



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
(MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

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MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Department of the Navy 2015 Women's History Month

The Department of the Navy (DON) celebrates March as Women's History Month. This year's theme, "Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives," presents the opportunity to acknowledge individual and collective stories of women that are woven into the fabric of our nation's history. The DON honors all women. There are countless examples of women whose demonstration of exemplary leadership, courage, and resolve have helped the United States Navy and Marine Corps become the greatest Naval force in the world.

Since the birth of our nation, women have served in essential roles often without recognition in defense of our country, paving the way for women's equality in the Naval service. Their fight for equality has led to women serving on combatant ships, flying fighter jets, and most recently breaking barriers to serve on submarines. Inspired by the courageous pioneers who came before them, women now make up 8 percent of the active duty flag officers and 29 percent of the reserve flag officers. In the DON civilian workforce, women comprise 25 percent of Senior Executives. Naval women today hold higher-level leadership positions in the DON than at any time in history.

The DON continually attracts talented women in the general active duty service and the civilian workforce. There are 57,125 active duty women and 12,625 female reservists serving the Navy and the Marine Corps, comprising 19 percent of the total Naval force. In support of our warfighters, 83,696 civilian women work for the DON, representing 35 percent of our total civilian labor force. The Navy and the Marine Corps communities are enriched by the accomplishments of women in all facets of military and civilian duties, both ashore and afloat.

The fortitude of spirit displayed by past and present heroines makes them role models not just for women, but for all. Please observe this month by recognizing the contributions of our U.S. Navy and Marine Corps women. As we celebrate this month, the DON will continue to promote inclusive policies and practices that advance the sense of excellence and patriotism shared by all members of the Naval force.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juan M. Garcia", is positioned above the typed name.

Juan M. Garcia
Assistant Secretary of the Navy
(Manpower & Reserve Affairs)

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