
VOICES OF THE PAST

BG ANNA MAE HAYS ORAL HISTORY

1983

The following excerpt is from the oral history of Brigadier General Anna Mae Hays, collected for the US Army Senior Officer Oral History Program in 1983. Interview conducted by Col. Amelia J. Carson. The complete oral history is housed as part of the Anna Mae Hays collection at the US Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle, PA.

INTERVIEWER: Is the Nurse Warrant Officer Program a viable option for future mobilization? Also, do you think we will ever have to draft women?

BG HAYS: Well, two questions at once. As far as the Nurse Warrant Officer Program is concerned, I think that in any military buildup, or in any mobilization, that all options should be considered. But, I would certainly foresee that most nurses, if not all, would be graduates of a four-year program in the future. One wouldn't have to use the graduate of a two or three-year program. The primary reason they were utilized in 1966 was due to the military buildup – we needed to have more nurses on board. Now, as to the second question regarding drafting of nurses. You are too young to recall, but in World War II, when the Army needed over 57,000 nurses, the draft was unnecessary. Whenever that question, "Will nurses respond again?" has had been asked of me, I answered, "Absolutely." Now, that would include, at this time, both male and female nurses. I don't know of any nurse who would not want to serve his or her country in time of war. A draft should not be necessary.