

General's study. The Director stated that she had understood from the beginning that Waacs were to replace only enlisted men, except in the Aircraft Warning Service. General Grunert disagreed, recommending that stations be allowed to use Waacs in civilian jobs that they could not get civilians to accept.⁴ G-1 Division upheld the Director, and the policy was established that "*First priority will be given to requests which result in WAAC personnel relieving enlisted men of the Army for combat duty.*"⁵ This was a policy of enormous importance to the Corps' entire future employment.

It was also decided that first priority was to be given to fixed installations in the United States and second priority to fixed installations in foreign theaters of operations. Mobile units were not, however, ruled out of consideration at some future date when all other needs were filled.⁶

No requests for Waacs to perform new or unusual military duties were disapproved, but it was obvious that actual provision of Waacs for such work would depend upon the establishment of new training schools and of types of units other than the standard Table of Organization company. Research was authorized to find some more flexible means of allotment which would permit Finance, Hospital, Mess, and other units.

The number of Waacs that could be used was greatly limited by a decision not to employ them in Washington, D. C., where as much as one third of the Navy women were eventually to be employed. This prohibition had originally applied to the Services of Supply only, having been announced by General Somervell at a staff meeting as an off-the-record policy for his Chiefs of Services, one of whom accidentally recorded it:

Our policy can be only the policy that he has announced to us. That policy he particularly does not want committed to writing, because the minute that anybody gets ahold of it and puts it in the paper, there will be a mess. This is the policy . . . he does not want any of them here, except in the Office of the Headquarters of the WAAC, and certain ones in G-2, whom for some reason they prevailed upon him to have. Do you get it? We don't want anything said about it.⁷

However, a few weeks later, when it became clear that the War Department and the Air Forces were planning to bring Waacs into their headquarters, General Somervell recommended the policy in writing to the Chief of Staff, "in order that field agencies may have full benefit of the services of members of the WAAC." This policy was approved by the Chief of Staff and put into effect, with exceptions to be granted only by his own office for important secret work.⁸ It was also generally agreeable to WAAC Headquarters, since assignments to Washington were not popular with enlisted women who wished to work on a military post. However, the policy caused added confusion in current planning, since agencies such as the Signal Corps, which had attempted to get WAAC officers to aid in planning for enlisted

⁴ Memo, Dir WAAC for CofAdm Serv, 16 Sep 42, and Inds. SPWA 320.2 (9-5-42).

⁵ D/F, G-1 to Dir WAAC through Adm Serv SOS, 1 Oct 42. AG/WDGAP 212.31 WAAC; 1st Ind, 2 Oct 42, Adm Serv SOS for Dir WAAC. SPAAE 320 (9-16-42).

⁶ Memo cited n. 2.

⁷ Tp Conv, Col H. L. P. King and Brig Gen James A. Code, Jr., OCSigO, 25 Sep 42, 11:05 A. M. SigC 320.2 WAC, 1942-45.

⁸ (1) Memo, Somervell for CofS, 4 Oct 42, with approval 7 Oct 42. CofS 291.9. Also AGO Memo W635-1-42, 12 Oct 42. (2) Memo, Opns WAAC for CofAdm Serv, 28 Oct 42. SPWA 320.2 (10-28-42) O, in Dir Adm Serv ASF Sp Coll DRB AGO. (3) Memo, G-1 for CG AAF, 9 Dec 42. WDGAP 320.2 WAAC (12-9-42), in WDCSA 291.9 WAAC.