



In 1971 a change in regulations allowed natural mothers to continue on active duty service. Capt Joan Collins, company commander, reenlists pregnant GySgt Donna Murray.

This sort of reasoning, typical of the times, formed the basis for Marine Corps regulations on the subject until 1970. The rules were very strictly enforced, and any responsibility for children forced the separation of a woman Marine from the service.

The first step toward a more liberal view was taken in the fall of 1970 when Headquarters announced that a WM who is the stepparent of, or who has personal custody of, or adopts, a child could ask to stay on active duty. Each case had to be reviewed, taking into

consideration such factors as length of service, performance record, ages and number of children involved, and the commanding officer's evaluation of the situation. Waivers were granted if it could be determined that parenthood would not interfere with the Marine's job.⁵

On 12 August 1970, Colonel Jeanette I. Sustad, Director of Women Marines, startled the women attending the Women Marines Association Convention in Philadelphia by predicting the possibility of allow-