

When Women Go To War (2003-today)

2003

Specialist Shoshana Johnson is the first black female prisoner of war in United States history. She was held hostage for 22 days. **March 2003.**

Private First Class Jessica Lynch, was captured and injured in Iraq. **March 23, 2003.**

Private First Class Lori Piestewa, a U.S. soldier, dies in combat. She is the first woman soldier to die in the 2003 Iraq Conflict and the first Native American woman to die in combat while serving in the United States Military. **March 23, 2003.**

United States Major General Trudy H. Clark is appointed Deputy Director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. **June 2003.**

SPC. Frances M. Vega is the first female soldier of Puerto Rican descent to die in a combat zone. **November 2, 2003.**

2004

Capt. Kimberly Hampton is the first female military pilot to be shot down and killed by an enemy in United States history. **January 2, 2004.**

Capt. Tammy Duckworth loses both legs, when the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter she was co-piloting was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade fired by Iraqi insurgents. **November 12, 2004.**

2005

Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester received the Silver Star for her actions in Iraq during an enemy ambush on their convoy near the town of Salman Pak. Hester was the first female soldier to receive the award for exceptional valor since World War II and the first woman ever to receive the Silver Star for close combat. **March 2005.**

Private First Class Lavena Johnson was the first Black female soldier to die in Iraq. Her mysterious death increased the spotlight on sexual assault within the U.S. military. Her death, and many other non-combat related deaths, remains unsolved. **May 2005.**

Brigadier General Susan Y. Desjardins is the first woman Commandant of Cadets and Commander of the 34th Training Wing of the U.S. Air Force Academy. **December 2005.**

2006

Major Tammy Duckworth is the first female combat veteran to be nominated by a major party to run for a seat in the U.S. Congress.

Vivien S. Crea is the first female Vice Admiral of the U.S. Coast Guard.



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2006

Private Michelle Norris saves the life of her sergeant by climbing out of a vehicle and pulling him from the turret of the Warrior Patrol Vehicle that they were in while under heavy gunfire. Norris is the first female to receive the Military Cross of the British Army. **June 11, 2006.**

2nd Lieutenant Emily Perez, 23, was the first female West Point graduate to die in Iraq and the highest-ranking Black and Hispanic woman cadet in the school's history. **September 12, 2006.**



2007

Army Spc. Monica Lin Brown was awarded the Silver Star for her selfless actions that were credited with saving the lives of five soldiers. The 19 year old is only the second woman to receive the valor award since WWII.



2008

Tech. Sergeant Jackie Larsen dies of natural causes, marking the milestone of 100 female service members who have died in Iraq. **July 2008.**

Army Lieutenant Ann Dunwoody became the first female soldier to be promoted to four-star General. **November 2008.**

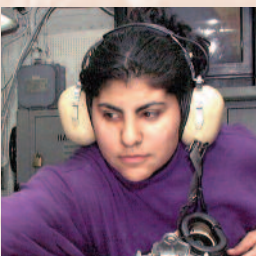
Approximately 114 female soldiers have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Of those, 14 have been officially classified as suicide. **November 2008.**



2009

Women made up 14.3 percent of active duty military, 17.7 percent of the Reserves and 15.7 percent of the National Guard.

Michele Flournoy was appointed Undersecretary of Defense, the first woman to hold the number two position at DOD.



2010

The Navy lifted the ban on women serving on submarines.

Sgt. Maj. Teresa L. King became the army's first woman top drill sergeant

Rear Adm. Nora Tyson took command of Carrier Strike Group Two consisting of America's newest carrier, four guided-missile cruisers; Destroyer Squadron 22, and Carrier Air Wing 8.

The Navy announced its four Sailors of the year, and women swept the field for the first time.

