

While at Cherry Point, she was temporarily detached to the Aerological School Training Unit at the Naval Air Station, Lakehurst, New Jersey. Upon

completion of school, she was promoted to corporal and returned to Cherry Point as an aerographer. She remained there until the general demobilization of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve in December 1945. On her return to civilian life, she completed the Executive Secretary Course at Berkley School in New York City.

In July 1948, Staff Sergeant Albert enlisted in the Inactive Reserve and, following the 1948 Women's Armed Forces Integration Act, enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and returned to active duty. She was the first woman Marine to serve as a receptionist to the Secretary of Defense. She served in this capacity until December 1951 under Secretaries Louis A. Johnson, George C. Marshall, and Robert A. Lovett.

After serving as a recruiter for a few years she attended Personnel Administration School at Parris Is-

land and upon graduation she was assigned to Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, as first sergeant of the Woman Marine Company.

From December 1958 until December 1960, Albert served on the staff of Commander in Chief, Allied Forces, Southern Europe, Naples, Italy, where she was promoted to master sergeant. She then served as Sergeant Major, Woman Recruit Training Battalion, Parris Island, and during this tour was promoted to first sergeant in February 1961. In October 1963, she was detached from her duties and reported to Headquarters as Sergeant Major of Women Marines. At the end of her tour she was transferred to the Marine Corps Air Station Facility, Santa Ana, where she was promoted to master gunnery sergeant. From January 1968 until her retirement in December 1969, she served with the Awards Unit, Force Adjutant Section, FMFPac.

*Ouida W. Craddock, Sergeant Major of Women Marines, 1 December 1966-1 August 1969, is congratulated at the appointing ceremony by Gen Wallace M. Greene, Jr.*



*Sergeant Major Ouida W. Craddock*

Ouida Wells Craddock was born in Haskell, Oklahoma, and grew up in Oakland, California. During World War II she enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve at San Francisco and served on active duty as a private first class in San Francisco and El Toro until discharged in April 1946.

She reenlisted in July 1949 and was integrated into the Regular Marine Corps in August 1951. Assigned to active duty, she served as electric accounting machine operator, and later, noncommissioned officer in charge, Civilian Payroll and Fiscal Accounts, Machine Records Section, San Francisco, California. She was promoted to staff sergeant in June 1952 and to technical sergeant in May 1953.

From August 1953 until July 1954, Sergeant Craddock served at Headquarters as assistant projects planner, and later, as supply accountant. She attended the Recruiters School, then was transferred to the 12th Marine Corps Reserve and Recruitment District, San Francisco, where she served as WM recruiter from September 1954 until October 1958.

She returned to Parris Island and joined the Woman Recruit Training Battalion, serving as recruit platoon sergeant. She attended Noncommissioned Officer Leadership School at Quantico and then was assigned duty as chief drill instructor back at the Woman Recruit Company, serving in that capacity from August 1959 until September 1960.

For the next three years she saw duty with the Woman Marine Company at Camp Smith, Hawaii. She served first as project planner and later became the first woman to be designated as a data processing installation chief. While serving in Hawaii, she was promoted to master sergeant in January 1962.

In January 1964, Sergeant Craddock returned to Headquarters and was assigned as operation analyst, Operation Management Branch, Data Processing Division. Transferred in February 1965, she was assigned duty once again as recruiter in San Francisco. While there, she was selected as the top ranking noncommissioned woman Marine in the Corps, with the rank of sergeant major. At the time of her selection she was the senior enlisted woman in the data processing field, and was the first woman to be promoted to the senior pay grade from outside of the administrative field.

Sergeant Major Craddock served as Sergeant Major of Women Marines until she retired on 2 August 1969.

*Sergeant Major Mabel A. R. Otten*

Sergeant Major Mabel Annie Rosa Otten became the fourth Sergeant Major of Women Marines in ceremonies held at Headquarters on 1 August 1969. Born in Centerville, Illinois, she graduated from Dupou Community High School. She enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve during the national emergency on 16 May 1944, in St. Louis, Missouri, and received recruit training at the Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune.

During World War II, she served at the Depot of Supplies in San Francisco, in Hawaii, at Mare Island, and again at the Depot of Supplies, San Francisco. While stationed in San Francisco, she was discharged as a sergeant following demobilization of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve in August 1946.

In April 1947, she reenlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve and in November 1948 integrated into the Regular Marine Corps. Following her return to active duty, Staff Sergeant Otten served in the disbursing field at Headquarters from April 1948 to October 1951 and at Cherry Point from October 1951 to June 1954, where she was promoted to master sergeant on 1 June 1952. Master Sergeant Otten completed Recruiters

*Mabel A. R. Otten, Sergeant Major of Women Marines  
1 August 1969-30 April 1972*



School in August 1954, then served on recruiting duty at South Charleston, West Virginia.

In October 1957, she became disbursing chief at Quantico and in March 1960 was assigned duty as S-3 operations chief at the Woman Recruit Training Battalion at Parris Island serving there until June 1962.

For the next seven years, she served as disbursing chief consecutively at Camp Lejeune, Treasure Island, and at Futema in Okinawa. She was promoted to master gunnery sergeant on 1 August 1967 and returned to the United States in June 1969.

Sergeant Major Otten served as Sergeant Major of Women Marines until she retired on 30 April 1972.

*Sergeant Major June V. Andler*

Sergeant Major June (Judy) V. Andler became the fifth Sergeant Major of Women Marines on 30 April 1972. Born in St. Paul, Minnesota, she graduated from St. Paul High School in 1940. She enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve on 9 March 1944 and received recruit training at Camp Lejeune. During the war, she served at Quantico and at Headquarters Marine Corps.

In 1948, she integrated into the Regular Marine Corps and in February 1949 was transferred to Parris

*June V. Andler, Sergeant Major of Women Marines  
30 April 1972-30 April 1974*



*Grace A. Carle, Sergeant Major of Women Marines  
30 April 1974-30 October 1976*

Island as one of the original members of the staff of the 3d Recruit Training Battalion. She served there until September 1952, first as battalion chief clerk, then as a drill instructor. While at Parris Island, she completed the Personnel and Administrative Course in 1950.

Transferred to the Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, California, she saw duty as Chief Clerk, Officer Personnel Section and, later, served as an investigator in the Base Provost Marshal's Office. During this assignment, in 1953, she attended the Non-commissioned Officers Leadership School at Camp Lejeune and the Criminal Investigation Course at Camp Gordon, Georgia. For the next 28 months, she saw duty as administrative chief of the Woman Marine Company at Camp H. M. Smith in Hawaii.

Promoted to gunnery sergeant in December 1959, during the same month she was assigned to El Toro and subsequently served as administrative chief of Woman Marine Detachment One. From April 1962 until November 1963, Gunnery Sergeant Andler served, successively, as First Sergeant, Woman Officers Candidate Class, and Administrative Chief of Woman Marines Detachment at Quantico.

Following this assignment, she returned to Camp Pendleton for duty as noncommissioned officer in charge, Officer Personnel Section, Marine Corps Base, and later as administrative chief of Headquarters Regiment. She was promoted to master sergeant in June 1966, and that September, became S-3, operations/special subjects instructor for the Woman Recruit Training Battalion at Parris Island.

Transferred to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at San Diego, she served from April 1969 until February 1970 as First Sergeant, Woman Marine Company. She was promoted to first sergeant on 1 May 1969. Upon promotion to master gunnery sergeant on 1 February 1970, she became the Headquarters and Service Battalion administrative chief.

In January 1971, Master Gunnery Sergeant Andler assumed duty as Personnel Chief, Marine Corps Communications Electronics School at Twentynine Palms. While serving in this capacity, she was named the fifth Sergeant Major of Women Marines.

Completing 30 years of continuous active duty, Sergeant Major Andler retired on 30 April 1974.

*Sergeant Major Grace A. Carle*

Sergeant Major Grace A. Carle became the sixth and last Sergeant Major of Women Marines in ceremonies held at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., on 30 April 1974. Born in Yankton, South Dakota, she graduated from Pender High School, Pender, Nebraska, in 1940. She enlisted in the Marine Corps in April 1943 and was a member of the last regiment trained

at Hunter College, New York. During World War II, she saw service at Headquarters Marine Corps and in Hawaii. She was released from active duty in November 1945.

The all-woman Volunteer Training Unit which she joined in 1948 became the nucleus of the WR Platoon, 13th Infantry Battalion and was mobilized in 1950 at the beginning of the Korean War. Before leaving for San Francisco, she, along with others in the platoon, was ordered to the home armory for two weeks active duty during which the women helped the men to pack and to get their paperwork in order. Initially, she served in San Francisco as a Reservist and then integrated into the Regular Marine Corps in 1951.<sup>2</sup>

Other duty assignments took her to El Toro, Parris Island, Camp Pendleton, and to New Orleans, as assistant to the woman officer selection officer. She served as first sergeant of the Woman Marine Companies at Camp Lejeune and on Okinawa. At the time of her selection as Sergeant Major of Women Marines, she was Sergeant Major, Woman Officer School, Quantico.

At the end of her tour as Sergeant Major of Women Marines, a woman Marine mess night was held at the Sheraton Hotel on 29 October 1976, an occasion attended by women Marine officers and enlisted, from all East Coast posts. The next day, upon retirement, she was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal and honored at parade at the Marine Barracks, 8th and I Streets, Washington, D.C.

*An era ends as the last Sergeant Major of Women Marines, Grace A. Carle retires at ceremonies held at Marine Barracks, 8th and I, Washington, on 30 October 1976.*



## CHAPTER 17

# The Directors of Women Marines

*Katherine A. Towle—Julia E. Hamblet—Margaret M. Henderson—Barbara J. Bishop—Jeanette I. Sustad  
Margaret A. Brewer—The Position*

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### *Colonel Katherine A. Towle*

Originally of Vermont stock, Colonel Katherine Amelia Towle was born in Towle, California, a lumber mill hamlet in the Sierras founded by her grandfather. She earned her bachelor's degree in 1920 at the University of California at Berkeley with honors in political science and received her master's degree there in 1935. Prior to 13 February 1943, she had served successively as an assistant in the admissions office at the University of California; resident dean and headmistress of Miss Ransom and Miss Bridges School for Girls at Piedmont, California; a teaching fellow in political science at the University of California; and senior editor of the University of California Press.<sup>1</sup>

On 15 March 1943, she accepted an appointment as captain in the Marine Corps Reserve with rank as of 24 February. Having never attended basic training of any sort, Colonel Towle in later years laughingly remarked that she was not even a 90-day wonder. After six days of indoctrination with the Division of Reserve at Headquarters Marine Corps, Captain Towle was assigned as a staff officer (WR) with the Training Brigade, Marine Training Detachment, U.S. Naval Training School, Bronx, New York.

When the WR battalion was established at Camp Lejeune in June 1943, she was transferred there and became the senior Marine Corps Women's Reserve School officer and assistant executive officer. In that position, she was promoted to major on 2 February 1944, and in September of that year she became Colonel Streeter's assistant at Headquarters Marine Corps.

She remained at Headquarters, was appointed a lieutenant colonel on 15 March 1945, and succeeded Colonel Streeter as Director nine months later on 8 December. A colonel by virtue of her billet, she spent her remaining months in the Marine Corps directing the demobilization of the women Reservists and laying plans and policies for a postwar Marine Corps Women's Reserve.

On 14 June 1946, certain that all World War II WRs would be released within a few months, Colonel Towle returned to the Berkeley campus as assistant dean of women. For her meritorious wartime service,

she carried with her the Letter of Commendation with ribbon by the Secretary of Navy and a letter of appreciation from General Alexander A. Vandegrift, the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

When Congress provided for Regular components of women in the Armed Forces, General Clifton B. Cates, then Commandant, asked Colonel Towle to direct the new Regular women Marines. She returned to Washington as one of the first 20 women Regular officers and became the first Director of Women Marines.

Recruit and officer training programs were organized and a gradual buildup of women in the Regular Marine Corps began. At the same time, 13 women's platoons were established in the Marine Corps Organized Reserve. Colonel Towle was particularly proud

*Col Katherine A. Towle, Director of Women Marines  
18 October 1948-1 May 1953*





*Col Katherine A. Towle, Director of Women Marines, reviews a parade in honor of her retirement on 1 May 1953. Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., stands in the rank behind her with (from left to right) LtCol Julia E. Hamblet, Col Towle's successor; LtCol Foster La Hue, aide-de-camp to the Commandant; and Col Jack C. Juban, commanding officer of Marine Barracks, Eighth and I, Washington, D.C.*

of the response of these women and the low percentage of deferments among women Reservists upon mobilization in 1950. Following the Korean War the Reserve units were reorganized, this time with a total of 19 platoons.

As an educator, Colonel Towle recognized the value of formal training and continually worked for increased school opportunities for WMs. Her national stature in the academic community enhanced the prestige of the women Marines and contributed to her success in gaining access to colleges and universities to recruit women officers. Among her honors is the Doctor of Laws conferred on her by Mills College in June 1952.

The *Oakland Tribune* said of her, "Behind the formidably admirable public record is one of the most charming women in the world,"<sup>2</sup> Colonel Towle, a lady of style and grace who loved feminine hats, was a paradox in the overtly masculine Marine Corps. Yet, in the opinion of Colonel Hamblet, "She was the perfect one for the job at the time."<sup>3</sup> She had made her reputation as an able administrator and commander in World War II. She was firm but never aggressive and won the respect of Marines—irrespective of their personal views of women in military service.

To a newsman's question regarding the acceptance of women in the Marine Corps by senior officers,

Colonel Towle frankly answered that there were varying degrees of enthusiasm but with one or two exceptions the feminine presence had been taken with good grace. The day after the interview was published nearly every general officer at Headquarters stopped by her office, poked in his head, and asked, "You didn't mean me, did you, Colonel?" The Colonel replied, "Oh no, sir, of course not," but by the end of the day neither she nor her administrative assistant, Lieutenant Colonel Kleberger, could keep a straight face as the parade by her office continued.<sup>4</sup>

On 1 May 1952, Colonel Towle was retired under the statutory age provision of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948 which required retirement for colonels at age 55. A special sunset parade had been held in her honor the evening before at the Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C., and for the first time in the history of the famous barracks, a platoon of women Marines joined the contingent of Marines who passed in review. Upon retirement, the colonel was awarded a Letter of Commendation from the Commandant of the Marine Corps and a Legion of Merit from the President of the United States.\*

*Colonel Julia E. Hamblet*

The third Director of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve and the second Director of Women Marines was Colonel Julia Estelle Hamblet, called Judy by her friends. Born in Winchester, Massachusetts, Colonel Hamblet attended the Hartridge School in Plainfield, New Jersey, and graduated from Vassar College in 1937 with a bachelor of arts degree.<sup>5</sup> The first woman Marine to be afforded the opportunity to attend graduate school while on active duty, she earned a master of science degree in public administration at Ohio State University in 1951. Appropriately, her thesis was entitled, "The Utilization of Women in the Marine Corps."

Colonel Hamblet worked for the U.S. Information Service in Washington, D.C., from 1937 until 1943 when she became the first woman from the nation's capital to join the Marine Corps. Her motive for entering military service, like thousands of Americans during those critical days, was a patriotic desire to do her part. Her reason for choosing the Marine Corps

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\*Colonel Towle returned to the University of California at Berkeley as the dean of women and associate dean of students. Later she filled the very demanding post of dean of students during the famous free speech movement and anti-war demonstrations on the Berkeley campus.



*Col Julia E. Hamblet, Director of Women Marines  
1 May 1953-2 March 1959*

was less noble; with one brother in the Army and another in the Navy, she wanted to remain impartial.

Graduating from the first woman officer training class on 4 May 1943, she, along with several of her classmates, was commissioned a first lieutenant. Captain Towle, then senior woman officer on the staff at the Marine Corps Training Detachment in the Bronx, personally selected Lieutenant Hamblet to fill the billet of adjutant of that unit. She served in that post at Hunter College and later at Camp Lejeune when the Women's Reserve schools were transferred there in July 1943. Her subsequent tours during World War II included six months with the Marine Corps Women's Reserve Battalion at Camp Lejeune, first as adjutant and then as executive officer; adjutant and executive officer, Women's Reserve Battalion, Camp Pendleton; commanding officer, Women's Reserve Battalion, Quantico; assistant for the Women's Reserve on the staff of the commanding general at Quantico; and finally commanding officer, Aviation Women's Reserve Group 1, Cherry Point. For her services during World War II, she was awarded a letter of commendation.

In a distinguished career marked by numerous achievements, one stands out as having the most direct impact on the entire Marine Corps. As a major and

the Director of the postwar Women's Reserve, 1946-1948, she was responsible for maintaining the interest of the WRs during those critical years and for organizing the WR platoons, all of which were ready when the Korean War erupted.

The year of graduate work was followed by a tour of duty in Honolulu as the assistant G-1, FMFPac. Lieutenant Colonel Hamblet was the first WM to return to Hawaii since the departure of the WRs in 1946. In less than a year, she was assigned as officer in charge of the Women Officer Training Detachment at Quantico.

On 1 May 1953, she assumed the position of the second Director of Women Marines, again succeeding Colonel Towle, who was retiring. Only 37 years old, she was the youngest director of women in the armed services. Colonel Towle, in praising her successor said, "She has had practically every type of duty a woman Marine officer can have. I have followed her military career since her assignment as my adjutant. She has brains, ability, personality, and looks."<sup>6</sup> Colonel Hamblet held the post of Director until March 1959, longer than any other woman.

*Col Margaret M. Henderson  
Director of Women Marines  
2 March 1959-3 January 1964*



Legal provisions at the time prohibited women, other than the Director, to serve in the rank of colonel, so Colonel Hamblet reverted to her permanent rank of lieutenant colonel and was then transferred to Naples, Italy, where she served as military secretary to the Commander in Chief, Allied Forces, Southern Europe. Before leaving, her friends feted her with a "demotion" party which featured a large cake decorated with an eagle flying away.

Lieutenant Colonel Hamblet, uncommonly attractive and poised, became a favorite among the servicewomen at Naples. When the enlisted women gave a New Year's party in 1961 to which many officers, American and foreign, were invited, she was the only woman officer to accept. "In fact," said Sergeant Major Judge, a WM in Naples at the time, "she was the only woman officer to give us the time of day. She was so gracious; she didn't just come to say hello, she stayed and had a good time. No one forgot that. It was mentioned for a long time by the WAVEs and the WACs."<sup>7</sup>

In April 1962, Lieutenant Colonel Hamblet was transferred to Parris Island, where she was commanding officer, Woman Recruit Training Battalion, until her retirement on 1 May 1965. Colonel Hamblet was awarded the Legion of Merit and according to regulations, upon retirement she was reappointed to the rank of colonel, the highest rank in which she served.

*Colonel Margaret M. Henderson*

Colonel Margaret Henderson became the fourth Director of Women Marines on 2 March 1959, succeeding Colonel Hamblet. Born in Cameron, Texas, Colonel Henderson earned a bachelor of business administration degree from the University of Texas in 1932 and taught in the secondary schools of Lubbock, Texas, before her enlistment in the Marine Corps in 1943.<sup>8</sup>

After completing the Marine Corps Women's Reserve Officer Training School at Mount Holyoke, Massachusetts, she was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Reserve on 29 June 1943. Lieutenant Henderson began her career as a general subjects instructor at the Marine Corps Women's Reserve Schools at Camp Lejeune and was later assigned as officer in charge of the Business School, Marine Corps Institute, Washington, D.C. In later years, Colonel Streeter wrote:

As this was a teaching job, it was natural enough for her to be assigned to it; but it soon became evident that her capacity was far greater than this job would give her oppor-

tunity to develop. Unfortunately, she was doing it so well that her Commanding Officer would not let her be transferred! Willie and I put our heads together and she finally wheedled him into letting Margaret go to a better job, where she promptly showed her fine qualities.\*

The "better job" was that of executive officer, Marine Corps Women's Reserve Battalion, Camp Lejeune. On 14 June 1946, Captain Henderson was released from active duty.

She went home to Lubbock where she taught at Texas Technological College for two years. Selected to be one of the first 20 Regular woman Marine officers, Captain Henderson returned to the Marine Corps in December 1948.

Her academic and professional background made her the obvious choice to head the embryonic 3d Recruit Training Battalion. Interviews with officers and enlisted members of the original staff confirm the wisdom of the assignment. From Parris Island, Major Henderson was transferred in 1950 to the Division of Plans and Policy at Headquarters Marine Corps where, in addition to her regular duties, she was concerned with developing personnel and assignment policies for the newly integrated WMs. She played an important role in the return of women Marines to posts and stations during the Korean War.

During subsequent tours she served consecutively as commanding officer, Woman Officer Training Detachment; assistant G-1, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton; and as head, Women's Affairs Section, Division of Plans and Policy at Headquarters Marine Corps.

As Director of Women Marines, Colonel Henderson worked to establish the billet for Sergeant Major of Women Marines, since she believed that enlisted women would speak more freely to the Sergeant Major than to the Director. Sergeant Major Bertha L. Peters (later Billeb), already assigned to the Director's office since June 1959, was elevated to the new position of Sergeant Major of Women Marines in January 1961.

Completing her tour as Director in January 1964, and, once again a lieutenant colonel, she was assigned as assistant G-1, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego. Colonel Henderson, reappointed to the rank of colonel, received the Legion of Merit, by the commanding general, Major General Bruno A. Hoch-

\*Willie, referred to by Colonel Streeter, was Major Cornelia D. T. Williams, World War II detail officer.



*Col Barbara J. Bishop, Director of Women Marines  
3 January 1964-31 January 1969*

mouth, at a parade marking her retirement on 31 January 1966.<sup>9</sup>

*Colonel Barbara J. Bishop*

Colonel Barbara J. Bishop, the fifth Director of Women Marines, was born in Boston, schooled in Everett, Massachusetts, and graduated from Yale University in January 1943 with a bachelor of fine arts degree.<sup>10</sup>

She enlisted in the Marine Corps on 18 February 1943, just five days after the public announcement of the new Women's Reserve program. Colonel Bishop received her Marine officer training as a member of the second officer candidate class at Mount Holyoke and was commissioned a Reserve second lieutenant on 1 June 1943.

Throughout World War II Lieutenant Bishop held a variety of command and administrative assignments: commanding officer, Marine Training Detachment at the University of Indiana; executive officer, Marine Aviation Detachment at the Naval Air Station in Atlanta, Georgia; commanding officer, Aviation Wom-

en's Squadron 21 at Quantico; and officer-in-charge, S&C Files, Division of Aviation, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. She was released to inactive duty on 10 November 1946 with the rank of captain.

During the next two years, Captain Bishop earned a master of arts degree at the University of Chicago and was working toward a doctorate when, following the passage of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, she returned to active duty, selected as one of the original 20 Regular women officers. She served at Headquarters as officer-in-charge, S&C Files, until January 1952 when she went to Headquarters, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, in Hawaii.

In September 1953 she assumed command of the Woman Marine Company at Camp Lejeune, and was reassigned to Headquarters in 1955 as head, Women's Branch, Division of Reserve, with the additional duty as Deputy Director of Women Marines. A lieutenant colonel, she returned to the field in October 1956 for consecutive tours as commanding officer, Woman Recruit Training Battalion, Parris Island; and assistant G-1, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico. In March 1962 she went to Europe, reporting for duty in Naples, Italy, as military secretary to the Commander in Chief, Allied Forces, Southern Europe.

From Italy, she was once again assigned to Headquarters, this time to succeed Colonel Henderson as the leading woman Marine on 3 January 1964. Colonel Bishop served as Director during a time of sweeping changes in programs and policies affecting women Marines. When she was named Director there were about 1,500 WMs serving at 10 Marine Corps posts and stations throughout the United States and in a few overseas billets. Four years later, there were 2,600 active duty WMs serving 25 posts and stations as well as in Europe, the Philippines, Okinawa, Japan, and the Republic of Vietnam.

Colonel Bishop worked toward improving the living accommodations of women Marines, increasing their assignment opportunities, and raising the rate of their retention. During her tour, women officers for the first time were assigned to career military schools.

When Public Law 90-130 was signed by President Johnson on 8 November 1967, removing certain restrictions to the promotion to field grade of women officers, Colonel Bishop was among the first group of WMs to be selected for promotion to the permanent rank of colonel. Therefore, she, unlike Colonels Ham-

blet and Henderson, retained her rank when she eventually left the position of Director of Women Marines on 31 January 1969.

Colonel Bishop, whose last assignment was congressional liaison officer to the Senate, retired in November 1969 and was awarded the Legion of Merit during ceremonies held in the office of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Leonard F. Chapman, Jr. Colonel Sustad, her successor, presented Colonel Bishop a citation lauding her for her service to the women in the Marine Corps. The unofficial award was signed by all active duty WM officers and was given in recognition of personal efforts on their behalf.

#### *Colonel Jeanette I. Sustad*

Colonel Jeanette I. Sustad, sixth Director of Women Marines, was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and raised in Tacoma, Washington. She earned a bachelor of arts degree in sociology at the University of Washington in Seattle in 1943.<sup>11</sup> On 8 May of that year she enlisted in the Marine Corps Women's Reserve, received officer training at Camp Lejeune, and was commissioned a Reserve second lieutenant on 27 December.

Her first assignment was special services liaison officer, at the Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point. Subsequently she served as field operations officer at the Marine Corps Auxiliary Air Facility, Oak Grove, North Carolina, and assistant communications watch officer at the Marine Corps Air Station in Ewa, Honolulu. She returned to inactive status on 17 December 1945.

Following demobilization, she spent a year in graduate study at the University of Minnesota and later was employed as a veterans counselor by the U.S. Employment Services in Tacoma. Upon passage of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act in 1948, she accepted a Regular commission as a first lieutenant and reported to Headquarters in December.

Transferred to Parris Island the following month, she was assigned as executive officer of the newly formed 3d Recruit Training Battalion. From May to July 1950, she served temporarily as the executive officer of the Woman Officer Training Detachment at Quantico. The Korean War brought changes to the WM assignment policies, and she was one of the first to head west to assume duties at Camp Pendleton. Captain Sustad became the adjutant of the Marine Corps Base, perhaps the first postwar WM to be so assigned; and upon activation of the first post-World War II WM



*Col Jeanette I. Sustad, Director of Women Marines  
31 January 1969-31 January 1973*

Company at Camp Pendleton, became its commanding officer, serving in that capacity until August 1952.

The first woman Marine officer to be assigned duty in Europe, she served in the Staff Message Control Branch, Headquarters, United States European Command, Frankfurt, Germany. After her promotion to major in July 1953, she became assistant head of the branch and in the spring of 1954, when the Headquarters was moved to Paris, France, Major Sustad continued her assignment there.

Upon her return to the United States in September 1954, she served consecutive tours as the executive officer, Woman Recruit Training Battalion, Parris Island; officer-in-charge, Procurement Aids Branch, Headquarters, 9th Marine Corps Reserve District, Chicago; assistant to the executive officer and plans officer, G-1 Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps; and as operations officer, Marine Corps Education Center, Quantico.

Lieutenant Colonel Sustad became the first fulltime Deputy Director of Women Marines in July 1965. Back at Camp Pendleton serving as the assistant G-1, in June 1968, she was one of the first Regular women Marines

to be promoted to the rank of colonel after promotion restrictions were lifted by Congressional legislation.

Colonel Sustad was named Director of Women Marines in 1968, the same year she celebrated her 25th anniversary as a WM, and she assumed the top post on 1 February 1969. Wider assignment and training opportunities materialized under the guidance of Colonel Sustad, and she worked to either change or to set aside many outmoded regulations regarding grooming, marriage, pregnancy, and dependency.

Colonel Sustad retired on 31 January 1973. In the citation accompanying her Legion of Merit was written, "She worked tirelessly for the welfare of each individual under her purview . . ." a sentiment endorsed by many of the WMs who knew her.<sup>12</sup>

*Brigadier General Margaret A. Brewer*

Then-Colonel Margaret A. Brewer, seventh and last Director of Women Marines, was the only post-World War II woman to hold that position. She succeeded Colonel Sustad on 1 February 1973. Born in Durand, Michigan, she received her primary education in Michigan but graduated from the Catholic High School of Baltimore, Maryland, prior to entering the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. She received a bachelor's degree in geography in January 1952 and was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant in March of that year.<sup>13</sup>

Candidate Brewer attended the Woman Officer Training Class as an undergraduate during the summers of 1950 and 1951 at the time of the Korean War. Although the policy was to offer Regular commissions to only a few women graduates of Officer Candidates School, and to release the remaining to inactive duty as Reserve officers, rumors were rampant during the summer of 1951 that all would be retained involuntarily—and undergraduates as candidate Brewer would be ordered to active duty in enlisted status. The scuttlebutt proved foundless and candidate Brewer returned to college to complete her last semester, expecting to graduate in January and attend the Woman Officer Indoctrination Course the following fall. She notified Headquarters of her graduation, and promptly received an unexpected set of orders to the Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, where she served as a communications watch officer until June 1953. The personnel shortage was so acute that Lieutenant Brewer was assigned with no more than 12 weeks of officer candidate training. She attended neither the Woman Officer Indoctrination Course nor the Com-

munications Officers School. Plans were made to send her to the WOIC in September, but when the time came she had already successfully served as an officer for six months and the command at El Toro declined to release her.<sup>14</sup>

She was then transferred to Brooklyn to activate the post-Korea WM Communications Platoon to be attached to the 2d Signal Company, USMCR. Lieutenant Brewer served as the assistant inspector-instructor until late summer 1955. From September 1955 until June 1958, in the rank of captain, she served as commanding officer of the Woman Marine companies at Norfolk, Virginia, and Camp Lejeune. During the 18 months following, she was a platoon commander for women officer candidates at Quantico, during summer training sessions, and a woman officer selection officer during winter and spring, with headquarters in Lexington, Kentucky. Transferred to Camp Pendleton in November 1959 for duty with the Commissioned Officers Mess, she was promoted to major in September 1961. In April 1963 she returned to Quantico to serve as executive officer and later, as commanding officer, of the Woman Officer School. From 1966 to February 1968, Major Brewer was assigned to the Public Affairs Office, 6th Marine Corps District, in Atlanta, Georgia, and she was promoted to lieutenant colonel in December 1966.

Lieutenant Colonel Brewer served as Deputy Director of Women Marines at Headquarters Marine Corps from March 1968 to March 1971. Reporting to Quantico, she assumed duty as special assistant to the Director, Marine Corps Education Center. Promoted to colonel in December 1970, she became chief of the Support Department, Marine Corps Education Center, in June 1972, and served in that capacity until she became the Director of Women Marines in February 1973.

During her last weeks as Director, Colonel Brewer spoke enthusiastically, not only of the increased opportunities for women in the Marine Corps, but of the notable change in attitude on the part of male Marines in positions of influence at Headquarters. For several years she had devoted her energies to effecting a smooth transfer of responsibility for women in the Marine Corps to the agencies at Headquarters where it rightly belonged. She confidently turned the reins over, certain that these agencies had come to recognize women Marines as Marines.<sup>15</sup> Colonel Brewer was reassigned as the deputy director, Division of Information, Headquarters, Marine Corps on 1 July 1977.

General Brewer became the Marine Corps' first woman general officer when, on 11 May 1978, she was assigned as the Director of Information, Headquarters Marine Corps, and appointed a brigadier general.

At the time there was no legal provision for the routine selection and promotion of a woman to flag rank in either the Navy or the Marine Corps. Women could, however, be designated by the Secretary of the Navy for the billet of a rear admiral or brigadier general. A woman officer so designated could be appointed to that rank while so serving. A Navy woman of the time had previously been so appointed. A special board was convened at Headquarters to select the Director of Information. Four women colonels were considered.

### *The Position*

As women became more accepted in the Marine Corps; as policies, law, and traditions were changed; as discriminatory restrictions fell; the position of the Director of Women Marines evolved from one of nearly complete control to one of an advisory nature. Although technically they were always considered advisors, the early Directors, with the exception of

*Col Margart A. Brewer, Director of Women Marines  
31 January 1973-30 June 1977*



Colonel Streeter, were members of the Commandant's staff and were directly involved in recruiting, training, uniforming, and assigning women Marines. The careers of senior officers and enlisted women were managed by the Director and all were personally known to her.

The Director's stated mission belied her real influence. According to the Marine Corps Manual, "The Director of Women Marines advises the Commandant and staff agencies on all matters of policy and procedure concerning women in the Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserve." The functions of the officer were listed as:

- (1) Initiates policies and makes recommendations on all policies and procedures affecting women initiated by other divisions and departments.
- (2) Advises and makes recommendations on duty assignments of Women Marines.
- (3) Advises cognizant staff agencies in the execution of approved policies affecting Women Marines.
- (4) Visits and assists in the inspection of activities where Women Marines are stationed.
- (5) Maintains liaison with directors of women in the other Armed Services and with the Office of the Secretary of Defense in connection with the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Armed Services.<sup>18</sup>

As a result of a reorganization of Headquarters Marine Corps in October 1973, the Director was placed under the cognizance of the Manpower Department, which encompassed the major areas of concern to her. Colonel Brewer spent increasingly more time transferring the functions of her office to the appropriate

Headquarters departments. The 26th Commandant, General Louis H. Wilson, Jr., had directed that women Marines were to be treated more truly as Marines; recruited, trained, and assigned as members of a single and united Corps.<sup>17</sup>

The news that there would no longer be a Director of Women Marines was made public on 16 June 1977 and on that day Colonel Brewer reaffirmed her confidence in the planned disestablishment of the position.<sup>18</sup> The office created in 1943 and reinforced in 1948 was to be disbanded at a time when the Corps proposed to almost triple the women's strength of 3,700. Only the Army would be left with a director of women.

Ceremonies marking the dissolution of the Director's position were held on 30 June 1977 in the Commandant's office. Among the guests was retired Colonel Julia E. Hamblet, the woman who had held the position of Director of Women Marines longer than any other, and who additionally had served as Director of the Women's Reserve immediately after World War II. General Wilson traced the history and accomplishments of women Marines since World War II, and he recalled the often-told story that when General Thomas A. Holcomb authorized the acceptance of women into the Marine Corps, former Commandant Archibald Henderson's portrait fell from the wall. The 1977 Commandant gallantly added that if sometime in the future, the announcement should be made that there would no longer be women Marines, he hoped that his portrait too, would fall to the floor.



# Notes

## INTRODUCTION

The primary source for material in this book is the Women Marines files, 1918-1973, 7 boxes, Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps Records (RG 127-76-36, Federal Records Center, Suitland, Maryland), hereafter WMs HQMC Records; Office of the Director of Women Marines files (Collections Section, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC), hereafter Dir WMs files; Women Marines Research File, (Hist&Mus Div, HQMC), hereafter WM Research file.

Unless otherwise noted, the material in this section is derived from: Postwar MCWR I file, box 3, WMs HQMC Records, hereafter Postwar MCWR I file; Col Julia E. Hamblet interview with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, hereafter Hamblet Interview.

1. Gen Gerald C. Thomas memo to CMC, dtd 30Oct45 (Postwar MCWR I file).
2. Ibid.
3. Maj Julia E. Hamblet memo to CMC, dtd 4Feb48 (File 1527, Women Reserve & Regular, box 7, WMs HQMC Records).
4. Col Ruth C. Streeter interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 31May77 (WM Research file).
5. Col Ruth C. Streeter memo to Director of Personnel, Marine Corps, dtd 29Aug45 (Postwar MCWR I file)
6. Col Edward W. Snedeker memo to Director, Division of Plans and Policies, dtd 10Dec45 (Postwar MCWR I file)

## CHAPTER 1

### A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY, 1946-1948

Unless otherwise noted, the material in this chapter is derived from: File 2385-50-30, Organizations, Central Files, HQMC, hereafter Organizations file; Postwar MCWR I file; Hamblet interview; Muster rolls, Company E, 1st HqBn, HQMC, 19Apr46-31Jan47 (Ref-Sec, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC); Scrapbook loaned by Col Julia E. Hamblet to Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, hereafter Hamblet scrapbook; LtCol Mary J. Hale interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 14Dec77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC), hereafter Hale interview; Personal papers loaned by LtCol Emma H. Clowers to Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, hereafter Clowers papers; Scrapbook and papers loaned by Dorothy M. Munroe to Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, hereafter Munroe scrapbook; *The Reserve Bulletin*, Division of Reserve, HQMC, hereafter *The Reserve Bulletin*; WM Research File.

1. ChiefNavPer ltr to CMC, dtd 27Feb46 (Postwar MCWR I file).
2. CMC ltr to ChiefNavPer, dtd 12Mar46 (Organizations file).
3. Gen Gerald C. Thomas memo to CMC, dtd 19Nov45 (Postwar MCWR I file).
4. Col Joseph W. Knighton memo to CMC, dtd 13Mar46 (Organizations file).
5. Gen Gerald C. Thomas memo to CMC, dtd 15Mar46 (Organizations file).
6. CMC ltr to Col Randolph McC. Pate, dtd 28Mar46 (Postwar MCWR I file).

7. Board to recommend policy for administration of postwar MCWR, HQMC, dtd 17Apr46 (Postwar MCWR I file).

8. Col Joseph W. Knighton memo to Gen Allan H. Turnage, dtd 15May46 (Postwar MCWR I file).

9. Cited from Joy Hancock, *Lady in the Navy* (Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1972), p. 223, hereafter Hancock, *Lady in the Navy*.

10. Stevenson, Burton Egbert, *The Home Book of Quotations: Classical and Modern* (New York: David, Mead & Co., 1958), p. 2298.

11. Col Katherine A. Towle memo to Director of Personnel, dtd 6May46 (Postwar MCWR I file).

12. Col Katherine A. Towle memo to Director of Personnel, dtd 14Jun46 (Postwar MCWR I file).

13. Headquarters Memorandum No. 50-1946, dtd 7Aug46, Subj: Retention of WRs on active duty (Postwar MCWR I file).

14. Admin Div, CMC office memo to multiple addresses, Subj: Retention of WRs on active duty until 30Jun47 (Postwar MCWR I file).

15. Gen Alexander A. Vandegrift ltr to Maj Julia E. Hamblet, dtd 14Jun46 (Hamblet scrapbook).

16. Maj Julia E. Hamblet ltr to Gen Alexander A. Vandegrift, dtd 25Jun46 (Hamblet scrapbook).

17. CMC ltr to Maj Julia E. Hamblet, dtd 3Jul46 (Hamblet scrapbook).

18. Maj Julia E. Hamblet memo to Director, Division of Reserve, dtd 8Oct46 (Postwar MCWR I file).

19. Headquarters Memorandum No. 80-1946, dtd 16Oct46, Subj: MCWR, policies for administration of (Postwar MCWR I file).

20. Maj Julia E. Hamblet memo to Director, Division of Reserve, dtd 8Oct46 (Postwar MCWR I file).

21. *The Reserve Bulletin*, Mar47.

22. Hale interview.

23. Maj Julia E. Hamblet ltr to Capt Emma H. Hendrickson, dtd 16Dec46 (Clowers papers).

24. Maj Julia E. Hamblet ltr to former WRs, dtd 9Jan47 (Munroe scrapbook).

25. Letter of Instruction 1397, dtd 9Jan47.

26. "Be a Marine And a Civilian Too," undtd Marine Corps Reserve pamphlet (Munroe scrapbook).

27. Capt Constance Risehari-Gai ltr to former WRs, undtd (Munroe scrapbook).

28. VTU 1-1 (WR), Notices for the week of 12Nov47, undtd (Munroe scrapbook).

29. VTU 3-1 admin records 1947-57, loaned by Bertha Santos to Hist&MusDiv, hereafter Santos papers.

30. *The Reserve Bulletin*, Nov47 and Dec54.

31. Santos papers.

32. PAU 4-1, *The Marine Corps Reserve—A History* (Washington: Division of Reserve, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, 1966), p. 130.

33. LtCol Ben A. Munn ltr to Hist&MusDiv, dtd 26Jan77 (WM Research file).

34. CMC report to SecNav, Subj: MarCor Per Plan for Fiscal Yr49, dtd 18Jul47 (Postwar MCWR I file).
35. *The Reserve Marine*, Apr47.
36. Gen Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., memo to Gen Gerald C. Thomas, dtd 17Apr47 (Postwar MCWR I file).
37. Ibid.
38. Gen Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., memo to CMC, dtd 23Apr47, with CMC endorsement (Postwar MCWR I file).
39. Maj Julia E. Hamblet memo to Director, Division of Reserve, dtd 29Apr47 (Postwar MCWR I file).
40. Director of Aviation memo to CMC, dtd 27May47 (Postwar MCWR I file).
41. Gen William T. Clement memo to CMC, dtd 29May47 (Postwar MCWR I file).
42. AdminDiv, Office of CMC memo to multiple addresses, dtd 9Jun47 (Postwar MCWR I file).
43. Gen Gerald C. Thomas memo to CMC, dtd 11Jun47, with CMC endorsement (Postwar MCWR I file).
44. WMs HQMC Records.
45. CMC ltr to former WRs, dtd 27Oct47 (Munroe scrapbook).
46. *Our World; A National Magazine for the People of Tupperware*, Jan77, p.5 (WM Research file).

## CHAPTER 2 WOMEN'S ARMED FORCES LEGISLATION: PUBLIC LAW 625

Unless otherwise noted, the material in this chapter is derived from: Hearings—WR Bill file (Dir WMs file), hereafter WM Bill file; Postwar MCWR I file; File 1527 Women Reserve & Regular file (Dir WMs file), hereafter Res&Reg file; and P.L. 625, 80th Congress.

1. Hancock, *Lady in the Navy*, p. 223.
2. Col Katherine A. Towle statement before the House Naval Affairs Committee on H.R. 5915, undtd (WR Bill file).
3. House of Representatives Naval Affairs Committee, U.S. Congress, *To Amend the Naval Reserve Act of 1938, As Amended, So as to Establish the Women's Reserves on a Permanent Basis, and for Other Purposes*, House Report 226, 79th Congress, 2nd Session (Washington, 1946), p. 3335.
4. Ibid., p. 3334.
5. Maj Julia E. Hamblet memo to Director, Division of Reserve, dtd 29Apr47 (Res&Reg file).
6. Senate Committee on Armed Services, U. S. Congress, *A Bill to Establish the Women's Army Corps in the Regular Army, To Authorize the Enlistment and Appointment of Women in the Regular Navy and Marine Corps and the Naval and Marine Corps Reserve and for Other Purposes*, Hearings on S. 1103, S. 1527, and S. 1641, 80th Congress, 1st Session (Washington, 1947), p. 10.
7. Ibid., p. 13.
8. Ibid., p. 68.
9. Col Joseph W. Knighton memo to Gen Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., dtd 8Jul47 (Res&Reg file).
10. Director, Division of Plans and Policies memo to CMC, Subj: Reg WMs, proposed program for (Women's Reg Service & Discharge file, Dir WMs file).
11. Capt Ira H. Nunn, USN, ltr to CMC, dtd 13 Feb48 (WR file).
12. *Woman Veteran*, Apr48 (Women Veterans file, Dir WMs file).
13. Cited from Hancock, *Lady in the Navy*, p. 231.
14. Mrs. Ruth Streeter ltr to CMC, dtd 4Aug47 (Res&Reg file).

## CHAPTER 3 GOING REGULAR

Unless otherwise noted, the material in this chapter is derived from: WMs HQMC Records; *The Reserve Bulletin*, 1948-1949; WM Research File; Old Studies Matters Women Marines, box 3, WMs HQMC Records, hereafter Old Studies; Clowers papers; Personal Papers, copies, donated by LtCol Doris V. Kleberger to Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, hereafter Kleberger papers; Hamblet interview; Col Margaret M. Henderson interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd Oct76 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC), hereafter Henderson interview; LtCol Elsie E. Hill interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 30Apr77 (WM Research file), hereafter Hill interview; Hale interview; LtCol Elaine T. Carville interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 1May77 (WM Research file), hereafter Carville interview; Pauline Riley Wilson interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 1Apr77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC), hereafter Wilson interview; SgtMaj Ruth Ryan interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 24Mar77 (WM Research file), hereafter Ryan interview; 1stSgt Bertha J. Schultz interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 10Feb77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC), hereafter Schultz interview; SSgt Jack W. Draughon interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 24Mar77 (WM Research file), hereafter Draughon interview; 1stSgt Esther D. Waclawski interview with Hist&MusDiv dtd Nov76 (WM Research file), hereafter Waclawski interview.

1. Col Katherine A. Towle, *Women in the Marine Corps* draft (File, Mission of Women Marines, box 3, WMs HQMC Records).
2. Hamblet interview.
3. Katherine A. Towle, *Administration and Leadership* (Berkeley: The University of California, 1970), pp. 122, 138-139.
4. Ibid., p. 139.
5. DP&P Study No. 12785, dtd 4Dec47 (Organizations file).
6. DirWM Study No. 1-48, dtd 29Nov48 (Old Studies).
7. CMC ltr to all enlisted women and former enlisted women, MCWR, dtd 15Jul48 (Munroe scrapbook).
8. CMC ltr to all officers and former officers, MCWR, dtd 12Jul48 (File, Requirement for WM, box 7, WMs HQMC Records).
9. DP&P Study No. 179-48, dtd 2Nov48 (File Women Reserve & Regular, box 7, WMs HQMC Records).
10. DP&P Study No. 152-48 (File, Requirement for WM, Box 7, WMs HQMC Records).
11. DirWM Study No. 1-48, dtd 29Nov48 (Old Studies).
12. *Reserve Bulletin*, Nov48.
13. Ruth Cheney Streeter, *History of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve* (Washington, 6Dec45), pp. 31-32.
14. Ibid., p. 52.
15. DP&P Study No. 171-48, dtd 20Oct48 (File, History of the Office of the Dir WMs, box 5, WMs HQMC Records).
16. *Reserve Bulletin*, Dec 48.
17. Waclawski interview.
18. WM Research file.
19. Henderson and Hill interviews.
20. Clowers papers.
21. Col Katherine A. Towle memo to LtCol Jackson, dtd 22Nov48 (File, Reindoctrination Training-WMs, USMCR to USMC, box 7, WMs HQMC Records).
22. Schultz interview.
23. Wilson interview.
24. Hamblet interview.
25. Ibid.

26. Clowers papers.
27. Col Katherine A. Towle ltr to MajGen Leroy P. Hunt, dtd 23Dec48 (File A1/8, Reserve, Division of, box 8, WMs HQMC Records).
28. Marine Corps Memorandum No. 7-48, dtd 16Nov48 (File 1300, Assignment & Distribution 1944-1956, box 3, WMs HQMC Records).
29. DirWM Study No 1A-1949, undtd (Old Studies).
30. Ibid., appd, 17Mar50.
31. Col Katherine A. Towle comments on proposed General Order, dtd 26Sep49 (File 1412, Promotions, box 5, WMs HQMC Records).
32. DirWM Study No 1-48, dtd 29Nov48 (Old Studies).
33. Henderson interview.
34. Hale interview.
35. Muster Roll, 3d Recruit Training Bn, Parris Island, S.C., Feb49.
36. Henderson interview.
37. Hq, MCRD, PISC, Post General Order, Subj: 3rdRTB, Organization of, draft (File P. 11/2, Recruit Training, box 5, WMs HQMC Records).
38. Henderson, Hale, Ryan, and Schultz interviews.
39. Ryan interview.
40. Draughon interview.
41. Ibid.
42. *Reserve Bulletin*, Feb49.
43. *Parris Island Boot*, 26Feb49.
44. Ibid., 16Apr49.
45. Henderson interview.
46. Schultz interview.
47. Hale interview.
48. SSgt Ann Estelle Lamb's Case File (Manpower Department, HQMC).
49. Henderson interview.
50. Schultz interview.
51. Henderson interview.
52. Henry I. Shaw, Jr., and Ralph W. Donnelly, *Blacks in the Marine Corps* (Washington: History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1975), p. 57.
53. *Reserve Bulletin*, Apr49.
54. Carville interview.
55. Col Katherine A. Towle ltr to Doris V. Kleberger, dtd 30Mar49 (Kleberger papers).
56. Muster Rolls, Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia, Jul49.
57. Hill interview.
58. Ibid.
59. *Quantico Sentry*, 30Jun49.
60. Hill interview.
61. *Reserve Bulletin*, Oct49.
62. Kleberger papers.
63. Col Katherine A. Towle comments (Kleberger papers).
64. Kleberger papers.
65. *Reserve Bulletin*, Oct49.
66. Kleberger papers.
67. Hill interview.
68. Ibid.

## CHAPTER 4 THE KOREAN WAR YEARS

Unless otherwise noted, the material in this chapter is derived from: Women's Organized Reserve Units, box 3, WM's HQMC

Records, hereafter WR Units file; File A 1/8 Reserve, Division of, box 7, WM's HQMC Records, hereafter DivRes file; File P 11/3-1, Organized Reserve, box 7, WM's HQMC Records, hereafter Organized Reserve file; Colonel Valeria F. Hilgart interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 23Mar77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC), hereafter Hilgart interview; Lieutenant Colonel Nita Bob Warner interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd Mar77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC), hereafter Judge interview; GySgt Frances Curwen Bilski interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 23Mar77 (WM Research file), hereafter Bilski interview; Theresa "Sue" Sousa interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 31Mar77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC), hereafter Sousa interview; Personal papers loaned by Lieutenant Colonel Pauline B. Beckley to Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, hereafter Beckley papers; Clowers papers; Scrapbook donated by MSgt Julia Benn Stacy to Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, hereafter Stacy scrapbook; Munroe scrapbook.

1. Hamblet interview.
2. WR Units file.
3. *Reserve Bulletin*, Mar49.
4. Ibid., undtd.
5. DivRes file.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
8. *Reserve Bulletin*, Apr49.
9. Wilson interview.
10. Munroe scrapbook.
11. Judge and Bilski interviews.
12. Judge interview.
13. Munroe scrapbook.
14. Ibid.
15. Organized Reserve file.
16. MGySgt Rocita A. Martinez ltr to Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 18Apr77 (WM Research file).
17. Frances M. Exum interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 13Apr77 (WM Research file).
18. Organized Reserve file.
19. Stacy scrapbook.
20. Sousa interview.
21. Warner interview.
22. Kleberger papers.
23. Hale interview.
24. WR Units file.
25. Director of WMs scrapbook (WM Research file).
26. Carville interview.
27. WR Units file.
28. Beckley papers.
29. WR Units file.
30. *The Reserve Marine* (Division of Reserve, HQMC), hereafter *Reserve Marine*, Jan51.
31. SgtMaj Ethyl Wilcox interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 21Jan77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC).
32. Mary Sue Mock Milton interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 26Mar77 (WM Reserve file).
33. Maj Mary E. Roddy interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 17Mar77 (WM Research file).
34. WR Units file.
35. *Reserve Marine*, Nov51.
36. Beckley papers.
37. Stella Uhorczyk ltr to Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 7Mar77 (WM Research file).

38. Judge interview.
39. Waclawski interview.
40. WR Units file.
41. Judge interview.
42. Bilski interview.
43. Old Studies.
44. *Pendleton Scout*, 11Aug50.
45. Waclawski interview.
46. *San Diego Chevron*, 8Dec50.
47. Clowers papers.
48. Warner interview.
49. *El Toro Flight Jacket*, 20Oct50.
50. *Quantico Sentry*, 10Nov50.
51. Carville interview.
52. Katherine Keefe interview with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, 3Aug77.
53. *Cherry Point Windsock*, 30Nov51.
54. Kleberger papers.
55. Anna Orlanda Hopkins ltr to Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 25Feb77 (WM Research file).
56. Hilgart interview, and Lieutenant Colonel Virginia Caley interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 17Feb77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC).
57. Hilgart interview.
58. Kleberger interview.
59. *San Diego Chevron*, undtd.
60. *The Windward Marine*, (Kaneohe, MCAS), 16Mar56.
61. File P 11/2, Recruit Training, box 5, WMs HQMC Records, .
62. Hale interview.
63. Ardella Wheeler Butts interview with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 23Mar77 (WM Research file).
64. Schultz interview.
65. Reserve 46, box 7, WMs HQMC Records.
66. Colonel Margaret A. Brewer interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 30Dec77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC).

## CHAPTER 5 UTILIZATION AND NUMBERS, 1951-1963

Unless otherwise noted, the material in this chapter is derived from: "Maximum Utilization of Women in the Marine Corps," report by Procedures Analysis Office, Nov51, File, Approved Policies on Utilization, Assignment of WMs since 1943, box 1, WMs HQMC Records, hereafter Procedures Analysis Report Nov51; File 1300, Assignment & Distribution (1944-1956), box 3 WMs HQMC Records, hereafter Assignment file 44-56; File, Utilization of Women Marines, DirWMs files, hereafter Util WMs file; File Utilization of Women, box 7, WMs HQMC Records, hereafter Util of Women file; DirWM reports on Women on Active Duty By MOS compiled by author on chart, Utilization Section, box 1, WM Research File, hereafter MOS Chart; "Enlisted Jobs In the Marine Corps Which Can Be Performed By Women In the Event of Mobilization," a thesis by Major Julia E. Hamblet, Ohio State University, 1951 (File 1951, box 1, WM Research file), hereafter Hamblet thesis.

1. Procedures Analysis Report Nov51.
2. Newsclippings, unidentified, DirWMs scrapbook on Parris Island, box 4, WMs HQMC Records.
3. Administrative Officer memorandum to Director, Division of

Plans and Policies, dtd 12Dec50 (Assignment File 44-56).

4. DirWM memorandum to Director, Plans and Policies, dtd 5Jan51 (Assignment file 44-56).
5. Ibid.
6. Procedures Analysis Report Nov51.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. Util WMs file.
10. Marine Corps Memorandum Number 41-52, MOS's appropriate for enlisted women Marines, dtd 17Apr52 (Util WMs file).
11. MOS Chart.
12. Sousa interview.
13. MOS Chart.
14. Hilgart interview.
15. MOS Chart.
16. MGySgt Rocita A. Martinez ltr to Hist&MusDiv, dtd 18Apr77 (WM Response file, WM Research file).
17. MOS Chart.
18. Util WMs file.
19. Asst Chief of Staff memorandum to Director, Plans and Policies, dtd 26Jan53 (Util WMs file).
20. Head, Classification Section memorandum to Head, Detail Branch, dtd 9Mar53 (Util WMs file).
21. Personnel Control Branch memorandum to Asst Chief of Staff, G-1, dtd 26Feb53 (Util WMs file).
22. Head, Classification Section memorandum to Head, Detail Branch, dtd 9Mar53 (Util WMs file).
23. Dir Personnel memorandum to Asst Chief of Staff, G-1, dtd 24Mar53 (Util WMs file).
24. Asst Chief of Staff memorandum to Military Personnel Policy Division, Office of Asst SecDef, dtd 31Mar53 (File, Requirement for WMs, box 7, WMs, HQMC Records).
25. Women's Armed Forces Integration Act of 1948.
26. Hamblet thesis.
27. Hamblet interview.
28. Comments furnished by PIO for release by DOD to free-lance writer, dtd 21Mar55 (Util WMs file).
29. Lieutenant Colonel Gail M. Reals interview with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 6Jan77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC), hereafter Reals interview.
30. Clowers papers.
31. LtCol Emma H. Clowers' Navy Commendation Citation (Manpower Department, HQMC).
32. Ryan interview.
33. Bilski interview.
34. DirWMs memorandum to Asst Chief of Staff, G-3, dtd 12May52 (File 1500, Training and Education, box 3, WMs HQMC Records), hereafter Training file.
35. DirWMs memorandum to Asst Chief of Staff, G-3, dtd 11Aug52 (Training file).
36. *Camp Lejeune Globe*, 23Jan53.
37. Ibid., 8Jan53.
38. Unit Diary, WM Co, MBCL, 8Jan-13Feb 53.
39. MSgt Lillian J. West ltr to Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 22May77 (WM Response file, WM Research file).
40. DirWMs memorandum to Asst Chief of Staff, G-3, dtd 7May54 (File 1510, Enlisted Training, Box 3, WMs HQMC Records).
41. *Camp Lejeune Globe* newsclippings, undtd, loaned by GySgt Frances Curwen Bilski.
42. Carville interview.

**CHAPTER 6**  
**UTILIZATION AND NUMBERS: PEPPER BOARD,**  
**1964-1972**

Unless otherwise noted, the material in this chapter is derived from: File 5300, WM Program Study Group, box 6, WMs HQMC Records, hereafter WMPSG file; Notebook, Pepper Board Backup Material, box 2, WM Research file, hereafter Pepper Board notebook; File, Study No. 1-64, box 6, WMs, HQMC Records, hereafter Study 1-64 file; File, Major Accomplishments (Code AW) 1967-1973, box 1, WM Research file, hereafter Maj Accomplishment file; *Woman Marine Newsletters*, box 2, WM Research file, hereafter *WM Newsletter*; File, 1200 Classification and Designation, Box 3, WMs HQMC Records, hereafter Classification and Designation file; File, Assignment & Distribution (1957-1971), box 3, WMs HQMC Records, hereafter Assignment & Distribution file; File 5200, General Management file, box 5, WMs HQMC Records, hereafter General Management file; File, Assignment of WMs to WestPac, box 7, WMs HQMC Records, hereafter WMs to WestPac file; File, Assignment of WMs Overseas Box 6, WMs HQMC Records; LtCol Jane L. Wallis interview with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 9Mar77, hereafter Wallis interview; LtCol Veal J. Smith interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 2Feb77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC), hereafter Smith interview.

1. DirWMs comments on replies from MCBulletin 5312 of 27Feb63, dtd 24Dec64 (WMPSG file).
2. Ibid.
3. Col Barbara J. Bishop ltr to Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 31Jul77 (WM Response file, WM Research file).
4. Study 1-64 file.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. CMC ltr to LtGen Robert H. Pepper, dtd 3Aug64 (Pepper Board notebook).
8. Ibid.
9. Director of Personnel memorandum to CMC, dtd 18Dec64 (Pepper Board Notebook).
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
12. Ibid.
13. DirWMs memorandum to CMC, dtd 2Dec65 (WMPSG file).
14. Ibid.
15. CMC handwritten comments on memorandum from Asst Chief of Staff, G-1 to CMC, dtd 22Nov65 (WMPSG file).
16. Maj Accomplishment file.
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. Ibid.
20. Maj Accomplishments, 30Jun67 (Maj Accomplishment file).
21. *WM Newsletter*, Spring 67.
22. LtCol Lillian H. Gridley official biography (RefSec, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC).
23. *WM Newsletter*, Spring 67.
24. Dir WMs memorandum to Dir Policy Analysis Div, dtd 15Jan70 (File Miscellaneous White House/Ref Book Items/Fact Sheets, box 5, WMs HQMC Records), hereafter White House file.
25. DirWMs memorandum to Chief of Staff (AD), dtd 20Jan65 (White House File).
26. Maj Joan M. Collins interview with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC,

dtd 7Jan77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC), hereafter Collins interview.

27. Maj Carol Vertalino Deliberto interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 25Apr77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC).

28. Maj Accomplishments, 30Jun69 (Maj Accomplishment file).

29. Dir WMs memorandum to Asst Chief of Staff, G-3, dtd 3Jan68 (File 1520, Officer Training, Box 5, WMs HQMC Records).

30. Ibid.

31. Asst Chief of Staff, G-3 memorandum to DirWMs, dtd 9Feb68 (Officer Training file).

32. Dir WMs memorandum to Dir Policy Analysis Div, dtd 15Jan70 (White House file).

33. Col Mary E. Bane interview with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 30Dec76 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC) hereafter Bane interview.

34. Ibid.

35. DirWMs memorandum to Dir Policy Analysis Div, dtd 22Aug66 (File 1080, Personnel, Box 5, WMs HQMC Records).

36. *WM Newsletter*, Winter 67.

37. DirWMs memorandum to Chief of Staff, G-1, dtd 7Jul66 (Classification and Designation file).

38. CMC ltr to CO, MAD, NATTC, Memphis, Tenn, dtd 21Jul66 (Classification and Designation file).

39. DirWMs comment, subj: Establishment of WM billet in Office of Dep Under Secretary Navy (Mpr), dtd 13Jan67 (Assignment & Distribution file).

40. Statement of Col Jeanette I. Sustad before the Special Subcommittee, House of Representatives, Dec69 (Laws and Legal Matters file, box 5, WMs HQMC Records).

41. Pepper Board notebook.

42. Smith interview.

43. *Desert Dispatch*, Barstow, Calif., 21Jun66.

44. Command Chronology, MCSC, Barstow, Calif, 30Dec67 (Archives, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC).

45. *Prospector*, Barstow, Calif., 21Jul67.

46. Unit Diaries, MCSC, Barstow, Calif., 1967-1971 (RefSec, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC).

47. Public Info Office memorandum, MCSC, Albany, Ga., donated by LtCol Veal J. Smith (Albany file, box 1, WM Research file).

48. *Albany Emblem*, 21Mar69.

49. Ibid., 18Aug67.

50. Ibid., 9Feb68.

51. Unit Diary, MCSC, Albany, Ga., Nov72 (RefSec, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC).

52. DirWMs input for CMC Ref Book Items, dtd 28Nov66 (General Management file).

53. *WM Newsletter*, Autumn 66.

54. DirWMs report to Chief of Staff, dtd 16Sep66 (WMs to West-Pac file).

55. Ibid.

56. Ibid.

57. Bishop letter.

58. Command Chronology, MCAS, Iwakuni, Japan, 1Jul-31Dec66 (Archives, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC).

59. *Torii Teller*, Iwakuni, Japan, 29Mar67.

60. *WM Newsletter*, Spring 67.

61. *Torii Teller*, 27Mar67.

62. *WM Newsletter*, Autumn 66.

63. *Stars & Stripes*, 23Oct66.

64. Maj Nancy A. Carroll ltr to Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd

- 17Apr77 (Wm Response file, WM Research file).
65. Wallis interview.
  66. *Stars & Stripes*, 19Jul67.
  67. Wallis interview.
  68. Ibid.
  69. Ibid.
  70. Ibid.
  71. Sustad interview.
  72. Connolly interview.
  73. Quoted from MSgt B. J. Dulinsky ltr to DirWMs, dtd 18Mar67, *WM Newsletter*, Spring 67.
  74. Quoted from Captain E. E. Filkins ltr to DirWMs, dtd 16Aug68, *WM Newsletter*, Summer 68.
  75. Lieutenant Colonel E. E. Davis interview with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 22Mar77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC).
  76. LtCol Vera M. Jones interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 24Mar77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC).
  77. "Information on Saigon," booklet by DirWMs (File Women Marines in Vietnam, box 1, WM Research file).
  78. Quoted from Captain E. E. Filkins ltr to DirWMs, dtd 7Jan69, *WM Newsletter*, Spring 69.
  79. Quoted from Captain Vera M. Jones ltr to DirWMs, dtd 3Feb68, *WM Newsletter*, Winter 68.
  80. Quoted from MSgt B. J. Dulinsky ltr to DirWMs, dtd 9Feb68.
  81. Quoted from Captain E. E. Filkins ltr to DirWMs, dtd 15Aug68.
  82. Quoted from SSgt E. Salazar ltr to GySgt H. Dowd, dtd 10Sep69, *WM Newsletter*, Winter 69.
  83. ComUSMACV msg to CMC, dtd Jun70 (WM Research file).
  84. Maj Charlene S. Ichawitch ltr to Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 19Jan77 (WM Response file, WM Research file).
  85. Maj Accomplishment file, 30Jun67.
  86. Woman Marine Geographical Assignments, 30Jun71 (Assignment & Distribution file).

## CHAPTER 7 UTILIZATION AND NUMBERS: SNELL COMMITTEE, 1973-1977

Unless otherwise noted, the material in this chapter is derived from Ad Hoc Committee on Increased Effectiveness and Utilization of Women in the Marine Corps File, box 1, WM Research file, hereafter Ad Hoc Committee file; Speeches and articles by DirWMs, notebook, box 2, WM Research file, hereafter DirWMs speech notebook; File, WMs in FMF, Pilot Program, box 1, WM Research file, hereafter WMs in FMF file; Bane interview; Maj Kathleen V. Abbott Ables ltr to Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 7Jul77 (WM Response file, WM Research file), hereafter Ables ltr; Biographies of WMs in the Marine Corps Band file, Box 1, WM Research file, hereafter Marine Corps Band file.

1. Ad Hoc Committee file.
2. Quoted from Deputy C/S (Manpower) ltr to Assistant C/S, et. al., dtd 18Sep72 (Ad Hoc Committee file).
3. Quoted from DirWMs memorandum to CMC, dtd 18Oct73 (Ad Hoc Committee file).
4. Senior Member, Ad Hoc Committee memorandum to Deputy C/S (Manpower), dtd 3Jul73 (Ad Hoc Committee file).
5. Recommendation No. 7, Report of Ad Hoc Committee (Ad Hoc Committee file).

6. Report of Ad Hoc Committee (Ad Hoc Committee file).
7. Remarks by Col Margaret A. Brewer, Defense Manpower Commission, dtd 15May75 (DirWMs speech notebook).
8. *Parris Island Boot*, 9Jul76.
9. *Navy Times*, 28Mar77.
10. Col Margaret A. Brewer, "The Marine Team," *Marine Corps Gazette*, Apr76.
11. Ibid.
12. *Navy Times*, 13Aug75.
13. Capt Charles Barber, Provost Marshal, Parris Island memorandum to Captain Weda, dtd 5Feb74 (WM Research file).
14. *Headquarters Marine Corps Hotline*, Apr75.
15. Cpl Mary F. Bungcayo interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 21Mar77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC).
16. Hilgart interview.
17. 2dLt Judith Cataldo ltr to Hist&MusDiv, dtd 22Mar77 (WM Response file, WM Research file).
18. Ibid.
19. *Navy Times*, 27Apr74.
20. *Daily News*, Jacksonville, N.C., 9Jan75.
21. Ibid.
22. DivInfo news release no. DLS-145-C2-77 (WM Research file).
23. MCRD Command Chronology, Jun-Dec73 (Archives, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC).
24. *Quantico Sentry*, 14Jan74.
25. *Twentynine Palms Observation Post*, 14Mar75.
26. *The Newport News (Va.) Times Herald*, 11Jul75.
27. PIO, Camp Lejeune, N.C., news release no. 08-103-75, dtd 2Sep75.
28. *Camp Lejeune Globe*, 17Feb77.
29. *Beaufort Jet Steam*, 21Jan77.
30. Sgt Geneva Jones interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 21Mar77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC).
31. *Camp Lejeune Globe*, Apr77.
32. LCpl Katie Jones Dixon interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 21Mar77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC).
33. *Cherry Point Windsock*, 19Jul74.
34. *WM Newsletter*, Winter 68.
35. SgtMaj Jaunal ltr to Hist&MusDiv, dtd 1Feb77 (WM Response file, WM Research file).
36. Brewer interview.
37. Johnson biography (Marine Corps Band file).
38. Brewer interview.
39. Individual biographies, Women in the Marine Corps Band (Marine Corps Band file).
40. WMs in FMF file.
41. CMC msg to FMF commanders, dtd 19Feb74 (WMs in the FMF file).
42. *Cherry Point Windsock*, 19Jul74.
43. Ibid.
44. CG, 1stMarDiv msg to CMC, dtd 4Nov74 (WMs in FMF file).
45. Ibid.
46. CG, 2dMAW ltr to CMC, dtd 25Nov74 (WMs in FMF file).
47. CG, FMFPac msg to CMC, dtd 30Oct74 (WMs in FMF file).
48. *Los Angeles Times*, 29Aug76.
49. Ibid.
50. Ibid.
51. Capt K. A. Gordon interviews with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 9Sep77 (WM Research file).
52. Bane interview.

53. Ibid.
54. Ibid.
55. Ables ltr.
56. Ibid.
57. Col Margaret A. Brewer, "The Marine Team," *Marine Corps Gazette*, Apr76.

## CHAPTER 8 RESERVES AFTER KOREA

Unless otherwise noted, the material in this chapter is derived from Files, Reserve 46, box 7, WMs HQMC Records, hereafter Reserve 46 file; File 1510/6, Reserves, box 6, WMs HQMC Records, hereafter Reserves file; File P11/3-1, Organized Reserve, box 7, WMs, HQMC Records; File, Reserves after Korea, box 1, WM Research file, hereafter Res after Korea file; Sousa interview; MSgt Laura J. Dennis interview with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, hereafter Dennis interview. (The author was I&I, WM Platoon, Boston, 1957-1958, and in 1975-1976 prepared two staff studies for the Division of Reserve on the training of senior Women Reserve Officers.)

1. Reserve Memorandum 2-52, concept of the Woman Marine Platoons of the Organized Marine Corps Reserve, dtd 22Jan52 (Reserve 46 file).
2. Dennis interview.
3. Sousa interview.
4. *Reserve Marine*, Feb52.
5. *Navy Times*, 24Dec55.
6. Roster of Platoons (Reserve 46 file).
7. Reserve Structure Board, DivRes, dtd 6May58 (Res after Korea file).
8. LtCol Elsie E. Hill comments, dtd 14May58 (Reserve 46 file).
9. DirWMs memorandum to Division of Reserve, dtd 16May58 (Reserve 46 file).
10. DirWMs memorandum to Chief of Staff, dtd 30Jun58 (Reserve 46 file).
11. LtCol Mary E. Roddy scrapbook loaned to Hist&MusDiv.
12. DirWMs comments, dtd 28Jun67 (Reserve file).
13. Women Marines Reservists, Ad Hoc Committee Report, dtd 13Sep67 (Res after Korea file).
14. MCO 1001R.47, dtd 10Jun71 (Res after Korea file).
15. DivRes talking paper, dtd 3May76 (Res after Korea file).
16. MajGen Michael P. Ryan memorandum to CMC, dtd 23Jul75 (Res after Korea file).
17. CMC msg to CG 4th MarDiv and CG 4th MAW (Res after Korea file).
18. LtCol Patricia A. Hook interview with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd Jun77.
19. News clipping, dateline Ft. Benning, Ga. (Ref Card, WM Research file).
20. Ibid.
21. Ibid.
22. Ibid.

## CHAPTER 9 RECRUIT TRAINING

Unless otherwise noted, the material in this chapter is derived from WRTB Order 5000.3B, SOP for recruit training, 15Apr63, loaned by SgtMaj Eleanor E. Judge to the Hist&MusDiv, HQMC,

hereafter SOP63; WRTB Order P5000.3D, SOP for recruit training, 15Sep71, loaned by Maj Joan M. Collins to Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, hereafter SOP71; MCRD Order P1510.26, SOP for female recruit training, dtd 20Dec76 (WM Research file), hereafter SOP76; File P11/2, Recruit Training, box 5, WMs HQMC Records, hereafter Recruit Training file; File 1510, Enlisted Training, box 3, WMs HQMC Records, hereafter Enlisted Training file; File 1103/1, New WM Complex, Woman Recruit Training Command files, PISC, hereafter WM Complex file; Hill interview; Judge interview; LtCol Vera M. Jones interview with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 24Mar77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC) hereafter Jones interview; Capt Nancy A. Davis interview with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 7Jun77 (WM Research file), hereafter Davis interview; CWO Virginia R. Painter interview with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 22Mar77 (WM Research File), hereafter Painter interview; MSgt Bridget V. Connolly interview with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 4Jan77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC), hereafter Connolly interview. (The author served as S-3, WRTB; commanding officer, Recruit Company; and executive officer, WRTB from Oct61-Aug63.)

1. SOP76.
2. Ibid.
3. CO 3d RTB ltr to CMC, dtd 15Sep52 (Recruit Training file).
4. CO 3d RTB ltr to DirWMs, dtd 31May51 (Recruit Training file).
5. Ibid.
6. Col Katherine A. Towle, 2d endorsement on CO 3d RTB ltr to CMC, dtd 15Sep52 (Recruit Training file).
7. CMC msg to CG MCRD, PISC, dtd 18Aug52 (Recruit Training file).
8. CMC ltr to CG MCRD, PISC, dtd 24Apr58 (Enlisted Training file).
9. *Leatherneck*, Dec58, p. 35.
10. Ibid., p. 38.
11. Ibid., p. 39.
12. CG MCRD, PISC, ltr to CMC, dtd 6Mar61 (Enlisted Training file).
13. *WM Newsletter*, 1967-1969 (WM Research file); Maj Accomplishments file 1967-1970.
14. Input for DirWM newsletter from LtCol Jenny Wrenn, dtd 8Apr70 (WM Research file).
15. Judge interview.
16. Connolly interview.
17. Input for DirWM newsletter from LtCol Jenny Wrenn, dtd 8Apr70 (WM Research file).
18. Judge interview.
19. Collins interview.
20. Reals interview.
21. SOP71.
22. Quoted in *Parade*, 1958 (Hamblet scrapbook).
23. SOP63; SOP71; SOP76.
24. SOP76.
25. Painter interview.
26. SOP63; SOP71.
27. Davis interview.
28. Hill interview.
29. *Parris Island Boot*, 10Oct55.
30. Hill interview.
31. *Parris Island Boot*, 7May76.
32. SOP63; SOP71; SOP76.
33. Constance Shafter ltr to Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 4Mar77 (WM Research file).

34. SOP63; SOP71; SOP76.
35. *Parris Island Boot*, 16Mar68.
36. Jones interview; Davis interview.
37. *Parris Island Boot*, 4Nov50.
38. *Marine Corps Gazette*, Feb63, p. 74.
39. *Parris Island Boot*, 4Oct64.
40. Public Works Officer ltr to CO WRTB, dtd 31Aug67 (WM Complex file).
41. CO WRTB ltr to CG MCRD, PISC, dtd 9Feb75 (WM Complex file).
42. Jones interview.

## CHAPTER 10 OFFICER TRAINING

Unless otherwise noted, the material in this chapter is derived from File, Woman Officer School, MCDEC, MCB, Quantico, 20 December 1974, Disestablishment, WM Research file, hereafter WOS File; LtCol Barbara E. Dolyak interview with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 13Sep77, hereafter Dolyak interview. (The author attended officer candidate training in 1953 and 1954, attended WOIC in 1955, and served on the staff as supply officer and instructor in 1957 and 1958. She served as instructor at WOS from 1965 until 1970.)

1. Clowers papers.
2. Hamblet interview.
3. CMC ltr AO3C53-ch, dtd 14Sep71, referenced in Col Williams
- F. Saunders ltr to CG, MCDEC, dtd 31May72 (WOS file).
4. CMC ltr to CG, MCDEC, dtd 20Feb73 (WOS file).
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. CG, MCDEC ltr to CMC, dtd 16Oct74 (WOS file).
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Dolyak interview.
11. CMC ltr to multiple addresses, White letter No. 5-76, dtd 23Jun76 (WOS file).
12. Ibid.
13. Dolyak interview.
14. Basic School mission, quoted from briefing paper (WOS file).
15. Dolyak interview.
16. Ibid.
17. CG MCDEC ltr to CMC, dtd 20Dec76 (WOS file).
18. Ibid.
19. Ibid.
20. CMC ltr to CG, MCDEC, dtd 30Dec76 (WOS file).
21. Capt Robin L. Austin, quoted in *Camp Lejeune Globe*, 28Apr77.
22. CG MCDEC ltr to CMC, dtd 29Jun77 (WOS file).
23. BGen Paul X. Kelley, quoted in *Quantico Sentry*, 21Jun77.
24. Cruise Book BC 3-77 loaned to Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, by LtCol Barbara E. Dolyak.

## CHAPTER 11 ADMINISTRATION OF WOMEN

Unless otherwise noted, the material in this chapter is derived from a compilation of information, oral, written, and taped, gathered by means of letters and interviews. All women Marines

interviewed for this history, active and former, were asked to comment on the subject of WM companies, barracks, and regulations and the relationship between officers and enlisted women. Regulations vary from post to post so that the information presented in this chapter is representative of most WM commands but not necessarily all of them. In March 1977, the author visited the WM Company, Headquarters Battalion, HQMC; the WM Barracks at Cherry Point, and Headquarters and Service Company, Base Material Battalion, MCB, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

1. Col Katherine A. Towle ltr to MajGen Leroy P. Hunt, dtd 23Dec48 (File A1/8, Reserve, Division of, box 7, WMs HQMC Records).
2. Col Julia E. Hamblet memo to Asst C/S G-1, dtd 14Nov48 (File 5321 Allowances T/Os, box 6, WMs HQMC Records).
3. Gen Louis H. Wilson, White Letter No. 5-76, to all General Officers, all Commanding Officers, and all Officers In Charge, dtd 23Jun76 (WM Research file).
4. Maj Gerald W. Sims interview with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, upon visit of author to Base Material Battalion, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C., 22Mar77.
5. *Quantico Sentry*, 25Mar77.
6. Sgt Carol Fox interview with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 21Mar77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC).
7. Ibid.
8. LCpl Judith Coy and PFC Katie Dixon Jones interviews with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 21Mar77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC), hereafter Coy interview and Dixon interview.
9. Col Margaret A. Brewer interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 16Jun77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC), hereafter Brewer interview.
10. Schultz interview.
11. Painter and Bilski interviews.
12. Hilgart interview.
13. Collins interview.
14. CWO-3 Eileen R. Scanlon interview with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 12Jan77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC).
15. Woman Marine Program Study Group, dtd 30Nov64 (WM Research file).
16. Paula Wiltshire Sentipal ltr to Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 24Jan77 (WM Research file).
17. Lt Cathy A. Fremin interview with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 20Jun77 (WM Research file).
18. LtCol Ruth F. Reinholz interview with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 11Jan77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC), hereafter Reinholz interview.
19. Maj Ruth D. Woidyla interview with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 20Jun77 (WM Research file).
20. Ibid.

## CHAPTER 12 PROMOTIONS

Unless otherwise noted, the material in this chapter was derived from File 1412, Promotions, box 5, WMs HQMC Records, hereafter Promotions file; and Director of WMs *Newletters* 1966-1970. All women Marines interviewed for this history were asked to comment on promotion policies and their effect on careers and on morale.

1. Public Law 90-130.

2. CWO-4 Ruth L. Wood ltr to Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 1Apr77 (Response file, WM Research file).
3. Dir WMs *Newsletter*, Winter 68 (WM Research file).
4. Remarks of the President upon signing H.R. 5894, Office of the White House Press Secretary (Promotions file).
5. Col Margaret A. Brewer, "The Marine Team," *Marine Corps Gazette*, Apr76.
6. *WMs Newsletter*, Spring68 (WM Research file).
7. Dir WMs comments on study to reevaluate the first sergeant/sergeant major program, dtd 21Sep56 (Promotions file).
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Col Julia E. Hamblet memo to Chief of Staff, dtd 21Nov58, Subj: Report of conversation with the Commandant relative to the first sergeant/sergeant major program (Promotion file).
11. MCO 1421.6, dtd 3May60.
12. *Parris Island Boot*, 19Feb65.
13. Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps memo to the Commandant, dtd 1Nov71 (Promotion file).
14. Ibid.
15. Dir WMs comments, dtd 19Nov71 (Promotion file).
16. Asst Chief of Staff memo to Deputy Chief of Staff, Manpower, dtd 7Aug72 (Promotion file).
17. News article undtd, Dir of WMs scrapbook (WMs HQMC Records).

### CHAPTER 13 MARRIAGE, MOTHERHOOD, AND DEPENDENT HUSBANDS

Unless otherwise noted, the material in this chapter was derived from File 5730, Congressional legislative liaison, box 5, WMs, HQMC Records; file, Marriage-Discharge/Transfers, box 3, WMs, HQMC Records, hereafter Marriage file; Dir WMs *Newsletter*, 1966-1970, WM Research file; File, Miscellaneous (White House/Ref Book items/Fact Sheet), box 5, WMs HQMC Records, hereafter Misc file; Col Jeanette I. Sustad interview with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd 20Jun77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC), hereafter Sustad interview; Capt Katherine A. Gordon, interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 29Jun77 (WM Research file), hereafter Gordon interview.

1. Dir WMs comment, dtd 21Sep59 (Marriage file).
2. *WMs Newsletter*, 16Aug66 (WM Research file).
3. Ibid.
4. Proposed Executive Order, Regulations Governing Discharge from the Armed Forces of Women Serving under the Army-Navy Nurses Act of 1947 and the Women's Armed Forces Integration Act of 1948 (Marriage file).
5. LtCol Margaret A. Brewer comments to Mary Ann Kuhn of the *Washington Daily News*, dtd 10Oct70 (Misc file).
6. Sustad interview.
7. Gordon interview.
8. Judge interview.
9. Sustad interview.
10. Maj Mary Sue League papers donated to the Hist&MusDiv, HQMC (WM Research file).
11. MCO 5000.12, dtd 16Jul75 (WM Research file).
12. Office of the Asst SecDef (Manpower, Reserve Affairs, and Logistics) Background Study, Use of Women in the Military, dtd May77 (WM Research file).

13. RAdm Clifford A. Swanson ltr to Office of the Judge Advocate General, dtd 5Jan49 (Marriage file).
14. Col Jeanette I. Sustad remarks to Special Subcommittee on Utilization of Manpower in the Military, House Armed Services Committee, dtd 6Mar72 (File Laws and Legal Matters, box 5, WMs HQMC Records).
15. Equal Opportunity Actions Affecting Military Women (1972-1976) (WM Research file).
16. B. J. Simmons, Jr., Department of Navy Bureau of Personnel memo to Deputy Under Secretary of Navy (Manpower), dtd 13Mar68 (File 5200, General Management, box 5, WM HQMC Records).
17. Clowers papers.
18. Dir WMs memo to Head, Career Planning Branch, dtd 10Aug72 (File 5600, Publications, box 5, WMs HQMC Records).
19. Equal Opportunity Actions Affecting Military Women (1972-1976) (WM Research file).

### CHAPTER 14 UNIFORMS

Unless otherwise noted, the material in this chapter is derived from: Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, *Uniform Regulations U.S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve, 1945*, dtd 30Apr45 (Marine Corps Historical Library, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC), hereafter *Uniform Regulations, 1945*; *Marine Corps Manual*, 1949, with all changes (Marine Corps Historical Library, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC); Marine Corps Order P1020.34, dtd 2Jun61, with all changes to include MCO P1020.34C, dtd 12Mar76 (Central Files, HQMC), hereafter MCO P1020.34; *WM Newsletter*, and Munn interview.

1. *Uniform Regulations, 1945*.
2. Warner interview.
3. Carville interview.
4. Maj Harry D. Elms interview with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, Nov76, (WM Research file).
5. Munn interview.
6. *Parris Island Boot*, Nov50.
7. Munn interview.
8. Hamblet interview.
9. DirWMs memorandum to Secretary-Recorder, Permanent Marine Corps Uniform Board, dtd 13Mar62 (Uniform notebook, box 2, WM Research file), hereafter Uniform notebook.
10. DirWMs memorandum to President, Permanent Marine Corps Uniform Board, dtd 2Jul62 (Uniform notebook).
11. Col Mary E. Bane interview with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, Nov76.
12. Ibid.
13. Munn interview.
14. Newsclippings marked *Journal*, 31Aug52, otherwise unidentified, donated by LtCol Munn (box 2, WM Research file).
15. "The Premier Presentation of Women Marines Uniforms designed by Mainbocker, Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C.," 28Aug52, program donated by LtCol Ben Alice Day Munn (box 2, WM Research file).
16. Henderson interview.
17. *Parris Island Boot*, 26Jan66.
18. *WM Newsletter*, Winter 68.
19. Col Jeanette I. Sustad interview with Hist&MusDiv, HQMC, dtd Nov76.
20. Paula Wiltshire Sentipal interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd Nov76.

21. MCO P1020.34C, dtd 12Mar76.
22. LtCol Elsie E. Hill ltr to Col Margaret M. Henderson, dtd 7Dec61 (File 1021, Clothing & Uniform, box 1, WMs HQMC Records).
23. MCO P1020.34A, C1, dtd 4Nov63.
24. MCB 1020, dtd 22Sep75 (Central Files, HQMC).
25. *Navy Times*, 20Jun77.

## CHAPTER 15 LAURELS AND TRADITIONS

Unless otherwise noted, the material in this chapter was derived from Laurels and Traditions Section, WM Research Notebook 3, box 2, WM Research file, hereafter Laurels file; WM Anniversary file, box 2, WM Research file, hereafter Ann file; and Molly Marine file, box 2, WM Research file, hereafter Molly Marine file.

1. Director of WMs File, box 2, WM Research file.
2. Col Hazel E. Benn's Legion of Merit citation (Manpower Dept, HQMC).
3. Col Hazel E. Benn interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 17Jan77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC).
4. *Leatherneck*, undated 1953.
5. SSgt Barbara O. Barnwell's Navy and Marine Corps Medal citation (Manpower Dept, HQMC).
6. *Syracuse* (N.Y.) *Herald-American*, 9Aug53.
7. *Navy Times*, 17Jul63.
8. GySgt D. L. Kearns' Navy and Marine Corps Medal citation (Manpower Dept, HQMC).
9. 1stLt V. K. Brame's Navy and Marine Corps Medal citation (Manpower Dept, HQMC).
10. *Reidsville* (N.C.) *Review*, undated (Laurels file).
11. *Oceanside* (Calif.) *Breeze*, 18Nov76.
12. LCpl Sheryl L. Young's Navy and Marine Corps Medal citation (Manpower Dept, HQMC).
13. Capt Leaverton, LtCol O'Hollern, and LtCol Reinholz' Bronze Star medal citations (Manpower Dept, HQMC).
14. *Leatherneck*, Jul64.
15. 1stSgt Josephine S. Davis letter and papers donated to Hist&MusDiv, dtd 14Dec76 (Response file, box 2, WM Research file), hereafter Davis papers.
16. SSgt J. Gebers ltr to SSgt Joan Ambrose, dtd 7May65 (Laurels file)
17. Davis papers.
18. Headquarters Marine Corps photo No. 12358, dtd 13Feb44.
19. Dir WMs memo to Col Dana C. Hart, dtd 7Mar51 (Ann file).
20. Brewer interview.
21. Mrs. John B. Cook telecon to Hist&MusDiv, dtd 18May77.
22. Hamblet interview.
23. Gen Clifton B. Cates ltr to Col Katherine A. Towle, dtd 13Feb51 (Ann File).
24. Memo for file, unsigned, dtd 21Jan54 (Ann file).
25. Gen Randolph McC. Pate ltr to Col Julia E. Hamblet, dtd 13Feb56 (Ann file).

26. Dir WMs memo to Chief of Staff, dtd 12Jan60 (Ann file).
27. Dir WMS comment on proposed CMC message on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of WMs, dtd 7Jan74 (Ann file).
28. Ibid.
29. Message from the Commandant, dtd 13Feb74 (Ann file).
30. *Parris Island Boot*, 20Feb70.
31. Ibid.
32. Molly Marine file.
33. WMA file, box 2, WM Research file.

## CHAPTER 16 THE SERGEANTS MAJOR OF WOMEN MARINES

Unless otherwise noted, the material in this chapter is derived from the official biographies of the sergeants major (File Sergeant Major, WM Research file).

1. Qualification for Sergeant Major of Women Marines (File Sergeant Major, WM Research file).
2. Sergeant Major Grace A. Carle interview with Hist&MusDiv, dtd 15Mar77 (Oral Hist Collection, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC).

## CHAPTER 17 THE DIRECTORS OF WOMEN MARINES

Unless otherwise noted, the material for this chapter was derived from the official biographies of each of the Directors of Women Marines and collected news articles filed under each one's name, Dir WMs File, box 2, WM Research file, hereafter Dir WMs file; and Women Marines File, RefSec, Hist&MusDiv, HQMC. (The author attended the ceremony marking the disestablishment of the Director of Women Marines office on 30Jun77.)

1. Katherine A. Towle File (Dir WMs file).
2. *Oakland Tribune*, 16May63.
3. Hamblet interview.
4. Munn interview.
5. Julia E. Hamblet File (Dir WMs file).
6. *Boston Post*, 19Apr53.
7. Judge interview.
8. Margaret M. Henderson File (Dir WMs file).
9. Col Ruth C. Streeter, *Tales of an Ancient Marine* (privately published), p. 56 (Hist&MusDiv, HQMC).
10. Barbara J. Bishop file (Dir WMs file).
11. Jeanette I. Sustad file (Dir WMs file).
12. Col Jeanette I. Sustad's Legion of Merit citation (Manpower Dept, HQMC).
13. Margaret A. Brewer file (Dir WMs file).
14. Brewer interview, 30Dec76.
15. Brewer interview, 16Jun77.
16. Col Margaret M. Henderson briefing of Indonesian WAVE officers, 20Nov63 (Speeches by Directors and CMC, box 2, WM Research file).
17. Brewer interview, 16Jun77.
18. Ibid.

# Appendix A

## Women Marines Strength, 1948-1977

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DATE	OFFICERS	ENLISTED	TOTAL
30 June 48	8	159	167
30 June 49	31	322	353
30 June 50	45	535	580
30 June 51	63	2,002	2,065
30 June 52	115	2,347	2,462
30 June 53	160	2,502	2,662
30 June 54	163	2,339	2,502
30 June 55	135	2,113	2,248
30 June 56	113	1,634	1,747
30 June 57	107	1,510	1,617
30 June 58	115	1,530	1,645
30 June 59	123	1,703	1,826
30 June 60	123	1,488	1,611
30 June 61	117	1,495	1,612
30 June 62	121	1,576	1,697
30 June 63	135	1,563	1,698
30 June 64	128	1,320	1,448
30 June 65	140	1,441	1,581
30 June 66	153	1,697	1,832
30 June 67	189	2,122	2,311
30 June 68	228	2,555	2,780
30 June 69	284	2,443	2,727
30 June 70	299	2,119	2,418
30 June 71	277	1,981	2,258
30 June 72	282	2,066	2,348
30 June 73	315	1,973	2,288
30 June 74	336	2,402	2,738
30 June 75	345	2,841	3,186
30 June 76	386	3,133	3,519
30 June 77	407	3,423	3,830



## Appendix B

# Occupational Fields for Women Officers

Occupational fields in which women officers are eligible to serve, and percentages in each, as of 31 December 1976.\*

	NO. WOMEN OFFICERS	PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN OFFICERS	PERCENTAGE OF USMC OFFICERS
01 PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION	142	33.41	30.80
02 INTELLIGENCE	18	4.23	9.42
04 LOGISTICS	0	0.00	0.00
13 ENGINEER AND SHORE PARTY	4	0.94	0.56
14 DRAFTING, SURVEYING, AND MAPPING	0	0.00	0.00
15 PRINTING AND REPRODUCTION	0	0.00	0.00
21 ORDNANCE	0	0.00	0.00
23 EXPLOSIVES ORDNANCE DISPOSAL	0	0.00	0.00
25 OPERATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS	20	4.70	2.22
26 SIGNALS INTEL/GROUND ELECT WF	0	0.00	0.00
28 TELECOM MAINTENANCE	0	0.00	0.00
30 SUPPLY ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS	28	6.59	2.25
31 TRANSPORTATION	5	1.17	16.67
32 REPAIR SERVICES	0	0.00	0.00
33 FOOD SERVICES	8	1.90	20.51
34 AUDITING, FINANCE, AND ACCOUNTING	46	10.80	21.00
35 MOTOR TRANSPORT	6	1.40	4.41
40 DATA SYSTEMS	18	4.23	6.47
41 MC EXCHANGE	12	2.82	44.44
43 PUBLIC AFFAIRS	14	3.29	35.90
44 LEGAL SERVICES	26	6.11	5.21
46 PHOTOGRAPHY	5	1.17	5.26
49 TRAINING AND TRAINING AIDS	3	0.70	17.65
55 BAND	0	0.00	0.00
57 NUCLEAR, BIOLOGICAL, AND CHEMICAL	0	0.00	0.00
58 MILITARY POLICE AND CORRECTIONS	5	1.15	5.26
59 ELECTRONICS MAINTENANCE	1	0.23	0.71
60/61 AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE	4	0.94	1.98
65 AVIATION ORDNANCE	0	0.00	0.00
66 AVIONICS	0	0.00	0.00
68 WEATHER SERVICE	3	0.70	21.43
70 AVIATION OPERATIONS	1	0.23	4.17
72 AIR CONTROL/SUPPORT/ANTIAIR WF	9	2.11	1.61
73 AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL	13	3.05	13.40
99 IDENTIFYING AND REPORTING MOS'S	34	8.00	3.01
03, 08, 18, 75 — not eligible for assignment			

\*(Source: WM Research file)



## Appendix C

# Occupational Fields for Enlisted Women

Occupational fields in which enlisted women are eligible to serve, and percentages in each, as of 31 December 1976.\*

	NO. ENLISTED WOMEN	PERCENTAGE OF ENLISTED WOMEN	PERCENTAGE OF ENLISTED MARINES
01 PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION	950	30.42	9.05
02 INTELLIGENCE	4	0.12	0.33
04 LOGISTICS	22	0.70	1.84
00 UTILITIES	38	1.21	1.63
13 ENGINEER AND SHORE PARTY	31	0.99	0.37
14 DRAFTING, SURVEYING, AND MAPPING	5	0.16	1.59
15 PRINTING AND REPRODUCTION	14	0.44	6.90
21 ORDNANCE	2	0.06	0.07
23 EXPLOSIVES ORDNANCE DISPOSAL	0	0.00	0.00
25 OPERATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS	155	4.96	1.21
26 SIGNALS INTEL/GROUND ELECT WF	0	0.00	0.00
28 TELECOM MAINTENANCE	166	5.31	4.11
30 SUPPLY ADMINISTRATION/SUPPLY	443	14.18	3.87
31 TRANSPORTATION	69	2.21	8.59
32 REPAIR SERVICES	8	0.25	2.60
33 FOOD SERVICES	16	0.51	0.39
34 AUDITING, FINANCE, AND ACCOUNTING	139	4.45	8.17
35 MOTOR TRANSPORT	186	5.95	1.41
40 DATA SYSTEMS	101	3.23	6.18
41 MC EXCHANGE	75	2.40	12.02
43 PUBLIC AFFAIRS	53	1.69	15.19
44 LEGAL SERVICES	91	2.99	16.98
46 PHOTOGRAPHY	19	0.60	4.52
49 TRAINING AND TRAINING AIDS	47	1.50	14.78
55 BAND	28	0.89	3.76
57 NUCLEAR, BIOLOGICAL, AND CHEMICAL	0	0.00	0.00
58 MILITARY POLICE AND CORRECTIONS	90	2.88	2.12
59 ELECTRONICS MAINTENANCE	1	0.03	0.05
60/61 AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE	13	0.41	0.12
65 AVIATION ORDNANCE	0	0.00	0.00
66 AVIONICS	57	1.84	0.81
68 WEATHER SERVICE	22	0.70	7.24
70 AVIATION OPERATIONS	25	0.80	1.27
72 AIR CONTROL/SUPPORT/ANTIAIR WF	0	0.00	0.00
73 AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL	15	0.48	1.86
98 U.S. MARINE CORPS BAND	11	0.35	7.59
99 IDENTIFYING AND REPORTING MOS'S	226	7.23	2.44
03, 08, 18, 75— not eligible for assignment			

\*(Source: *WM Research file*)



# Appendix D

## Women Marine Units, 1946-1977

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**Company E, Headquarters Battalion, Headquarters Marine Corps, Henderson Hall, Arlington, Virginia; activated 19 August 1946; disbanded 31 May 1950**

### COMMANDING OFFICERS

First Lieutenant Regina M. Durant ..... 19 Aug 1946-30 Dec 1946  
 Captain Elizabeth J. Elrod ..... 31 Dec 1946-19 Dec 1948  
 Captain Pauline B. Beckley ..... 20 Dec 1948-31 May 1950

*Officers carried on rolls of Company C, Headquarters Battalion; enlisted women carried on rolls of Companies D and E, Headquarters Battalion, according to their work section.*

*Company D, Headquarters Battalion, Headquarters Marine Corps, Henderson Hall, Arlington, Virginia, activated 1 July 1952*

*Redesignated Woman Marine Company, Headquarters Battalion, Headquarters Marine Corps, Henderson Hall, Arlington, Virginia, 20 May 1970; deactivated 4 August 1977*

### COMMANDING OFFICERS

First Lieutenant Elaine T. Carville ..... 1 Jul 1952-7 Jul 1953  
 Major Jeanette Pearson ..... 8 Jul 1953-2 Jun 1954  
 Captain Joyce M. Hamman ..... 3 Jun 1954-9 Nov 1954  
 Second Lieutenant Elizabeth M. Faas ..... 11 Nov 1954-1 Feb 1955  
 Second Lieutenant Florence E. Land ..... 2 Feb 1955-6 Mar 1955  
 Second Lieutenant Valeria F. Hilgart ..... 7 Mar 1955-19 Jan 1956  
 Captain Virginia Caley ..... 31 Jan 1956-31 Jul 1957  
 Captain Patricia A. Maas ..... 1 Aug 1957-9 Jun 1959  
 First Lieutenant Dorothy A. Olds ..... 10 Jun 1959-5 Jan 1960  
 Captain Patricia A. Watson ..... 6 Jan 1960-25 Nov 1962  
 Captain Carol J. Carlson ..... 26 Nov 1962-31 Jan 1964  
 Captain Gail M. Reals ..... 3 Feb 1964-23 Dec 1966  
 Captain Nancy J. Mackie ..... 24 Dec 1966-13 Jun 1968  
 Captain Melba J. Myers ..... 14 Jun 1968-3 Jul 1968  
 First Lieutenant Mary G. Nitsch ..... 4 Jul 1968-23 Jul 1968  
 Captain Jeanne A. Botwright ..... 24 Jul 1968-1 Apr 1970  
 Captain Charlene M. Summers ..... 2 Apr 1970-23 Jan 1972  
 First Lieutenant Karen I. Kelly ..... 24 Jan 1972-7 Feb 1972  
 Captain Joan M. Collins ..... 8 Feb 1972-11 Jul 1974  
 Captain Shelley B. Mayer ..... 12 Jul 1974-18 Jul 1977  
 First Lieutenant Cathy A. Fremin ..... 19 Jul 1977-30 Aug 1977

**Woman Officer Training Detachment, Basic School, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia: Captain Elsie E. Hill and staff attached to Headquarters Battalion; operational control under G-3, Basic School. Unit activated only when class in session during summers of 1949 and 1950. First class began 20 June 1949.**

*Woman Officer Training Detachment, Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia, activated 16 May 1952 as permanent unit under Basic School*

*Redesignated Women Marines Training Detachment, Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia*

*Redesignated Woman Marine Detachment, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia, 17 December 1958*

*Redesignated Woman Officer School, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia, 16 April 1965*

*Woman Officer School redesignated as a school under the Education Center, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia 12 June 1973; disestablished 20 December 1974*

#### COMMANDING OFFICERS

Captain Elsie E. Hill	20 Jun 1949-24 Sep 1951
Captain Emma H. Hendrickson	25 Sep 1951-30 Nov 1951
Lieutenant Colonel Julia E. Hamblet	16 May 1952-6 Apr 1953
Major Dorothy M. Knox	7 Apr 1953-31 May 1953
Major Margaret M. Henderson	1 Jun 1953-10 Dec 1954
Major Mary Janice Hale	11 Dec 1954-11 May 1955
Lieutenant Colonel Pauline B. Beckley	12 May 1955-10 Feb 1957
Major Nita Bob Warner	11 Feb 1957-15 May 1957
Lieutenant Colonel Emma Henderickson Clowers	16 May 1957-23 Mar 1959
Major Nita Bob Warner	24 Mar 1959-1 May 1959
Lieutenant Colonel Dorothy M. Knox	2 May 1959-11 Jun 1962
Lieutenant Colonel Doris V. Kleberger	12 Jun 1962-16 Jun 1965
Major Margaret A. Brewer	17 Jun 1965-30 Jul 1965
Lieutenant Colonel Elsie E. Hill	31 Jul 1965-31 Oct 1966
Major Ruth F. Reinholz	1 Nov 1966-31 Jan 1967
Lieutenant Colonel Valeria F. Hilgart	1 Feb 1967-9 Apr 1970
Lieutenant Colonel Theresa M. Hayes	10 Apr 1970-10 Jan 1972
Lieutenant Colonel Carolyn J. Auldridge Walsh	11 Jan 1972-10 Jul 1973
Lieutenant Colonel Roberta N. Roberts Patrick	12 Jul 1973-20 Dec 1974

**3d Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina, activated 23 February 1949**

*Redesignated Woman Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina, 1 May 1954*

*Redesignated Woman Recruit Training Command, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina, 28 May 1976*

#### COMMANDING OFFICERS

Captain Margaret M. Henderson	23 Feb 1949-19 Jun 1950
Captain Mary J. Hale	29 Aug 1950-17 Sep 1950

Major Pauline B. Beckley .....	18 Sep 1950-25 Nov 1952
Major Helen M. Tatum .....	26 Nov 1952-11 Jan 1953
Major Nita Bob Warner .....	12 Jan 1953-7 Apr 1954
Lieutenant Colonel Elsie E. Hill .....	8 Apr 1954-2 Sep 1956
Major Jeanette I. Sustad .....	3 Sep 1956-21 Oct 1956
Lieutenant Colonel Barbara J. Bishop .....	22 Oct 1956-25 Jul 1959
Major Doris V. Kleberger .....	26 Jul 1959-2 Dec 1959
Lieutenant Colonel Elsie E. Hill .....	3 Dec 1959-15 May 1962
Lieutenant Colonel Julia E. Hamblet .....	16 May 1962-25 Apr 1965
Lieutenant Colonel Dorothy M. Knox .....	26 Apr 1965-4 Apr 1967
Major Mary E. Bane .....	5 Apr 1967-26 Oct 1967
Lieutenant Colonel Ruth J. O'Holleran .....	27 Oct 1967-15 Jul 1969
Lieutenant Colonel Jenny Wrenn .....	16 Jul 1969-9 Feb 1971
Lieutenant Colonel Roberta N. Roberts .....	10 Feb 1971-11 Jul 1972
Major Gail M. Reals .....	12 Jul 1972-15 Aug 1972
Lieutenant Colonel Ruth F. Reinholz .....	16 Aug 1972-20 Dec 1972
Major Gail M. Reals .....	21 Dec 1972-6 May 1973
Lieutenant Colonel Jenny Wrenn .....	7 May 1973-30 Jul 1975
Lieutenant Colonel Vera M. Jones .....	31 Jul 1975-14 Sep 1977
Lieutenant Colonel Gail M. Reals .....	15 Sep 1977-

**Post Troops, 3d Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina, activated 11 January 1950**

SECTION COMMANDER

Second Lieutenant Mary S. Mock .....	11 Jan 1950-21 Aug 1951
Captain Emily Schultz .....	22 Aug 1951-14 Nov 1951

**Company W, Marine Barracks, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, activated 13 October 1950**

*Redesignated Camp Headquarters Women Marines Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Barracks, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, 29 November 1951*

*Redesignated Woman Marine Company, Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, 1 June 1954*

*Redesignated Woman Marine Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, 9 June 1961; deactivated 2 August 1977*

COMMANDING OFFICERS

Captain Mary J. Fischer Elder .....	13 Oct 1950-5 Sep 1953
Captain Elaine T. Carville .....	6 Sep 1953-16 Oct 1953
Major Barbara J. Bishop .....	17 Oct 1953-11 Apr 1955
First Lieutenant Nancy L. White .....	12 Apr 1955-11 Jul 1955
Captain Mary Sue Mock .....	12 Jul 1955-4 Mar 1957
Captain Margaret A. Brewer .....	8 Mar 1957-12 May 1958
Captain Ellen B. Moroney .....	13 May 1958-11 Sep 1961

Captain Jane L. Wallis	12 Sep 1961-20 Mar 1964
Captain Carol A. Vertalino	21 Mar 1964-26 May 1966
Major Elsa L. Farman	27 May 1966-10 May 1967
Captain Jo H. Hall	11 May 1967-23 Jan 1969
Captain Della J. Elden	24 Jan 1969-19 Jul 1970
Captain Ruby J. Chapman	20 Jul 1970-29 Nov 1971
Captain Juanita A. Lamb	30 Nov 1971- 20 Jun 1973
Captain Carol L. Pollack	21 Jun 1973-13 Nov 1975
Captain Linda Essex Edwards	14 Nov 1975-2 Aug 1977

### **Woman Marine Company, Service Battalion, Marine Barracks, Camp Joseph H. Pendleton, California, activated 1 June 1951**

*Redesignated Woman Marine Company, Headquarters Battalion, Marine Barracks, Camp Pendleton, California, 20 September 1952*

*Redesignated Woman Marine Company, Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, California, 1954*

*Redesignated Woman Marine Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, 21 January 1958*

*Redesignated WM Company, Headquarters Battalion, Headquarters Regiment, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, 1 July 1962; deactivated 1 April 1974*

#### COMMANDING OFFICERS

Captain Jeanette I. Sustad	1 Jun 1951-27 Aug 1952
Second Lieutenant Valeria F. Hilgart	28 Aug 1952-29 Nov 1952
Second Lieutenant Catherine M. Gregory	30 Nov 1952-27 Mar 1953
Captain Frances M. Johnson	28 Mar 1953-6 Sep 1954
Second Lieutenant Ruth J. O'Holleran	7 Sep 1954-3 Dec 1955
Captain Jenny Wrenn	4 Dec 1955-28 Feb 1957
First Lieutenant Dorothy A. Olds	1 Mar 1957-10 Mar 1957
Captain Marguerita C. Russell	11 Mar 1957-26 Jan 1958
Captain Clarabelle M. Merritt	27 Jan 1958-10 Jan 1960
Captain Martha A. Cox	11 Jan 1960-19 Sep 1961
Captain Shirley L. Mink	20 Sep 1961-9 Oct 1963
Major Florence E. Land	10 Oct 1963-4 Jul 1964
First Lieutenant Carla H. Bednar	5 Jul 1964-1 Dec 1964
First Lieutenant Sara R. Beauchamp	2 Dec 1964-1 Mar 1965
First Lieutenant Jolana Johnson	2 Mar 1965-1 Oct 1966
Captain Estella C. Rhodes	2 Oct 1966-30 Jun 1967
Captain Mary S. Stevens League	1 Jul 1967-2 Dec 1968
Captain Anna H. Williams	3 Dec 1968-2 Jul 1969
Captain Sharyll A. B. Plato	3 Jul 1969-9 Sep 1969
Captain Anna H. Williams	10 Sep 1969-19 Nov 1969
Second Lieutenant Alice F. Jones	20 Nov 1969-30 Dec 1969
Captain Barbara A. Schmidt	31 Dec 1969-29 Nov 1970
Major Georgia L. Swickheimer	30 Nov 1970-6 Apr 1971
First Lieutenant Sue E. Vanhaastert	7 Apr 1971-19 Jul 1971
Second Lieutenant Roberta M. Baro	20 Jul 1971-2 Aug 1971

Captain Lillian Hagener	3 Aug 1971-16 Aug 1973
Captain Nancy J. Lewis Hackert	17 Aug 1973-12 Jan 1974
First Lieutenant Donna M. Hug	11 Jan 1974-10 Feb 1974
First Lieutenant Maria T. Hernandez	11 Feb 1974-1 Apr 1974

**Post Personnel Company, 3d Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina, activated 15 November 1951**

*Redesignated Permanent Personnel Company, Woman Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina, 1 May 1954*

*Redesignated Headquarters Company, Woman Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina (date unknown)*

*Redesignated Permanent Personnel Company, Woman Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina, 1 April 1958*

*Redesignated Headquarters Company, Woman Marine Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina, 27 April 1964; deactivated 25 May 1976*

COMMANDING OFFICERS

Captain Emily Schultz	15 Nov 1951-25 Nov 1952
Second Lieutenant Phyllis J. Young	26 Nov 1952-26 Jun 1953
First Lieutenant Muriel J. Katschker	27 Jun 1953-18 Jul 1954
Captain Essie M. Lucas	19 Jul 1954-12 Mar 1955
First Lieutenant Ruth F. Reinholz	14 Mar 1955-12 Jun 1956
Second Lieutenant Francis B. Newman	13 Jun 1956-7 Jul 1956
Captain Constance Baker	8 Jul 1956-1 Nov 1957
Captain Gussie R. Calhoun	2 Nov 1957-2 Mar 1959
Major Doris V. Kleberger	3 Mar 1959-5 Jul 1959
Captain Donrue Wever	6 Jul 1959-11 Jun 1960
First Lieutenant Betty L. Leonard	12 Jun 1960-20 Aug 1960
Captain Patsy A. Twilley	21 Aug 1960-22 Mar 1962
First Lieutenant Jo Ann Kilday	23 Mar 1962-10 Sep 1962
Captain Leah M. Draper	12 Sep 1962-30 Jun 1963
First Lieutenant Jacqueline Leffler White	1 Jul 1963-31 Jan 1964
Second Lieutenant Barbara J. Oliver	1 Feb 1964-16 Feb 1964
First Lieutenant Vera M. Jones	17 Feb 1964-3 Jan 1965
Captain Mary S. Stevens	4 Jan 1965-15 Aug 1966
First Lieutenant Johnena J. Cochran	15 Aug 1966-6 Feb 1967
First Lieutenant Suellen A. Beaulieu	7 Feb 1967-1 Aug 1967
Captain Loretta J. Ross	2 Aug 1967-17 Mar 1968
First Lieutenant Marie L. Arnold	18 Mar 1968-22 Dec 1968
Captain Jean M. Panzer	23 Dec 1968-23 Sep 1969
Major Karen G. Wheeler	24 Sep 1969-31 Oct 1969
First Lieutenant Bonnie J. Tervo	1 Nov 1969-21 May 1970
Second Lieutenant Elizabeth T. Agaisse	24 May 1970-3 Jul 1970
Captain Emma G. Ramsey	5 Jul 1970-28 Feb 1971
First Lieutenant Elizabeth T. Agaisse	1 Mar 1971-15 Apr 1971
First Lieutenant Cheryl J. McCauley	18 Apr 1971-20 May 1971
Captain Shirley E. Leaverton	21 May 1971-16 Jul 1973

First Lieutenant Barbara J. Gard	17 Jul 1973-11 Sep 1973
Captain Carolyn Bever Wiseman	12 Sep 1973-23 Apr 1974
First Lieutenant Susan V. Wagner	24 Apr 1974-26 Sep 1974
Captain Carol A. Barber	30 Sep 1974-9 Jul 1975
Second Lieutenant Bonnie L. Duphiney	10 Jul 1975-2 Aug 1975
Captain Barbara A. Martin	3 Aug 1975-25 May 1976

**Woman Marine Detachment-1, Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, California, activated 15 May 1951**

*Woman Marine Detachment-1 redesignated Sub Unit-2, Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station, upon reorganization of the air station on 15 March 1972; deactivated 20 February 1974*

COMMANDING OFFICERS

Captain Nita Bob Warner	15 May 1951-15 Dec 1952
Major Shirley J. Fuetsch	16 Dec 1952-8 Jan 1953
First Lieutenant Wilma Morris	9 Jan 1953-4 Feb 1953
Major Ben Alice Day	5 Feb 1953-30 Dec 1954
First Lieutenant Shirley A. Tate	1 Jan 1955-14 Mar 1955
Major Helen A. Tatum	15 Mar 1955-29 Apr 1955
Major Dorothy M. Knox	30 Apr 1955-3 Apr 1958
Captain Valeria F. Hilgart	4 Apr 1958-17 Oct 1960
First Lieutenant Sonia Rivera-Cuevas	18 Oct 1960-16 Jan 1961
Captain Marie J. Halvorsen	17 Jan 1961-11 Feb 1962
First Lieutenant Nancy Talbot Rick	12 Feb 1962-13 Nov 1963
Captain Nanette L. Beavers	14 Nov 1963-5 Nov 1966
Major Roberta N. Roberts	6 Nov 1966-20 Aug 1967
Captain Judith K. Lund	21 Aug 1967-26 Nov 1969
First Lieutenant Eleanor J. McElroy	27 Nov 1969-22 Sep 1970
Lieutenant Colonel Jane L. Wallis	23 Sep 1970-8 Mar 1971
Major Barbara E. Dolyak	9 Mar 1971-1 May 1972
Captain Marcia A. Biddleman	1 Jul 1972-1 Mar 1973
CWO-3 June R. Doberstein	2 Mar 1973-20 Feb 1974

**Woman Marine Detachment-2, Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, North Carolina, activated 1 March 1951; deactivated 31 December 1974**

COMMANDING OFFICERS

Major Helen A. Wilson	1 Mar 1951-3 May 1951
First Lieutenant Nancy J. Mecartney	4 May 1951-8 Sep 1953
Captain Emily Schultz	9 Sep 1953-17 May 1954
First Lieutenant Louise M. Snyder	18 May 1954-12 Sep 1954
Captain Sara F. Hanan	13 Sep 1954-24 Jan 1955
Captain Jeanne Fleming	25 Jan 1955-25 May 1956
Captain Ruth F. Reinholz	16 Jun 1956-25 Nov 1957
Captain Ruth J. O'Holleran	26 Nov 1957-24 May 1959

Captain Inger R. Beaumont	25 May 1959-19 Jul 1959
Major Anne S. Ritter	20 Jul 1959-17 Mar 1962
Captain Martha A. Cox	18 Mar 1962-10 Dec 1964
Captain Carolyn J. Auldridge	11 Dec 1964-15 Oct 1966
First Lieutenant Elizabeth D. Doize	1 Nov 1966-28 May 1968
Captain Loretta J. Liehs	29 May 1968-16 Jan 1969
Major Nanette L. Beavers	17 Jan 1969-14 Jan 1970
Captain Donna J. Sherwood	15 Jan 1970-23 Aug 1970
Captain Sara A. Beauchamp	24 Aug 1970-25 Mar 1972
Captain Sharon L. Sherer	28 Mar 1972-31 May 1973
Captain Marguerite K. Campbell	16 Jul 1973-31 Dec 1974

**Woman Marine Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, Camp Elmore, Norfolk, Virginia; activated 1 April 1952; deactivated 15 April 1977**

SUPERVISOR OF WOMEN

Second Lieutenant Doris V. Kleberger	Nov 1950
First Lieutenant Joan McCormick	Nov 1951

COMMANDING OFFICERS

Second Lieutenant Mary E. Sullivan	1 Apr 1952-25 Jun 1952
First Lieutenant Natalie Noble	4 Aug 1952-29 May 1953
Captain Dolores A. Thorning	13 Jun 1953-23 Jan 1955
Second Lieutenant Rita A. Ciotti	24 Jan 1955-13 Aug 1955
Second Lieutenant Martha A. Cox	14 Aug 1955-4 Oct 1955
Captain Margaret A. Brewer	5 Oct 1955-6 Feb 1957
First Lieutenant Shirley J. Gifford	7 Feb 1957-30 Jun 1958
First Lieutenant Eleanor H. Bispham	1 Jul 1958-26 Aug 1958
Captain Margaret R. Pruett	27 Aug 1958-3 Aug 1960
First Lieutenant Valeria M. Dayton	4 Aug 1960-25 May 1962
Captain Georgia L. Swickheimer	26 May 1962-20 Dec 1965
First Lieutenant Mary L. Howard	21 Dec 1965-30 Oct 1967
First Lieutenant Lois J. Bertram	31 Oct 1967-13 Mar 1969
First Lieutenant Mary J. Stoakes	14 Mar 1969-6 Aug 1970
First Lieutenant Carolyn K. Bever Wiseman	7 Aug 1970-24 Nov 1971
First Lieutenant Patricia A. Perkins	25 Nov 1971-13 Feb 1974
First Lieutenant Mary E. Mitchell	14 Feb 1974-12 Dec 1974
Captain Kathryn A. Jacob MacKinney	13 Dec 1974-15 Apr 1977

**Company D, Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia, activated 1 March 1952**

*Redesignated Headquarters Company, Women Marines Detachment, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia, 1 May 1959*

*Reorganized, Headquarters Company, Woman Officer School, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia, 16 April 1965*

*Redesignated Headquarters Company, Woman Officer School, Marine Corps Development and Education Command, Quantico, Virginia, 1 January 1968; deactivated 12 June 1973*

#### OFFICER IN CHARGE, WM BARRACKS

Second Lieutenant Elaine T. Carville ..... 7 Nov 1950-31 Jan 1951  
 First Lieutenant Marion R. Moore ..... 1 Feb 1951-28 Feb 1952

#### COMMANDING OFFICERS

First Lieutenant Marion R. Moore ..... 1 Mar 1952-20 Dec 1952  
 Second Lieutenant Ruth F. Reinholz ..... 23 Dec 1952-11 Jan 1953  
 Captain Bernice M. Pitman ..... 12 Jan 1953-20 Apr 1954  
 First Lieutenant Ruth F. Reinholz ..... 21 Apr 1954-30 Apr 1954  
 Captain Jeanne Fleming ..... 1 Mar 1954-9 Aug 1954  
 First Lieutenant Anne S. Ritter ..... 10 Aug 1954-6 Dec 1955  
 First Lieutenant Ellen B. Moroney ..... 7 Dec 1955-19 Nov 1956  
 Captain Eileen F. Parker ..... 20 Nov 1956-31 Dec 1956  
 Second Lieutenant Marion L. Call ..... 1 Jan 1957-22 Jan 1957  
 Captain Virginia A. Hajek ..... 23 Jan 1957-3 Aug 1958  
 Second Lieutenant Grace Ann Entriken ..... 6 Aug 1958-7 Sep 1958  
 Captain Beverly Schofield Love ..... 8 Sep 1958-31 May 1960  
 First Lieutenant Shirley N. Arnold ..... 1 Jun 1960-5 Jul 1960  
 Second Lieutenant Nanette L. Beavers ..... 6 Jul 1960-31 Jul 1960  
 Captain Jane L. Wallis ..... 1 Aug 1960-11 Aug 1961  
 Captain Grace A. Overholser ..... 21 Aug 1961-5 Jun 1962  
 Captain Margaret R. Pruett ..... 6 Jun 1962-18 Nov 1962  
 First Lieutenant Gail M. Reals ..... 7 Feb 1963-24 Mar 1963  
 First Lieutenant Nancy A. Carroll ..... 26 Mar 1963-21 Apr 1964  
 First Lieutenant Veal J. Smith ..... 22 Apr 1964-5 Dec 1965  
 Captain Jo Anne Kilday ..... 6 Dec 1965-5 Dec 1966  
 Captain Vera M. Jones ..... 6 Dec 1966-20 Jan 1967  
 First Lieutenant Dolores R. Noguera ..... 21 Jan 1967-7 Aug 1967  
 First Lieutenant Ruth D. Walsh ..... 8 Aug 1967-12 Nov 1968  
 First Lieutenant Barbara A. Schmidt ..... 13 Nov 1968-30 Nov 1969  
 Captain Janice C. Scott ..... 1 Dec 1969-11 Oct 1971  
 First Lieutenant Sharon F. Daugherty ..... 12 Oct 1971-30 Apr 1973  
 Captain Shirley L. Bowen ..... 1 May 1973-11 Jun 1973

**Woman Marine Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California, activated 16 June 1952; deactivated 24 February 1977**

#### COMMANDING OFFICERS

Major Emma H. Clowers ..... 16 Jun 1952-23 Apr 1953  
 First Lieutenant Eileen F. Parker ..... 24 Apr 1953-31 May 1953  
 Major Helen A. Wilson ..... 1 Jun 1953-2 Jun 1954  
 Major Shirley J. Fuetsch ..... 3 Jun 1954-31 Oct 1955

Captain Donrue Wever .....	1 Nov 1955-30 Nov 1956
Captain Mary L. Voight .....	2 Dec 1956-8 Apr 1958
Second Lieutenant Margaret H. Frank .....	9 Apr 1958-17 Apr 1958
First Lieutenant Katherine M. Donohue .....	18 Apr 1958-12 Jun 1958
Captain Patricia A. Watson .....	13 Jun 1958-17 Dec 1959
Major Theresa M. Hayes .....	18 Dec 1959-15 Jan 1963
Captain Marilyn F. Day .....	16 Jan 1963-8 Feb 1965
Captain Winifred B. Paul .....	9 Feb 1965-24 Jul 1965
Major Barbara J. Lee .....	26 Jul 1965-26 Dec 1966
Second Lieutenant Elizabeth A. Wilson .....	27 Dec 1966-4 Feb 1967
Captain Gail A. Waugh .....	5 Feb 1967-7 Aug 1968
Captain Susan Sommers .....	13 Aug 1968-29 Aug 1969
Captain Marie J. Halvorsen .....	30 Aug 1969-1 Feb 1970
Captain Lillian Hagener .....	2 Feb 1970-31 Jul 1971
Captain Barbara Weinberger .....	3 Sep 1971-25 Jan 1974
Captain Eleanor F. Pekala .....	26 Jan 1974-2 Sep 1975
First Lieutenant Mary K. P. Lowery .....	25 Sep 1975-9 May 1976
First Lieutenant Candice A. Lewis .....	10 May 1976-24 Feb 1977

### Woman Recruit Training Company, Women Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina

*The company was never a reporting unit. What information is recorded here has been gained through personal interviews and a review of various records, recruit platoon books, newspaper articles, etc.*

#### COMMANDING OFFICERS

Second Lieutenant Margaret L. Grammer Brown .....	1 Jan 1952-4 Sep 1952
First Lieutenant Virginia Caley .....	11 Oct 1952-31 Jul 1953
Captain Essie M. Lucas .....	1 Aug 1953-23 Aug 1954
Captain Elaine T. Carville .....	24 Aug 1954-6 Nov 1956
Captain Theresa M. Hayes .....	7 Nov 1956-22 Dec 1957
Captain Mary E. Bane .....	21 Jan 1958-11 Jun 1960
First Lieutenant Georgia Swickheimer .....	6 Aug 1960-29 Sep 1960
First Lieutenant Mary A. Johnson .....	30 Sep 1960-27 Mar 1961
First Lieutenant Betty L. Leonard .....	22 Jun 1961-30 Jul 1961
First Lieutenant Dolores A. Schleichert .....	31 Jul 1961-29 Apr 1962
Captain Mary L. Vertalino .....	30 Apr 1962-24 Jun 1963
Captain Annie Muriel Trowsdale .....	25 June 1963-3 Jan 1965
Captain Vera M. Jones .....	4 Jan 1965-23 May 1966
Captain Eleanor Elaine Filkins .....	8 Jul 1966-5 Apr 1968
First Lieutenant Suellen A. Beaulieu .....	May 1968
Captain Joan M. Collins .....	17 Jul 1969-17 Aug 1971
Captain Vanda K. Brame .....	18 Aug 1971-13 Jun 1972
Major Gail M. Reals .....	14 Jun 1972-27 Jun 1972
Captain Carolyn K. Bever Wiseman .....	28 Jun 1972-11 Sep 1973
Captain Linda K. Adams Priest .....	12 Sep 1973-31 Oct 1975
Captain Nancy A. Davis .....	1 Nov 1975-June 1977

**Company A, Headquarters and Service Battalion, FMFPac, U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii, activated 24 June 1952**

*Redesignated Woman Marine Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, FMFPac, Camp H. M. Smith, Oahu, Hawaii, 10 July 1956; deactivated 12 February 1976*

COMMANDING OFFICERS

Second Lieutenant Margaret M. Schafer .....	24 Jun 1952-22 Dec 1952
Captain Valeria F. Hilgart .....	23 Dec 1952-13 Jan 1955
Captain Virginia Caley .....	14 Jan 1955-2 Dec 1955
First Lieutenant Theresa M. Hayes .....	3 Dec 1955-6 Jan 1956
Captain Doris V. Kleberger .....	7 Jan 1956-25 Feb 1957
Captain Jenny Wrenn .....	10 Apr 1957-5 Apr 1959
First Lieutenant Nancy J. Durkin .....	6 May 1959-15 Jul 1959
Captain Ruth J. O'Holleran .....	16 Jul 1959-30 Oct 1961
Captain Ellen B. Moroney .....	2 Nov 1961-18 Nov 1962
Captain Carol A. Veralino .....	19 Nov 1962-1 Feb 1964
Captain Elaine E. Filkins .....	2 Feb 1964-14 Dec 1965
Captain Roberta N. Roberts .....	15 Dec 1965-30 Dec 1966
Captain Jeanne A. Borwright .....	31 Dec 1966-5 Dec 1967
Captain Judybeth D. Barnett .....	6 Dec 1967-16 Dec 1970
First Lieutenant Cheryl S. Gillespie .....	21 Dec 1970-16 Jun 1972
Captain Antoinette Meenach .....	17 Jun 1972-1 May 1974
Captain Karen S. De Wolf .....	2 May 1974-12 Feb 1976

**Woman Marine Detachment-3, Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe, Hawaii, activated 2 November 1953; deactivated 1 September 1956**

COMMANDING OFFICERS

Captain Phyllis J. Young .....	2 Nov 1953-2 Oct 1954
Captain Patricia A. Maas .....	10 Oct 1954-1 Sep 1956

**Woman Marine Company, Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Supply Center, Barstow, California; activated 1 July 1967; deactivated August 1971**

COMMANDING OFFICERS

Captain Rebecca M. Kraft .....	1 Jul 1967-8 Sep 1967
Captain Joan Hammond .....	9 Sep 1967-26 Oct 1968
First Lieutenant Diane L. Hamel .....	27 Oct 1968-4 Nov 1969
Captain Alice K. Kurashige .....	5 Nov 1969-14 May 1970
First Lieutenant Geraldine E. Peeler .....	15 May 1970-15 Jul 1970
First Lieutenant Vanda K. Brame .....	16 Jul 1970-31 Apr 1971
First Lieutenant Linda J. Lenhart .....	7 Jul 1971-31 Jul 1971

**Woman Marine Company, Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Supply Center, Albany, Georgia, activated 13 September 1967; deactivated August 1971**

COMMANDING OFFICERS

First Lieutenant Emma G. Ramsey .....	during forming
Captain Sara R. Beauchamp .....	13 Sep 1967-5 Jan 1969
Captain Mary S. League .....	6 Jan 1969-20 Mar 1970
Captain Bonnie J. Allman .....	May 1970-May 1971



# Appendix E

## Women Marines Who Served in Vietnam

### 1967-1973

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#### Officers

First Lieutenant Lois J. Bertram  
Captain Elaine E. Filkins (Davies)  
Captain Vera M. Jones  
CWO-2 Ernestine A. Koch

First Lieutenant Shirley E. Leaverton  
Lieutenant Colonel Ruth J. O'Holleran  
Lieutenant Colonel Ruth F. Reinholz  
First Lieutenant Lila Jean Sharpsteen

#### Enlisted Women

Sergeant Barbara J. Aaron (Avant)  
Staff Sergeant Bridget V. Connolly  
Sergeant Doris L. Denton  
Staff Sergeant Adelina Diaz (Torres)  
Lance Corporal Teresa A. Dickerson  
Corporal Marilyn L. Dorsey  
Master Sergeant Barbara J. Dulinsky  
Corporal Andrea L. Edwards  
Corporal Jeanne L. Francoeur (Bell)  
Corporal M. R. Gehant  
Sergeant Mary E. Glauzel  
Staff Sergeant Frances I. Gonzales (Shore)  
Staff Sergeant Donna L. Hollowell (Murray)  
Corporal Alaine K. Ivy

Sergeant Carol E. Lester  
Lance Corporal Jeanette I. Hensley  
Corporal Nellie Mach (Perkins)  
Corporal M. Del Martinez  
Corporal Nola E. Mackinster  
Staff Sergeant Loretta M. Morrison  
Sergeant Ella L. Netherton  
Corporal Diane L. Potter  
Sergeant Jacqueline K. Roach  
Staff Sergeant Ermelinda Salazar (Esquibel)  
Corporal Sandra Spaatz  
Sergeant Helen J. Varden  
Sergeant Mary P. Walsh (McDermott)  
Corporal Pauline W. Wilson



## Appendix F

# Enlisted Women Marines Retained After World War II Who Served Until Retirement

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List provided by Master Sergeant Annette Parziale. She titles it, "Chronological listing of continuous active duty retirees fortunate enough to be in the right place, at the right time, and holding the right SSN number to be retained after WW II" (MSGt Parziale ltr to Hist&MusDiv, WM Research file).

Catherine G. Murray	E-7	29Mar43-30Nov62
Geraldine M. Moran	E-9	22Feb43-31Mar63
Ruth M. Haungs	E-7	25Jun43-31Mar63
Annette Parziale	E-7	2Jul43-31Mar63
Bertha J. Schultz	E-8	29Oct43-31Jul63
Helen Gardner Redmond	E-6	25Mar43-25Dec63
Myrtle Butler Borg Stinson	E-7	21Sep43-31Jan64
Bettye R. Hollis	E-7	8Oct43-29Feb64
Beatrice M. Kent	E-6	9May44-31Mar64
Martha E. Kirchman	E-7	6Apr44-31May64
Lucy Cozzi	E-7	20Feb45-30Sep64
Marion O. Ahearn	E-8	9Nov43-31Oct64
Dorthea E. Hard	E-6	26May44-31Oct64
Esther D. Waclawski	E-8	10Oct44-30Nov64
Alice J. Connolly	E-8	9Jun43-28Feb65
Juel C. Pensock	E-7	15Nov43-6May66
Elizabeth Pinter	E-8	20Sep43-31May66
Dorothy L. Kearns	E-7	16Oct44-31May66
Betty J. Alley	E-6	18Jun45-31Jan67
Jessie L. Van Dyke	E-9	6May43-31Jul68
Anna Peregrim	E-8	1Feb45-22Aug68
Martha J. Clark	E-8	1Mar45-31Aug69
Vera E. Piippo	E-8	17Jul43-30Sep69
Catherine L. Quinlan	E-9	16Oct43-30Sep69
Margaret H. Crowel	E-8	18May45-31May70
Loraine G. Bruso	E-8	15Dec43-31Jan71
Elizabeth M. Tarte	E-8	1Oct43-23Nov71
Bertha Peters Billeb	E-9	5Mar43-30Apr73
June V. Andler	E-9	9Mar44-30Apr74
Sarah N. Thornton	E-9	11Dec43-31Jul74



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