

A Message from Mr. Dean G. Poppo Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology) and Army Acquisition Executive

March is Women's History Month. Thus, it is an appropriate time to acknowledge and celebrate the generations of women who have served our Nation as members of the armed forces, doctors, lawyers, educators, factory workers, athletes, mothers, scientists, engineers, and in countless other roles and professions.

We honor acquisition and logistics professionals - civilian and military - who serve with us every day, both here in the institutional environment and forward deployed, several among whom are: BG Camille Nichols, BG Lee Price, Dr. Grace Bochenek, SES Mary Miller and all other accomplished women spanning the ranks from interns to SESs and from enlisted Soldiers to GEN Ann Dunwoody, Commanding General of the Army Materiel Command, this Nation's first female 4-Star.

We also remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our great Nation, as did a decorated Army Civilian, Barbara Heald, a contracting support officer who was killed in a rocket attack on the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad on January 29, 2005 while on a third tour of duty.

Women continue to be an invaluable and essential part of our Army team. Currently, they serve in 91 percent of Army military occupational specialties, and make-up roughly 14 percent of the Active Army, 23 percent of the Army Reserve and 13 percent of the Army National Guard. Women serve in multiple capacities to include our Non-Commissioned Officers Corps, whose service and sacrifice we honor in 2009, the Year of the Non-Commissioned Officer.

Our Nation is a land of tremendous opportunity, and women have seized that opportunity to shape the future of America in all walks of life. A record number of women are serving in a variety of leadership capacities as Members of Congress and the Cabinet, as Governors and Mayors, and as CEOs. The women of our Armed Forces continue to make vital contributions to our Nation's security by serving the cause of freedom and peace throughout the world.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, I encourage everyone to reflect on the achievements of American women and join with me in honoring their accomplishments, spirit, leadership, hard work and sacrifice.

V/r,

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