

WOMEN IN THE MILITARY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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Abstract: *The second part in the comparative series of military women in the Romanian and United States (US) militaries, details the progressive inclusion of women in the military's education system, occupation and mission opportunities, highlighting the access and challenges thereof. Part I***: Historical Accomplishments of Military Women, focused on a historical perspective to the breakdown of barriers through women's deeds that surpassed expectations and limitation. Part II: Military Women in the 21st Century, focuses on how modern military women have further broken down existing stereotypes and misconceptions about their abilities in their fight for full integration into all aspects of the military.*

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Women have proven themselves indispensable in the military throughout the history of conflicts. They have always surpassed the imposed limitations and contributed with skills, abilities and willingness to serve and created future opportunities. Integration of women has been a slow process, but the last 50 years have seen big strides towards equal opportunities in terms of education, occupations and assignments. In the last five years, laws officially acknowledged what women have been doing since the beginning of wars, which was, to fight alongside the men. By giving women opportunities and operational experience, the military ensures diversity of thought in their ranks, especially in high ranks where decisions have political consequences, to help solve complex and multidimensional problems.

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