



UNITED STATES ARMY  
WOMEN'S MUSEUM



**MEDIA KIT**





## OUR MISSION

The U.S. Army Women's Museum serves as an educational institution, providing military history training and instruction to Soldiers, veterans and the civilian community. The museum is the custodian and repository of artifacts and archival material pertaining to the service of women across all branches and organizations of the U.S. Army from inception to the present day. The museum collects, preserves, manages, interprets and exhibits these unique artifacts as a means to provide training and educational outreach.



## MUSEUM OVERVIEW

The U.S. Army Women's Museum, located at Fort Lee, Virginia, is the only museum in the world dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of women in the Army. The facility was established in 1955 as the Women's Army Corps Museum and resided for more than forty years at Fort McClellan, Alabama. After a move and a name change, the museum was reopened in May 2001 as the U.S. Army Women's Museum. With a renovation and expansion in 2018, the museum now honors women's contributions to the Army from 1775 to the present with state-of-the-art exhibits and programs.

### FAST FACTS

#### Museum Hours

##### Gallery

Tuesday-Friday, 9:00-4:30

#### Soldier Training Support

Monday-Friday, 0800-1630

**Closed on Weekends  
and Federal Holidays**

#### Parking

Parking is free with plenty of room for buses and oversized vehicles.

#### Location & Access

2100 Adams Avenue  
Fort Lee, VA 23801

Fort Lee entrance requirements are subject to change. For the most up to date installation access information, contact the Visitor Control Center at 804-734-5053, or reference the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Lee Visitor Information website at <https://home.army.mil/lee/index.php/about/visitor-information>.

#### Website

[www.awm.lee.army.mil](http://www.awm.lee.army.mil)





# ORIGINS OF SERVICE

ESTABLISHING A TRADITION OF DEDICATION AND SUPPORT

The Origins of Service Gallery covers the first century and a half of our nation's history when American women consistently found ways to serve with the Army. Visitors explore stories of camp followers in the American Revolution and Civil War who provided basic logistical support and of women who stepped outside societal norms into roles such as doctors and spies. This gallery illustrates how women's roles were recognized and legitimized in the early twentieth century. Key artifacts include items from the Army Nurse Corps, established in 1901, and artifacts from women who served in World War I. Visitors will discover the motives of these first service women varied, as did the nature of their work, but they shared a dedication and willingness to serve their country's needs.



### Gray Dog Tags

These identification tags were worn by Ethel Gray when she served as a reconstruction aide in France during World War I.

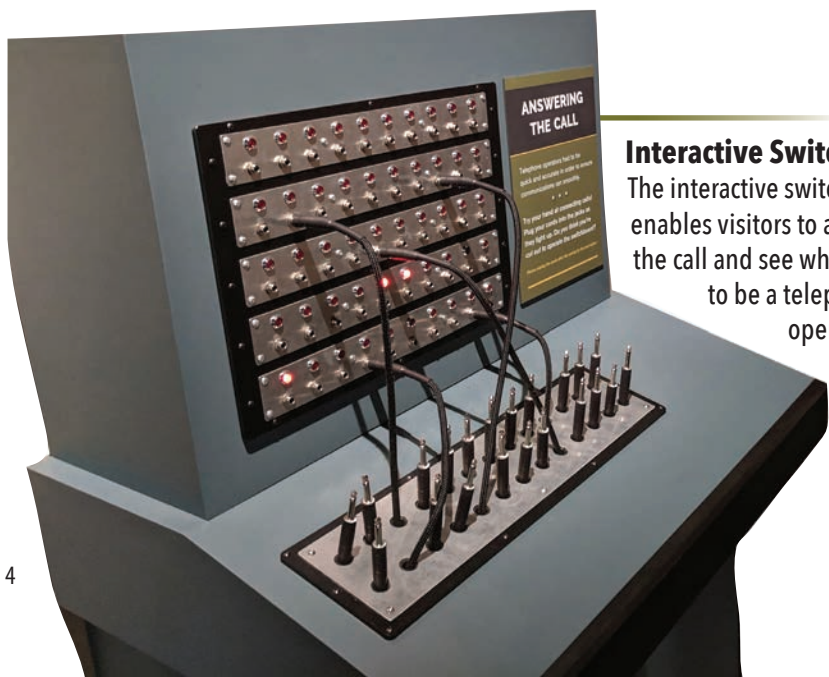


### Lyeth Uniform

This nurse's uniform was worn by Ruth Lyeth (Hamblen) during World War I. She served at Camp Meade before being sent to Evacuation Hospital #30 in Meaux, France and then to Germany after the war. She returned to the U.S. in 1919.

### Interactive Switchboard

The interactive switchboard enables visitors to answer the call and see what it takes to be a telephone operator.

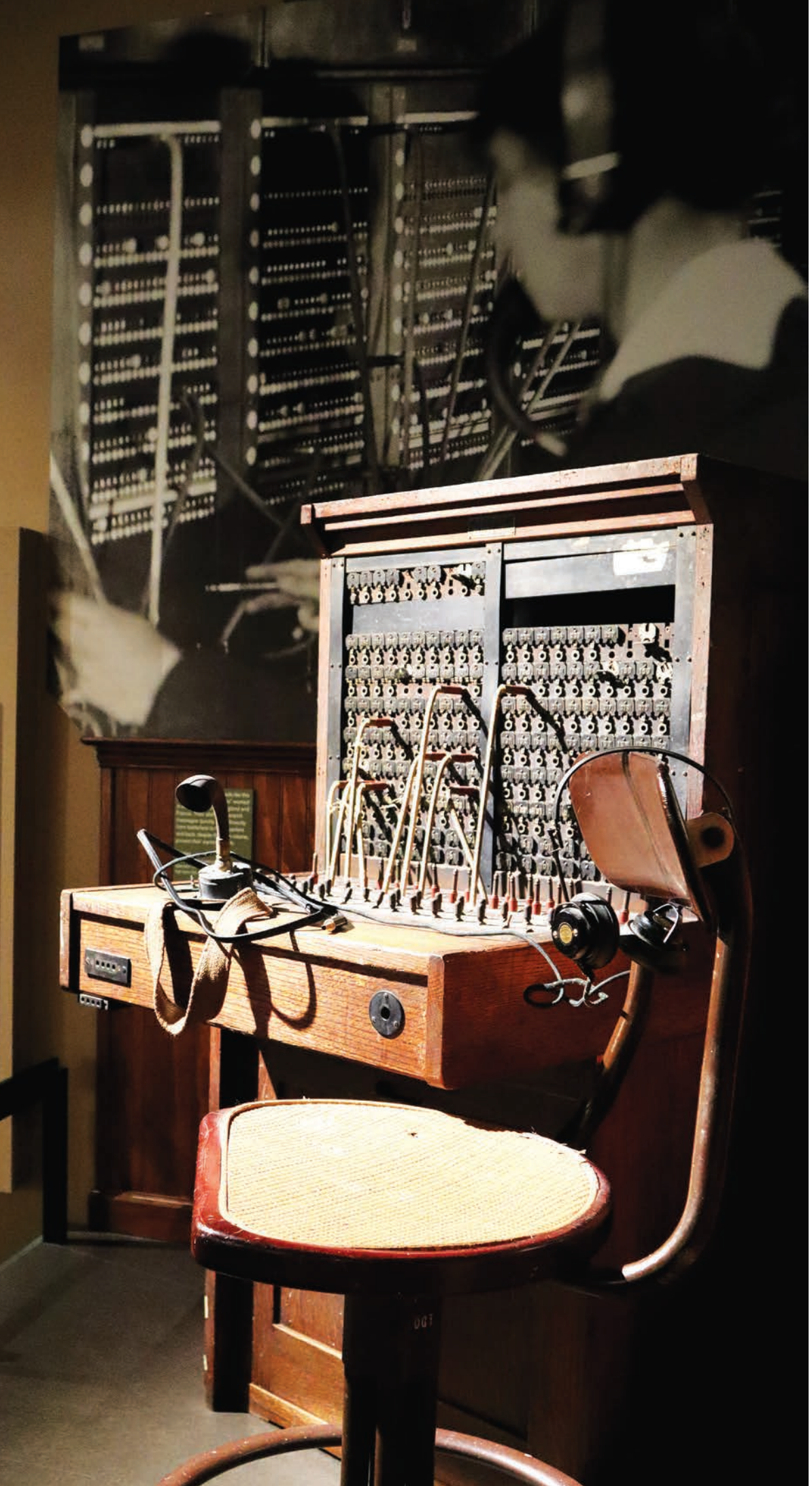


At telephone switchboards like this 1915 model, "Hello Girls" worked in exchanges across England and France. These World War I operators were able to transmit messages quickly and efficiently from battlefield to headquarters and back.

### TELEPHONE OPERATORS

Early in the war, the Signal Corps realized it could not provide communications for an Army of four million soldiers and based on the earlier section. A call went out to support the war effort by training women in the United States. The Army found thousands of female college operators and high school graduates to accommodate them as Army girls. Over the next few months, U.S. conscripts in France, who had been with the challenges presented by the conditions and language of the allied telephone operators, the requested American telephone operators to work as soon as possible. In March 1918 the first Signal Corps Central Postal Directory Unit arrived in France. They were colloquially known as the "Hello Girls" more than 2,000 women operators and only 400 women, based in both England and France, were assigned.

### Sixty "Telephone Soldiers" Now Ready to Go to France





# WORLD WAR II

## FREE A MAN TO FIGHT

The World War II Gallery begins with America joining the Allies and immediately facing a two-front war against the military powers of the Axis. Visitors learn how political and military leaders quickly understood that women could supply the additional military manpower America desperately needed. Thousands of women were already serving as Army nurses and the Women's

Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) was established to increase efficiencies and free men to fight. This gallery documents how women exceeded expectations and the Corps grew exponentially in both strength and recognition. Ultimately, the auxiliary status was removed and 210,000 women in the Women's Army Corps (WAC) served at home and abroad during World War II and their contributions forever changed the Army and the nation.



### WASP Jacket

The Army's severe shortage of pilots in 1942 prompted the organization of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). This flight jacket was worn by WASP Julia Ledbetter from 1942-1944.

### Nash Canteen

This Model 1910 aluminum canteen belonged to Lieutenant Frances Nash. Nash served as a nurse in the Philippines, on both Bataan and Corregidor, before she was imprisoned by the Japanese in the Santo Tomas internment camp in Manila.



### Wedding Gown

Corporal Marjorie Short wore this wedding gown when she married Technical Sergeant 5th Grade Carter Ammon in the Philippines in 1945. The gown was made by local Filipino civilians from parachute silk.



### -AFRICAN- MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER

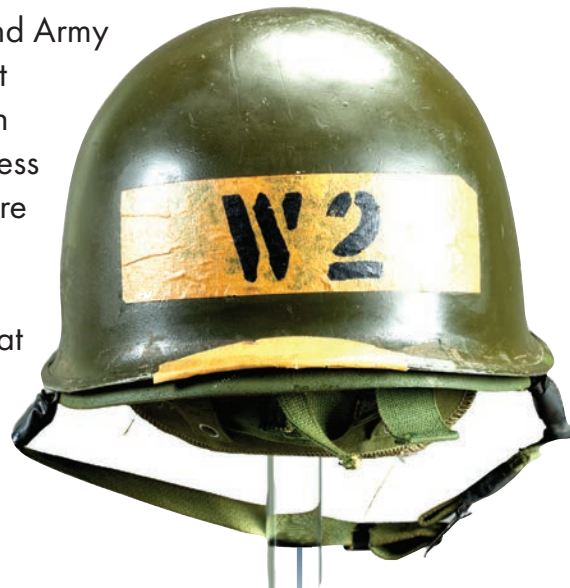
The European-African-Middle Eastern Theater exhibit includes the service coat worn by Lieutenant Colonel Charity Adams, a graduate of the first WAAC Officer Candidate Class in 1942. She later commanded the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, the only unit of all African American women to be sent overseas.



# A PERMANENT PRESENCE

## THE WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS CONTINUES

The Permanent Presence Gallery explores the thirty year period that women served in the Women's Army Corps (WAC) with Regular Army and Army Reserve status. This gallery provides visitors an understanding that although permanent status came with challenges, an emphasis on image and professionalism helped ensure the longevity and success of the WAC. Artifacts in this gallery demonstrate how barriers were removed and inequalities were eliminated as the Army focused on women's training and utilization around the world. The exhibit spotlights changes to women's roles in the Army and in society that reinforced the belief that a separate Women's Army Corps was inefficient, resulting in its disestablishment in 1978.



**Kutsch Helmet**

Private Joyce Kutsch wore this M1 Combat Helmet and Liner while attending Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia in 1973. Kutsch was one of the first two WACs to attend jump school in 1973.



**Vietnam Guidon**

This guidon was used in Vietnam by the WAC Detachment, United States Army Vietnam (USARV), 1968-1972.



**WAC Drum**

Bass drum #2 was used by band members of the 14th Army Band during the years when the WAC Center and School was located at Fort McClellan, Alabama.

Items on display in the Vietnam exhibit include a welcome sign for the WAC Director, a non-military windbreaker, black pumps, and combat boots.







## BE ALL YOU CAN BE

The period of the “Be All You Can Be” Army—the 1980s and 1990s—was one of rapid change and transition for those in uniform. This gallery documents the end of the Cold War as well as the conflicts in the Middle East, Africa, the Balkans, and the Caribbean that resulted in U.S. military intervention. Visitors encounter artifacts from women who served around the world in multiple and varying types of operations as new career opportunities continually opened. While restrictions on women’s service remained, changing policies on the utilization of women in combat operations illustrated the Army’s effort to tackle never-before-faced challenges. Visitors encounter an OH-58 Kiowa helicopter which portrays the Army’s successful integration of women in combat aviation.

### West Point Uniform

This U.S. Military Academy woman’s cadet coat, without tails, was worn by Cadet Ann S. Ashworth (Richardson) while in the first class of female cadets at West Point from 1976-1980.



### Grenada Beret

Specialist Marian Anderson, whose maroon beret is shown here, was one of four women who participated in the invasion of Grenada with the 82d Airborne Division.



### Helicopter

A female combat aviator conducts pre-flight checks on an OH-58 helicopter.

A Soldier navigates a log obstacle designed to build confidence during basic training. After the disestablishment of the Women’s Army Corps, the basic training program of instruction became the same for both sexes.





# 21st CENTURY ARMY

The 21st Century Army Gallery explores the Army's remarkable transformation as more than two million Soldiers—255,000 of them women—deployed overseas, many for multiple tours. Visitors learn the reality of nonlinear battlefields and the cultural conditions in Iraq and Afghanistan that resulted in a profound transformation of roles for Army women. Artifacts in this gallery illustrate the Army's measured and deliberate movement towards a standards-based system and the parallel effort to rescind other exclusionary policies while caring for and retaining its premier twenty-first century fighting force.



### Patrick Head Scarf and Shirt

Purchased in Afghanistan, this headscarf and shirt were worn by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Raquel Patrick when she served as Maintenance Chief on a Cultural Support Team that supported Special Forces missions in Afghanistan from 2011-2012.



### Dunwoody Service Coat

General Ann E. Dunwoody, the first woman in the history of the United States Armed Forces to achieve the rank of full (4-star) general wore this jacket during her last assignment before retiring.



### Bidwell Hat

This dress cap was worn by Captain Marjana Bidwell when she served with the 3d Infantry Regiment at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in 2015.

Soldiers, training in explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), operate a TALON during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. The robot is designed to protect against explosive threats. It can climb stairs, negotiate slopes and snow, and navigate through rubble.





# FACILITY FEATURES



The Educational Resource Center (ERC) may be reserved for meetings.



Visit the museum's beautiful reflection garden filled with benches for visitors to enjoy the landscaped grounds.



The archives are an excellent resource for study and research, containing over 1.5 million documents pertaining to the history of Army women from 1914 to present.



## Classroom

The 1,400 sq. ft. AWM Classroom may be reserved for use free of charge. The room accommodates 65 people and recent upgrades to the audio-visual system make this an ideal venue for medium sized classes or meetings.



## Rotating Gallery

The Rotating Gallery features exhibits that enable in depth explorations of Army women's history.

# EDUCATION OVERVIEW



## Live Broadcast Studio

Using state-of-the-art technology, the AWM connects with classrooms around the world to bring artifacts and archives to life. Museum educators engage participants with primary sources and interactive multimedia to facilitate unique learning experiences. For more information and program descriptions please visit the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration at <https://www.cilc.org/> and search for the Army Women's Museum.



## Group Visits and Tours

The Museum offers a variety of options for groups to experience the legacy of Army women's history. All tours are free of charge. To inquire about availability, email your request to [usarmy.lee.tradoc.mbx.lee-awmweb@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.lee.tradoc.mbx.lee-awmweb@army.mil).

## Professional Development and Soldier Education

Professional development programs and tours are available for military and civilian groups. These programs engage participants and provide a memorable and impactful interaction with the story of women in the U.S. Army. To inquire about availability, email your request to [usarmy.lee.tradoc.mbx.lee-awmweb@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.lee.tradoc.mbx.lee-awmweb@army.mil).





# ABOUT Us



## CONTACT

Email questions to  
[usarmy.lee.tradoc.mbx.lee-awmweb@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.lee.tradoc.mbx.lee-awmweb@army.mil)

<https://awm.lee.army.mil/>



[facebook.com/usarmywomensmuseum](https://facebook.com/usarmywomensmuseum)



[instagram.com/ftleemuseums/](https://instagram.com/ftleemuseums/)

## Army Museum Enterprise

The AWM is part of the Army Museum Enterprise (AME) which is comprised of more than 40 museums, historical collections, heritage displays, Soldier training support facilities, and storage facilities in twenty-two states, the Republic of Korea, and the Federal Republic of Germany. The AME is part of the U.S. Army Center of Military History. For more information please visit <https://history.army.mil/>.



## Friends of the Army Women's Museum Association

The Friends of the Army Women's Museum Association (FAWMA) is a nonprofit, 501 (c)(3) educational and charitable organization whose sole mission is to provide volunteer and financial support to the AWM. For more information, please visit <https://armywomensmuseum.org/>.