

plished every six months.¹⁰⁷ In the early days of the WAAC, no decision was made about such "continuation training" for Waacs after they left the training center. Director Hobby proposed a directive placing responsibility for instruction on the WAAC company commanders, but General Faith decided that no special directives for women were necessary, upon "the assumption . . . that local commanders would discharge their command responsibility for the training of WAAC personnel." As a result, no directive was issued until just before the establishment of the WAC, when General Faith's inspectors discovered that "almost without exception no provision was being made for WAAC unit training," because of "confusion in the minds of station commanders" and "the inexperience of WAAC unit commanders."¹⁰⁸

General Faith at once issued a directive on the subject, Mobilization Training Program 35-1. Since there was as yet very little knowledge of women's actual training needs in the field, it was merely provided that WAC units would spend not less than three hours a week, and not more than four, in a repetition of basic training, including drill, physical training, military courtesy, and hygiene. The directive also contained authority for station commanders, at their discretion, to substitute on-the-job training for part of these hours, or professional courses such as typing and shorthand.¹⁰⁹

This directive was revised somewhat by Military Training Division when it took over WAC training, chiefly by adding map reading and by omitting the authority for station commanders to substitute on-the-job training, typing, or professional courses. The physical training period was also changed from 1½ hours once a week to 15 minutes a day, since experts believed

daily exercise more beneficial. The Air and Ground Forces delegated to the Service Forces the right to prescribe this training for WAC units world-wide, believing at the time that unsisterly dissension would result if Wacs on neighboring stations or combined installations were required to take different types and amounts of training. The ASF's revised version at first occasioned little comment when published in a directive entitled Mobilization Training Program for WAC Detachments in the Field, familiarly known as MTP 35-2. This repetition of basic training every six months was, it was stated, expected to maintain "efficient job performance . . . military discipline, and physical fitness."¹¹⁰

Opposition of Personnel Officers

Within six months of the date of publication, this directive was under fire from Army section chiefs, station and company commanders, and personnel officers. The heart of the opposition was the question of whether, for permanent-type noncombat troops, the repetition of basic subjects every six months had enough value to compensate for time lost from other duties, or in fact had any value at all. Although the minimum requirement of 3 to 4 hours a week appeared small, it in fact added up to two working days a month, or 24 working days a year. From the section chief's viewpoint, such loss was the equivalent of giving all Wacs a furlough for one month of the twelve, or of shipping them all back

¹⁰⁷ FM 21-5, WD, esp. par 44 of 1943 edition.

¹⁰⁸ Whole discussion, unless otherwise specified, based on ASF Hist of WAC Tng, pp. 323-25.

¹⁰⁹ MTP 35-1, Unit Tng Program for WAC Units in Field, 21 Aug 43.

¹¹⁰ MTP 35-2, WD, 15 Oct 44. Notification to Director in: Memo, Dir Troop Tng Div ASF for Dir WAC, 23 Sep 44. SPTRP 300.8, in WDWAC 353.