



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF VIRGINIA  
JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS - VIRGINIA  
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BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA 23824-6316

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

VAAG

3 March 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Women's History Month (1 – 31 March)

1. The theme for National Women's History Month is "Women Change America". This theme honors and recognizes American women in transforming culture, history and politics as leaders, writers, scientist, educators, politicians, artist, historians, and informed citizens. "Women Change America" also celebrates the myriad ways in which the spirit, courage, and contributions of American women have added to the vitality, richness, and diversity of American life.
2. The Education Task Force of Sonoma County, California, first started Women's History Month as a weeklong ceremony in 1978. The Task Force started the program because of the lack of women's history in the K-12 curriculum and general public consciousness. The week of March 8 was chosen to make International Women's Day the focal point of the observance. It was expanded by Congress in 1987 to a month long observance.
3. The history of women serving in the defense of our nation dates back more than 220 years to the American Revolution and continues with those who serve today. Women began their service in the Virginia National Guard in 1972 and continue to play a vital role serving and defending our Nation. Colonel Janice Young is the senior ranking woman in the Virginia Army National Guard. SGM Glenda Lett is the senior enlisted female in the Virginia Army National Guard. COL Deborah Carroll is the senior ranking woman in the Virginia Air National Guard. CMSgt Vickie Armes is the senior enlisted female in the Virginia Air National Guard.
4. Women have made significant contributions to America in the fields of education, politics, business, medicine, the arts and the military. The service of women has helped to ensure the success of America. In keeping with this month, I strongly urge each of you to participate in the observance of Women's History Month by conducting appropriate activities and programs.

/S/

CLAUDE A. WILLIAMS  
Major General, VaARNG  
The Adjutant General

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