



Colonel Emily C. Gorman

Emily C. Gorman was born in New York on April 9, 1909. She graduated from Cornell University in 1931 and worked as a teacher in New York until she enlisted in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in 1942.

She was commissioned upon graduating from WAAC OCS Class # 5 at the WAAC Training Center at Fort Des Moines, Iowa on 10 October 1942. Her first assignment was chief of the center's WAAC Administration School. In 1944, she was selected to be the WAC staff director for the Surgeon General of the Army, Washington, D.C., and, in August 1945, she was sent to Berlin as Executive Secretary of the Allied Control Authority.

After eighteen months, she returned home and was demobilized. Seven months later, February 1947, she returned to active duty, at the request of WAC Director Colonel Mary Hallaren, to prepare organization and training plans for a new WAC training center. When the WAC bill passed in 1948, she went to Camp Lee as S-3 (training officer).

Promoted to lieutenant colonel in November 1950, she served as commander of the basic training battalion before leaving in 1951 to assume duties as WAC staff adviser at Headquarters, Second Army, Fort Meade. She served as deputy director of the WAC from January 1953 until January 1957, then became the deputy chief of the Plans and Training Division, Headquarters, Continental Army Command, Fort Monroe (1957-1960).

She was serving as assistant chief of the Foreign Military Training Division, ODCSOPS, at the Pentagon, when selected by Secretary Stahr to serve as the new Director.

Shortly after the 5th WAC Director Colonel Mary L Milligan Rasmuson announced her approaching retirement, Secretary of the Army Elvis J. Stahr, Jr., appointed a board, including

Colonel Rasmuson, to recommend nominees for her replacement. In February 1962, he announced he had selected Colonel Gorman to be the sixth director of the Women's Army Corps.

In May 1962, President Kennedy received Colonel Gorman and the former WAC Directors at the White House to publicly celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Women's Army Corps. She was sworn in as director and promoted to colonel on 1 August 1962 by a new Secretary of the Army, Cyrus R. Vance.

Colonel Gorman had been in office only a few weeks when the Cuban Missile Crisis began to build and Congress authorized the president to recall 150,000 reservists for one year and to extend enlistments, overseas tours, and active duty commitments.

Gorman enrolled the Women's Army Corps in an exhibit program to increase public awareness of the WAC functions. The exhibit was unveiled at the Pentagon on May 14, 1963. Gorman had assigned Lieutenant Colonel Mildred I. C. Bailey as the head of the exhibit's planning team. The exhibit, "The Women's Army Corps—Serving with Pride and Dignity," toured the country for six and a half years. Colonel Bailey later become the 8th WAC Director.

On 28 July 1966, Colonel Gorman's retirement ceremonies were held at WAC Center. At her regimental retirement review, on the Marshall Parade Ground, she was presented with the rarely awarded Distinguished Service Medal by Lieutenant General James K. Woolnough, DCSPER of the Army, in recognition of her achievements as director of the WAC and her twenty-four years of service in the United States Army

Her military awards include: The Distinguished Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Women's Army Corps Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, Medal for Humane Action and the National Defense Service Medal.