

Brief History of Women in U.S. Military

source: <http://www.womensmemorial.org/Highlights.html>

- 1,500 nurses were assigned to Army hospitals during the Spanish-American War. As a result of their performance, the Army Nurse Corps was established in 1901.
- In World War I 33,000 women served not only as nurses but in other support roles as well. More than 400 nurses died in the line of duty.
- During World War II more than 400,000 women served at home and abroad – as nurses, pilots, and in other non-combat roles. Eighty-eight women were captured and held as POWs.
- The Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948 granted women permanent status in the military.
- During the Korean War women in the Reserves were recalled. Over 50,000 women served at home and abroad.
- In the Vietnam War, 7,000 women were deployed. Most of them were nurses.
- In 1967 the 2% legal cap on the number of women allowed in the military was repealed.
- In 1973 the draft is ended and an all-volunteer force formed – creating opportunities for women.
- In 1975 pregnant servicewomen may elect to remain on active duty.
- In 1976 women are first admitted to the service academies.
- In 1978 women are allowed to serve on non-combat ships.
- In the Persian Gulf War, 41,000 women are deployed. Two are taken captive.
- In 1991 Congress allows women to fly in combat missions.
- In 1993 Congress permits women to serve on combat ships.
- In 1998 a female fighter pilot flies combat missions in Operation Desert Fox.