Disbanding of the Women's Army Corps (1978)

Background

1943. Public Law 689 establishes the Women's Army Corps (WAC) as the successor to the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), which had been created in 1942. The WAC enabled women to serve in several capacities, including clerical, administrative, and support roles. with full military status in the U.S. Army.

1978. On October 20, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed Public Law 95-485, formally disbanding the WAC and integrating approximately 52,996 female soldiers into the regular Army.

This legislation, which included an amendment to the FY 1979 Defense Procurement Authorization Bill proposed by Senator William Proxmire of Wisconsin, marked the end of gender-segregated military service in the Army and represented a significant milestone in the integration of women into all branches of the armed forces.

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Conclusion

The disbanding of the Women's Army Corps in 1978 represented a watershed moment in military history and women's rights. These sources document how the WAC evolved from a wartime expedient in 1942 to a permanent military institution in 1948, and ultimately to full integration in 1978.

For more resources, go to webpage: https://riseofmilitarywomen.vt.domains