

U.S. Ambassador, Army Colonel offer two accounts of the march of women's equality, at AHEC

USAHEC hosts Army War College panel discussion to commemorate Women's Equality Day



Army Col. Lorelei Coplen and U.S. Ambassador Helen Reed-Rowe take questions from the lunchtime crowd during the Army War College special presentation about women's service in the military at the United States Army Heritage and Education Center. The discussion featured the two Army War College leaders with parallel stories to tell about women in the U.S. diplomatic corps and the U.S. military.

From the Votes-for-Women era to today, the U.S. experience for women's opportunities is recognized each August with Women's Equality Day.

This year, the Army War College invited the public as well as the military community to a special presentation about women's service in the military Aug. 27 at the Army Heritage and Education Center.

The discussion featured two Army War College leaders with parallel stories to tell about women in the U.S. diplomatic corps and the U.S. military. Both will offer short presentations and a question-answer session.

U.S. Ambassador Helen Reed-Rowe recounted the U.S. experience in extending voting rights to all Americans, to include women who made a difference in the suffrage movement. She will continue with a discussion of women's roles in the Department of State, noting Secretary Hillary Clinton's participation, then as First Lady, in the United Nation's 4th World Conference for Women in 1995 in Beijing, China.

Army Col. Lorelei Coplen offered insights about women's roles in the U.S. military. Decades after the passage of the right-to-vote amendment, the military integrated women in capacities beyond nursing. Women's military roles continue to evolve today, with the recent decisions to integrate women into combat organizations.

BACKGROUND: Proclaimed by the President, the United States celebrates Women's Equality Day in August each year to commemorate women gaining the right to vote. Generations of women uttered the phrase, "votes for women" as they fought to obtain the right to vote over the course of decades of struggle. The suffrage movement culminated with the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, which prohibited any U.S. citizen from being denied the right to vote based on sex.

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