QUEEN FOR A YEAR

Derogatory term for a female soldier or Marine serving her overseas tour of duty year, implying that even an "ugly" female gets away with slacking off and being unduly treated as a queen, due to the stark lack of available women in a culture and profession of heterosexual males.

TIMELINE OF WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

1917
The United States enters World War I.

1918
Private Opha Mae Johnson becomes the first woman to enlist in the Marine Reserves (F).

World War I ends.

OPHA MAE JOHNSON IN 1918

1941
The Japanese attack Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Hawaii killing more than 2,000 American soldiers and sailors.

The United States enters World War II.

1943
The Marine Corps Women's Reserve is established with Colonel Ruth Cheney Streeter as the first Director of Women Marine Reservists.

1945
The first detachment of Women Reserves is sent to Hawaii.

World War II ends.

ELIZABETH ARDEN 1944 MONTEZUMA RED ADVERTISEMENT, U.S. MARINE CORPS WOMEN'S RESERVE

1948

President Harry S. Truman signs the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948, permitting women to serve as full members in the U.S. Armed Forces.

1949

Private Annie Graham and Private Ann Lamb were the first two African-American women to enlist in the Marine Corps.

The all-female Third Recruit Training Battalion is activated and it begins training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, SC.

1950

The United States Supreme Courts decides in Feres v. the United States against the family of a soldier who died from a fire in his barracks due to a wrongly installed heater. Often called the Feres Doctrine, it states that members of the armed forces cannot sue the federal government for injuries sustained during their military service.

The Korean War begins. The Women Reserves are mobilized and over 2,000 women serve.

1953

The Korean War ends.

WOMEN MARINES TRAINING AT PARRIS ISLAND IN 1949

1960

The rank of Lance Corporal (E-3), above Private (E-1) and Private First Class (E-2), is added to the Marine Corps rank structure. Lance Corporals are sometimes referred to by the derogatory term "Lance Coolie."

1961

Bertha Peters Billeb becomes the first woman to be promoted to Sergeant Major (E-9).

1965

The United States enters the Vietnam War.

1967

Master Sergeant Barbara J. Dulinsky reports for duty in Saigon. She is the first woman to serve in the Vietnam combat zone.

1975

The Vietnam War ends.

1976

The Third Recruit Training Battalion is redesignated as the Women Recruit Training Command.

1978

Colonel Margaret A. Brewer is the first woman to be promoted to the rank of Brigadier General (O-7).

1985

Women Officers are authorized to possess and train with the Mameluke Sword, the oldest weapon still in service in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Women are required to qualify with the M16 A2 Rifle, which had been adopted for use by the Marine Corps in 1982.

1986

The Women Recruit Training Battalion is redesignated as the Fourth Recruit Training Battalion.

1988

Basic Warrior Training is extended to all male and female recruits.

1990

The Gulf War (Operation Desert Shield followed by Operation Desert Storm) begins. More than 41,000 women across all military branches deploy.

1991

The Gulf War ends.

Following the General Accounting Office report that servicewomen did not have equal access to VA benefits, the Department of Veterans Affairs works to improve accessibility for comprehensive women's healthcare, including treatment for PTSD related to sexual trauma associated with military duty.

FEMALE DRILL INSTRUCTOR

1992

Gunnery Sergeant Melody Naatz becomes the first female Drill Instructor.

1993

President Bill Clinton signs Public-Law 103-160—colloquially known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"—into law, resulting in over 12,000 Other-Than-Honorable or Dishonorable Discharges for homosexual servicemembers. Discharges for "homosexual conduct" or "personality disorder," are often referred to as "Shit papers."

1997

The Crucible, a grueling 54-hour test that concludes boot camp, is added to the female recruit training schedule.

WOMAN DURING THE CRUCIBLE

2001

The terror attack of September 11 by al-Qaeda kills 2,996 people in New York City.

The United States launches Operation Enduring Freedom and invades Afghanistan.

2012

Marine Corps Sergeant Jeannette L. Winters is the first United States servicewoman to die in support of the War on Terror, in Pakistan.

2003

The United States invades Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom. 25,000 women across all military branches deploy.

2005

The Joint Task Force of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response provides instruction to Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs) throughout all branches of the military as recommended by the Task Force Report for Care of Victims of Sexual Assault.

Lieutenant Corporal Holly Charette and Corporal Ramona Valdez are the first women Marines in Iraq to die in combat.

ANGELA SALINAS WEARING CLASS A UNIFORM

2016

Angela Salinas is the first Hispanic woman to be promoted to Brigadier General.

2017

Lance Corporal Maria Lauterbach is murdered by a fellow Marine she had accused of rape.

Corporal Jennifer M. Parcell, while assigned to a Lioness check point team in the al-Anbar province, is the fifth female Marine to die in Iraq. Women serving in the Lioness program would operate check points and lead outreach to the local Muslim female populace, often on the front lines.