

filled than those of overseas theaters. Only military vacancies continued to be filled; as a result the total employment in the Washington area remained only about a fifth of that achieved by the Navy Department. Thus, the War Department priority never became the problem that was reported by the Navy, where, it was stated, "the over-riding priority given . . . cut across and upset all principles of equitable apportionment."⁵⁷

Results of Enlisted Personnel Policies

With the removal of restrictions on assignment in Washington, there remained no type of fixed installation to which WAC assignment was forbidden. There was, likewise, with the possible exception of "entertainer," no noncombatant MOS to which field commanders were forbidden to assign enlisted women, although some, like food service, were restricted to WAC administration. The result of these lenient assignment policies was, as might have been expected, a rapid multiplication of the number of WAC enlisted jobs from the time of the conversion onward, limited only by the civilian skills that women were found to possess.

Records in the Corps' second year showed that already women had been recruited in more than 300 different civilian occupations, from gunsmith to electrical engineer, and from psychiatric social worker to horsebreaker. Almost every language skill was represented, including Chinese, Finnish, Lithuanian, and Swahili. While obviously not all of these skills could be used by the Army, by the summer of 1943 the number of military occupational specialties held by enlisted women was estimated at 155; by early 1944, at 239; by May of 1944, at 274. No final count was ever reported. It did not appear

likely that the estimated possible total of 408 suitable Army jobs had been reached, but it had undoubtedly been approached within all reasonable expectation under a voluntary recruitment system.⁵⁸

Under the informal assignment system, about half of the assignments were to administrative and office work, in which women predominated in civilian life. Toward the end of the war a mild trend had set in away from such work in favor of increased technical and professional assignments—at least in the United States—but office work still took first place.⁵⁹

Type of work	Percent	
	1943	30 Sep 44
Administrative and Office	53	45
Technical and Professional	13	18
Motor vehicle	10	9
Foods	8	9
Supply and Stock	7	8
Mechanical and Trade	5	4
Communications	2	5
Radio and Electrical	2	2

As might have been predicted from the higher WAC enlistment standards, the average enlisted woman was found to be somewhat ahead of the average enlisted man in aptitude as measured by the Army General Classification Test.⁶⁰

AGCT	Percent	
	EW	EM
Group I	4.90	6.34
Group II	37.07	31.00
Group III	39.89	30.68
Group IV	17.87	25.12
Group V	0.27	6.86

⁵⁷ WAVES Hist.

⁵⁸ (1) D/F, TAG for Dir WAC, 27 Apr 44. Folder, Rpt of Unusual Qualifications, WAC Plng file. (2) List, copy in Plng Proj 4, WAAC Plng Serv files (1943). (3) Table, Utilization of EW in 274 ASF and AFF Jobs, 2 May 44. Folder, Statistics, WAC files, OCMH.

⁵⁹ Memo, G-1 Stat Br for Dir WAC, 26 Feb 45. WDWAC 201.6.

⁶⁰ William C. Menninger, *Psychiatry in a Troubled World* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1948).