

IRON STRONG DAILY



PAGE 1

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Army observes 30th anniversary of integrating WACs

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Thirty years ago, on Oct. 20, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed Public Law 95-485 disbanding the Women's Army Corps as a separate corps within the United States Army following 36 years of dedicated service.

Beginning today and until mid November, the Army will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the full integration of women into the regular Army, said Lt. Col. Mike Moose, spokesperson for the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, G-1. He said the G-1 is looking for former members of the Womens Army Corps who might like to share their stories and memories with both internal and external audiences.

Originally established as the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, or WAAC by President Franklin D. Roosevelt during World War II, the WAC went through many different organizational statuses throughout its history.

Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers of Massachusetts introduced legislation in May 1941 to establish a women's auxiliary to the U.S. Army based on the premise that the addition of women's labor would "free a man for combat," if and when the United States entered the war.

Even though Rogers compromised on the issues of women's military status and benefits, the legislation languished in



Photo by Amy Perry

Congress until the United States was attacked by Japan at Pearl Harbor in December.

In January 1942, Rogers added an amendment to her bill that would grant women the same military status and benefits as men. Bitterly contested in Congress, the bill only passed after it was decided that women would not be given military status, and on 15 May 1942 President Roosevelt signed Public Law 77-554 establishing the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.

Recognizing that the United States Army could not provide benefits to the women stationed overseas and that the auxiliary system had proved to be cumbersome, General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff of the Army, requested that Congress give women military status for the duration of the war.

In January 1943, Congresswoman Rogers and Oveta Culp Hobby, Director of the

WAAC, drafted a bill which was endorsed by General Marshall and introduced into Congress. Even though military status was again contested in the House, the bill eventually passed, and President Roosevelt signed Public Law 78-110 on July 1, 1943, establishing the Women's Army Corps.

Even though the WAC provided the Army dedicated and loyal service in World War II, it was scheduled to disband at the end of hostilities.

No contingencies were developed to maintain the existence of the Women's Army Corps for service in the postwar Army or future conflicts. This was immediately recognized as an oversight by many senior Army leaders, to include Generals George Marshall, Douglas MacArthur, and Dwight Eisenhower, who had come to depend on the WACs assigned to their commands.

WAC Continued on Page 3

Medical clinic gets much needed supplies



Iraqi Army Soldiers help download medical and office supplies from an IA truck during a medical aid drop at Somer Medical Clinic, Mosul, Iraq, Oct. 18. More than \$20,000 worth of supplies was delivered to the clinic by Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 5th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division.

**Story and photos by
PFC. Adam Blazak
11th Public Affairs Detachment**

A medical aid drop took place at Somer Medical Clinic in the Mosul neighborhood of Al Somer, Oct. 18.

Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 5th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division transported nearly \$20,000 worth of medical supplies and office furniture, which were purchased from the local economy, to help the 90 plus staff members at the clinic.

"A list of needed supplies came directly from the clinic," said Mishawaka, Ind. native Staff Sgt. Jon. C. Anderstrom, civil affairs team noncommissioned-officer-in-charge, Company C, 415th Civil Affairs Battalion.

Computer equipment, desks, stethoscopes, and chairs were some of much needed delivered items.

"Many things that we have are broken," said Dr. Zrad Taher, the clinic's head doctor. "Everything, which was brought today is needed, including the water dispensing machines." He said many times in the heat of the summer days doctors at the clinic do not have cool water available. "This will help so many people," he said.

Taher also spoke about the strong relationship the clinic has with the Iraqi Army.

Many times Iraqi Army Soldiers come to the clinic for treatment, and they are helped based upon the clinic's capabilities, he said.

"This mission was important,

because it helps humans in our sector," said Maj. Hatam Ahmad, executive officer, 3rd Battalion, 5th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division. "We make sure we have a good relationship with the people so they will support us more.

"We have given them things that will help this poverty area," he said. "In the long term, we will see if people are satisfied with what we gave them."

After the mission, both the clinic's staff and the Iraqi Army on the scene had high hopes for the future of the neighborhood.

"We're glad to continue providing these services," Ahmad said. "We should do these missions more often. Anything we can provide will be helpful."

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WAC from Page 1

General MacArthur called WACs, "my best soldiers," adding that "they worked harder, complained less, and were better disciplined than men." After many years of public debate and in response to a worsening international environment, Congress finally approved regular and reserve component status for women. On June 12, 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed Public Law 625, the Women's Armed Services Integration Act.

During the next twenty years, the WAC followed the Army's pattern of recruitment, whereby in peacetime a small well-trained force of officers and enlisted members were maintained and during wartime a recall of reserve soldiers to active service was employed as well as increased recruitment.

These fluctuations remained the pattern until the early 1970s, when in response to President Richard Nixon's intention to reduce and eventually eliminate the drafting of men a plan was developed to expand the WAC.

The recruitment of women was seen

as part of the answer to the shortages that the Army was projecting for the 1980s and 1990s in male recruitment. Many different studies -- to include the: Women's Enlisted Expansion Model, Women Officer Strength Model, Women Content in Units Force Development Test, Women in the Army Study and Evaluation of Women in the Army -- were developed and conducted by the Departments of the Army and Defense to examine whether rapid increases in women's recruitment would affect military readiness.

Eventually the findings of these different expansion studies, combined with the new expanded military occupation specialties available to women through the Combat Exclusion Policy, allowed women to further integrate into the Army.

By 1978, the DOD and Congress were fully committed to ending this last remainder of segregation within the Army. Senator William Proxmire of Wisconsin proposed an amendment to the FY 1979 Defense Procurement Authorization Bill which called for the end of the WAC. The

bill was passed, and the WAC was disbanded. Since the signing of PL 95-485 by President Carter, women have been fully integrated into the Army.



Businesses reopen, life returning to normal in Jazeera

Story by Multi-National Division – North PAO

Over the past few years, the Jazeera Desert area west of the population centers in the Salah ad Din province has been a thoroughfare for insurgents.

They often traveled amongst the villages, intimidating locals and causing many to shut down their business and leave their homes.

After more than a year of successful Coalition and Iraqi operations, and the development of Sons of Iraq groups in the Jazeera, the security has dramatically increased and many have begun to migrate back.

"With the implementation of the CLC program and the increased security they provide, many businesses have begun to reopen," said Sgt. 1st Class Roger McLauehlan, Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment. "This provides increased job opportunities for locals in the area as well as much needed services to improve the quality of life of the Iraqi people."

One of those companies benefitting from increased security is the Naqua Road Asphalt Factory, just west of Samarra. The owners of the business were forced to flee more than three years ago; fearing insurgents would strong-arm them into providing financial assistance for criminal activity.

According to one of the owners, they feel secure enough now to continue with the upkeep on the business and currently employs 45 workers.

With its more than 50 pieces of equipment, the company is able to provide road repair and construction to a large area, centered on greater-Samarra.

"We are willing to go anywhere and can pave any road, any time," said the factory owner.

Many of the roadways in the Jazeera Desert are "unimproved" or dirt paths. The Asphalt Factory has the capacity to produce 120 tons of asphalt an hour, and would almost be an instant boost for road repair and construction.

However, McLauehlan said the largest boost is to the local economy because men are taking responsibility for the security of their areas.

"As more and more businesses open an increasing number of locals from this area and surrounding ones will see how important security is," said McLauehlan. "Hopefully this will lead to them to be willing to step forward and assume responsibility for the all the security of their areas."



(U.S. Army Courtesy Photo)

ELECTIONS

Democrat Barack Obama has opened an 8-point lead over Republican John McCain two weeks before the U.S. presidential election, according to a Reuters/C-SPAN/Zogby poll released on Tuesday.

Obama leads McCain 50 percent to 42 percent among likely U.S. voters in the latest three-day tracking poll, up from a 6-point advantage for Obama on Monday. The telephone poll has a margin of error of 2.9 percentage points.

"It was another very big day for Obama," said pollster John Zogby. "Things clearly are moving in Obama's direction."

It was the second consecutive day that Obama gained ground on McCain as the two head into the final sprint to the November 4 election.

Obama, an Illinois senator, expanded his lead among two key swing groups. His advantage with independent voters grew from 11 to 15 points, and his edge with women voters grew from 8 to 13 points.

Obama also took a lead among voters above the age of 70 and expanded his lead

among Hispanics and Catholics. His support among Republicans grew from 9 percent to 12 percent a day after he received the endorsement of Republican former Secretary of State Colin Powell.

"Maybe this is the Powell effect," Zogby said. "That wasn't just an endorsement, that was a pretty powerful statement."

McCain narrowly trails Obama among men and saw his lead among whites drop from 13 points to 9 points, 51 percent to 42 percent. Zogby said Obama was doing better than 2004 Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry among crucial sub-groups.

"He is clearly outperforming Kerry," Zogby said. "But two weeks is a lifetime in politics."

This was the first time Obama has stretched his advantage over McCain, an Arizona senator, to more than 6 points since the tracking poll began more than two weeks ago. Obama's edge had been between 2 and 6 points in all 15 days of polling.

Some other tracking polls

have showed the race tightening in the last few days. But with the help of his huge spending advantage, Obama has maintained an edge on McCain in key states.

The poll, taken Saturday through Monday, showed independent Ralph Nader gaining 2 percent support. Green Party candidate Cynthia McKinney and Libertarian Bob Barr each registered 1 percent support.

The rolling tracking poll surveyed 1,214 likely voters in the presidential election. In a tracking poll, the most recent day's results are added while the oldest day's results are dropped to monitor changing momentum.



Entertainment

Four Tops leader Abdul "Duke" Fakir called the late Levi Stubbs "one of the best singers in the world, period, of all time" and "a great man" in the first comments from the group's camp since Stubbs died last Friday.

Fakir -- who started the Four Tops with Stubbs after the two met as high school students at a party on Detroit's north side in 1954 -- told Billboard.com on Monday that the loss is "a big hurt" and was compounded by the Tops being out of town, performing in Jackpot, Nev., during the weekend.

"It was a fun engagement, but I didn't really want to be there," acknowledged Fakir, the sole surviving original member of the legendary Motown group. "I was hurting the whole time. I really wanted to just come back home, but we do not disappoint the fans. That was one of the hard weekends for me, though."

Stubbs, who had been in poor health for some years due to cancer and strokes, died during his sleep at his Detroit home.

"I saw him about a week ago and he

looked healthier. His face was fatter and he was smiling and he was in good spirits. I really thought he'd pull through longer than he did," Fakir said.

Stubbs, who was the godfather to Fakir's oldest child, will always be remembered for the voice that powered the Four Tops' hits.

"He had such power," Fakir said. "He had a baritone voice and a tenor range. He could do anything with his voice. He could take you anywhere with it. He could take you to a love scene. He could take you dancing. He could take a great old standard and make you feel like you're right there in that song. Just an amazing voice, an amazing interpreter, an amazing man."

Even more importantly, Fakir noted, Stubbs "was dedicated to us. He had many chances and many offers to be lured away into his own solo world, but he never wanted that. He said, 'Man, all I really want to do is sing and take care of my family, and that's what I'm doing, so all is well. Everything else that doesn't include you guys, it doesn't mean a thing to me.' That kind of character and commitment is really hard to find these

Fakir said that he and the current Tops -- Roquel Payton (son of original Top Laurence Payton, who died in 1997), former Temptations member Theo Peoples and Motown veteran Ronnie McNeir -- intend to continue performing to honor the Tops' legacy.

"As long as people accept us delivering those songs as close to the original Four Tops as we can, we'll do it," he said. "There'll never be another Levi. We don't expect to replace a voice like that, or a personality like that. But we can keep singing his songs, 'cause the world should always hear them."



Hockey

Sean Avery returned to Madison Square Garden on Monday night looking much the same as he used to, wearing an expensive suit and unusually shiny silver dress shoes. But once in the door, he took what might have once seemed to Rangers fans like a wrong turn: to the visitors' dressing room.

The Times's hockey blog on the start of the European season and the N.H.L.-Russia dispute.

Go to the Slapshot Blog » After spending 86 games over the previous two seasons as the Rangers' agitator extraordinaire — a job often celebrated by Garden crowds chanting his name — Avery signed a four-year, \$15.5 million contract with Dallas in July. The N.H.L. schedule deposited him back in New York for a piece of early-season theater, a 2-1 Stars victory that sent the Rangers (6-2-1) to their third loss in four games.

Avery neither scored nor caused any major disturbances, but he did make his presence known. He yelled at Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist during warm-ups, and when he tried to get in Lundqvist's face early in the first period, Rangers center Brandon Dubinsky intervened. From there, the fans booed him whenever he touched the puck.

"That's just me being me, getting myself into the game," Avery said.

Avery knew all of this was coming. He might have even been disappointed if the fans had not turned on him.

"The Garden is a great place to play," Avery said. "As far as I'm concerned, New York is my home. You never want to leave a place where you're happy, but that's what life is about, I guess. If anyone can adjust to a new team, a new place, it's probably me."

Avery's arrival in New York just before the trade deadline in February 2007 was a boon to the Rangers and to his career. He joined a floundering team and helped jolt it to a playoff berth.

Last season, he played 57 games between various injuries and — with 15 goals, 18 assists and 154 penalty minutes — gave certain opponents fits. Avery seemed to take special pleasure in tormenting the Devils and their future Hall of Fame goalie, Martin Brodeur, especially



when the Rangers won the teams' first-round playoff series last season in five games.

But the Rangers balked at Avery's asking price when he became a free agent last spring. He accepted a richer from Dallas, whose players were wary about what they had invited in the door.

"I hated him," said the Stars' captain, Brenden Morrow. "I'm not going to lie. I don't have to do that anymore. He's tough to play against. He gets under your skin, and he's pretty good at what he does."

The worry about Avery was that he could irritate his teammates as well as he could his opponents. He had worn out his welcome in Los Angeles when the Kings traded him to the Rangers.

The Rangers, though, always supported him, even when his antics went overboard. He nearly started brawls in warm-ups before games against the Devils and Toronto, and he famously waved his stick in front of Brodeur's face to block his view. The N.H.L. rewrote a rule to address that.

"There's no question he helped us win a lot of games," said Chris Drury, the Rangers' captain. "How hard he competed, how hard he hit. No one would ever doubt that. In that Jersey series, he was everywhere, and Brodeur wasn't too comfortable because of that."

The question now is whether the Rangers are as difficult a team to play against now that Avery is gone. Rangers Coach Tom Renney said not yet.

"I do believe we can be," Renney said. "As a coaching staff, we're going to have to address that as part of our game. I do think we're tough enough."

In Dallas, Avery has already confirmed his reputation, earning two game misconducts in his second game, for starting a fight when one was already going on and for arguing the call. He does not have a goal but has two assists in six games.

"I'm still trying to find my game," Avery said. "I've always been a slow starter. I'm trying to get it going, but it's a long season. You don't win the Stanley Cup in October."

But you can come back to the Garden for a few boos among old friends.

SLAP SHOTS

The Rangers and the Stars traded power-play goals — by Rangers forward Markus Naslund in the first period by Dallas forward Brenden Morrow in the second — in a low-tempo game eventually decided by Dallas forward Mike Modano's goal with 11 minutes 57 seconds left in the third. ... Dallas will play at the Devils on Wednesday — giving Sean Avery a reunion with Martin Brodeur — and at the Islanders on Thursday.

European Union



The European Union has entered diplomatic no-man's-land by deploying more than 200 monitors to areas of Georgia next to the breakaway provinces of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, replacing Russian forces that invaded Georgia in August. The EU's Georgian deployment is a test of its ability to manage relations with a resurgent Russia, and to develop a more credible approach to the volatile "in-between" lands that stretch along EU borders from the Baltic to the Black Sea.

The EU faces some tough challenges. Moscow has not only refused to make good on its commitment to remove its forces from Abkhazia and South Ossetia, it has actually recognized the two Georgian provinces as

independent countries, given many of their citizens Russian passports, and deployed a sizable contingent of its own forces. EU efforts to initiate mediation talks in the conflict fell apart in Geneva Wednesday due to disagreement between Georgia and Russia over participation of the two breakaway regions.

In the short term, the EU is well-advised to maintain its position as "honest broker" in the conflict. This allowed it to mediate and engineer the current ceasefire, and despite this week's setback offers an opportunity to work with all sides to tackle the unresolved issues of status for the provinces and security for people across the area.

In the longer term, however, the EU must review its approach to Russia and the region as a whole.

The message to Moscow is straightforward. If Russia continues to bully its neighbors and cling to outmoded spheres of influence, the international community will hold Russia accountable. If it uses its energy wealth to invest in its people, build a more sustainable economy grounded in the rule of law, tackle its truly stunning health and demographic challenges, and build better relations with its

European neighbors, the EU and the U.S. stand as willing partners.

The EU's message to smaller neighbors demands more from Brussels. The EU has an interest in preventing violence along its eastern borders. It needs to address wider Europe's remaining conflicts, most of which are labeled "frozen" but are really festering sores that have dragged down small young democracies and blocked their economic development. The EU also has an interest in projecting stability eastward so that instability does not flow westward. It needs to discourage its neighbors from irresponsible behavior and to engage with them in ways that reduce the region's vulnerability to Russian pressure and forge closer links to the EU itself.

EU enlargement has been the bloc's greatest foreign policy achievement. EU leaders remain reluctant, however, to acknowledge that a turbulent Europe without walls and barriers requires vigorous efforts to extend the EU's brand of democratic stability even further eastward. Now that EU forces have been forced to deploy to the eastern shore of the Black Sea, the magnitude of wider Europe's challenge - and the need for a more dynamic response -- may become clear.

India

There was a mood of celebration as trucks laden with fruits and other goods crossed over from Indian and Pakistani Kashmir to the other side, signaling the start of trade in the region after six long decades.

In Indian Kashmir, banners saying "Long live trade across the two sides" fluttered on the trucks as villagers and traders cheered.

In Pakistani Kashmir, white doves of peace were released as the trucks began their journey.

The opening of trade across the tightly-guarded border that divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan is the second major step taken by the two countries to allow contact in the disputed region since they launched a peace process, four years ago. A cross-border bus service was launched in 2005.

The trade begins four months after Indian Kashmir was wracked by massive anti-India protests, led by separatist groups. Their demands included the opening of a trade route

to Pakistan.

A leader of the separatist alliance, the All Parties Huriyat Conference, Abdul Ghani Bhat, says allowing trade is a good step, but hopes it will lead to a political solution of the Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan.

"First steps are first steps, but it is the last step which will determine whether the dispute on Kashmir has permanently been settled or not," said Bhat.

Trade will be restricted. Only four trucks from each side will be allowed to ferry a limited set of goods, once a week, between Srinagar on the Indian side and Muzaffarabad on the Pakistani side. A second trade route will be opened in the coming months, linking Poonch in India with Rawalkot in Pakistani Kashmir.

Pakistani Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Atique Ahmed Khan says volumes will be improved and trade will be expanded. He expresses hope increasing contact and communication between the two sides will ultimately help to resolve the Kashmir conflict, but cautioned against expecting quick results. "All these things, slowly and gradually, they

are contributive factors towards the ultimate resolution," said Atique (of the Kashmir dispute)."

The slow moving peace process between India and Pakistan has lowered tensions in the region, but the two countries are no closer to resolving their territorial dispute.

During the 1990's, a violent separatist insurgency wracked Indian Kashmir - which is the only Muslim majority region in predominantly Hindu India. India blames Pakistan-based Islamic groups for the violence and has moved slowly in opening up the tightly-guarded border.



Photo