

**DES MOINES TRIBUTE**

**January 24, 1967**

**“The Woman Colonel Is ‘Back Home’”**

Colonel Elizabeth Hoisington has returned to Fort Des Moines to become director of the corps. She had left Fort Des Moines in May, 1943, as a Women’s Army Corps “third officer” (second lieutenant). Her immediate subordinate is Lt. Col. Mary Kelly.

## The Woman Colonel Is 'Back Home'

A woman who left Fort Des Moines in May, 1943, as a Women's Army Corps "third officer" (equivalent of a second lieutenant) returned for the first time Monday — as a colonel and director of the corps.

"It's like coming home again," said Col. Elizabeth P. Hoisington. "I have a lot of wonderful memories of the old fort."

### First Swing

Colonel Hoisington was here Monday for a one-day visit of Army recruiting and military examination facilities as part of her first swing through the midwest since she was appointed WAC director last August.

"When I first arrived here from Spokane, Wash., for four weeks of basic training, we lived in barracks which were converted from old stables," she recalled.

### Wash the Bricks

"Then we moved into red brick barracks that we called 'Boom Town.' We were so proud of them that when rain splattered mud on the walls, we got out hoses to wash down the bricks," she said.

"If anyone ever had told me I'd ever come back as a colonel, I wouldn't have believed them."

Between her six weeks of officer candidate school here and her new tour of duty in the Pentagon, Colonel Hoisington has served "all over the nation," she said.



COL. ELIZABETH  
HOISINGTON  
WAC Director

Most of World War II was spent in Europe. She also has served in Japan and most recently as commandant of the WAC school at Fort McClellan, Ala.

Her immediate subordinate, Lt. Col. Mary Kelly, WAC deputy director, is the sister of Edward Kelly, a Des Moines attorney.