

tables provided for relatively few jobs for women—overhead, clerical, motor transport, service.⁵⁷

Corps areas that had asked for Waacs were now requested to specify the assortment of platoons desired in a T/O unit, and planners optimistically proposed to recruit skills exactly to specification, since a woman with no skill or with some odd skill would not fit into any platoon and so could not be assigned. Only skilled women were sought; it was not proposed to waste time by taking women who needed technical training—except a brief course in army driving, army cooking, or army clerical work to help adapt civilian skills to the military.

Although supposedly soothed by the assurance that no WAAC post headquarters units would arrive for some time, or until further warning, many station commanders now became extremely nervous, and it was decided that Colonel Tasker or some other representative of the group must visit each designated station to prepare it for Waacs. In carrying out this indoctrination, Colonel Tasker later found many stations in a state of virtual siege, throwing up barbed-wire entanglements around WAAC areas and setting aside separate nights for Waacs to use post theaters and service clubs, so that men and women could be kept isolated from each other. Many post commanders were found to be much opposed to having Waacs on the post, and none of course had as yet any information as to the proper employment of such a unit.⁵⁸

WAAC Regulations

The WAAC Regulations, which had been prepared in G-1 Division before Mrs. Hobby's arrival, were ready for pub-

lication as soon as the bill became law. As provided in the Rogers bill, the WAAC was set up as a separate command entity headed by the Director. The Corps was to be assigned to the Services of Supply, in which its headquarters was located, with its units only attached for duty to the Air Forces and other stations where they were employed.

The Director would at first command all of these units directly, requesting The Adjutant General to issue her orders for assignment, transfer, discharge, or other change in status. As soon as they could be trained, regional directors would be sent out to form an intermediate command echelon. It was decided that the regional directors would be nine in number and would be located in the headquarters of the nine corps areas in order that they might use the area facilities.

For a unit in the field, the station where it was located was responsible only for furnishing supplies, housing, and medical and dental care. As for the authority of Army section chiefs, the Regulations stated:

Officers and noncommissioned officers of the Army under whom individuals or groups or units of the WAAC are assigned for work tasks have supervisory authority as they would with civilian employees generally, but have no disciplinary authority. Derelictions of duty will be reported to the WAAC officer commanding.⁵⁹

The WAAC company commander and higher WAAC officers were specified as responsible for discipline, promotion, discharge, and other command matters.

⁵⁷ Speech to Meeting of Classification Offs. Min in SPWA 201.6 (9-18-43).

⁵⁸ Interv cited n. 35.

⁵⁹ WAAC Regulations (Tentative), 1942.