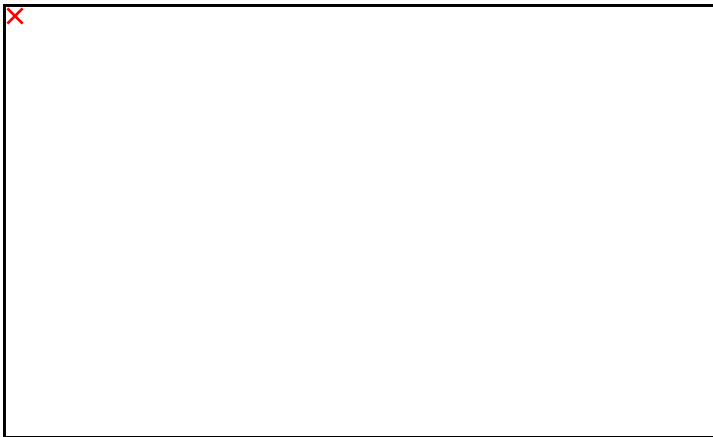


Event recognizes accomplishments of women

Suzanne Reynolds, Army War College Public Affairs Office

Event recognizes diverse accomplishments of women throughout history



Retired Lt. Col. Cheryl Solomon was the guest speaker for the 2010 Carlisle Barracks Women's History Month observance March 10 at the Post Chapel. Solomon, a Harrisburg native, was the first African American woman from Pa. to graduate from West Point. Photo by Suzanne Reynolds.

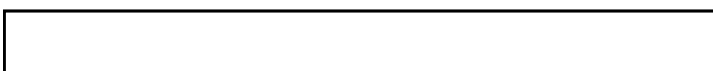
March 10, 2010 -- "The truth has to come out; it has to come out in our families, our history books, otherwise it is not history," said retired Lt. Col. Cheryl Solomon during the Carlisle Barracks Women's History Month observance, March 10 at the Post Chapel.

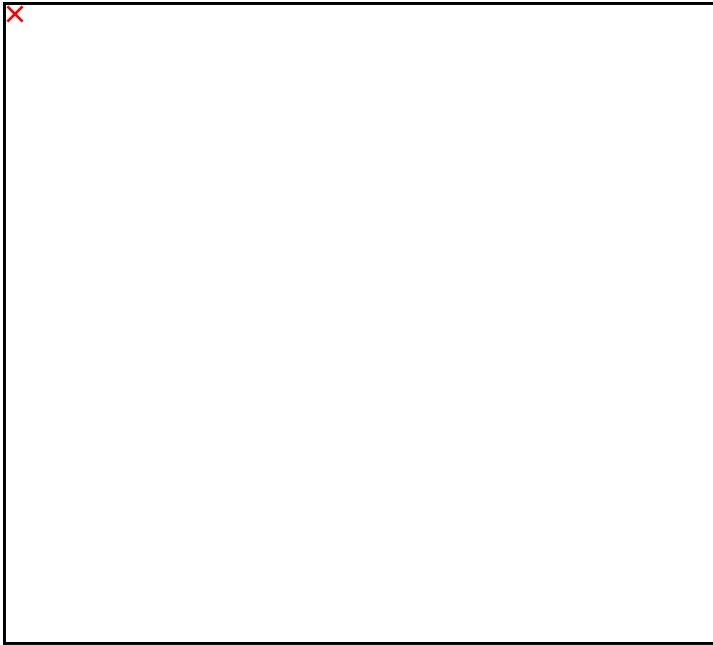
Solomon knows of what she speaks. She made history as the first African American woman from Pennsylvania to graduate from West Point. Originally from Harrisburg, she graduated from West Point in 1987 and received a commission as a second lieutenant in the Military Police Corps.

During her military career, she served in a variety of command and leadership positions to include assignments as brigade executive officer, U.S. Army Disciplinary Barracks, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and as a member of the Department of the Army Military Review Board at the Pentagon.

"Why is history important?" asked retired Solomon.

"There are many reasons," she said. "First, it is a source of pride—I feel a special connection to the women in the military who have paved the way. History establishes our heritage, traditions in our family."





Solomon spoke about the importance of history and making sure it's recorded for future generations. Photo by Suzanne Reynolds.

According to the National Women's History Project, the history of women often seems to be written with invisible ink. Even when recognized in their own times, women are often not included in the history books.

"The recording of history is important for our children," said Merrie Wyrick, USAWC

Library.

"The fact that we consider our family part of history is also vital," said Karen Ellwood, USAWC Library.

In Feb. 1980 President Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week. In 1987, after months of lobbying, Congress declared March as National Women's History Month.

The Carlisle Barracks Women's History program also included a reading of the Presidential Proclamation, a book display from the USAWC Library, food and refreshments.