

# UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE



This 1906 photo from the Library of Congress is the earliest record indicating that women were employed by the U.S. Secret Service.

## WOMEN IN SECRET SERVICE

by D. Darlene Simpson  
Junior Writer, Office of Government  
Liaison and Public Affairs

Little is known about the first women in the Secret Service - their names, when they first appeared, what jobs they held is forever lost in history. Only the single photograph above remains to indicate that two women held clerical positions as early as 1906.

Throughout the first half of the 20th century, whatever women there were in the Secret Service unquestionably served only in clerical or administrative positions. Federal regulations prohibiting women from carrying firearms effectively closed

all other career opportunities.

But on September 15, 1970, that restriction was quietly and irrevocably laid to rest. On that day, the Secret Service set a precedent among federal law enforcement agencies when its Executive Protective Service (predecessor to the Uniformed Division) appointed its first female officer. Additional female officers were hired shortly thereafter, and one year later in December 1971, five of those women were transferred from the Executive Service to special agent positions.

The early 1970s proved to be watershed years for women in the Secret Service, as in all of law enforcement. More and more

women came - and stayed. Today, 126 years after the creation of the agency, females comprise about 22 percent of the Secret Service's total work force.

Currently, women still account for less than 7 percent of the total special agent and Uniformed Division population in the Service. But only their small numbers set them apart from their male colleagues. They meet the same stringent hiring requirements as males; they receive the same training; they perform the same duties. Female special agents are assigned to most protective details. (Currently, five serve on the Presidential Detail.) They serve as training instructors and as advance agents. They per-

form all aspects of the Service's investigative activities - from counterfeiting to savings and loans fraud.

The same applies for women Uniformed Division officers. Women officers are assigned to protective duty at the White House and at foreign diplomatic missions in the Washington, D.C., area. They serve as firearms instructors and classroom instructors. They work in the White House Control Center (the security nerve center for the White House Complex), and they serve on canine details. Women officers are part of the White House Branch's "tour" detail, and the magnetometer teams.

In the administrative/professional categories, women hold positions as attorneys, budget analysts, procurement officers, computer specialists, administrative officers, accountants, writers/editors, employee development specialists, office managers, intelligence research specialists, communications specialists, photographers, and staff assistants... to name a few.

In all facets of the Service's protective and investigative missions, women have achieved positions of leadership and responsibility undreamed of by the early "pioneers."

In the photographs below, we proudly present a small sampling of the many women who contribute to the present success of the U.S. Secret Service.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Jane Ellen Vezeris**  
Deputy Assistant Director  
Office of Investigations



Background: B.A. in sociology, Fordham University, 1971; J.D., New York, 1974; Member of the New York State Bar since 1975.

As Deputy Assistant Director, Jane Vezeris is the highest ranking female agent in the Service. She was appointed to the USSS in 1975 and began her career as a special agent in the Chicago Field Office. Later she served in the New York City Field Office and in the Chief Counsel's Office at Headquarters.

Jane was promoted to Assistant to the Special Agent in Charge of the Washington Field Office in 1983 and to Deputy Assistant Director, Office of Government Liaison and Public Affairs in 1985. In her present position, Jane has oversight of 31 domestic field offices and 5 resident agencies.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Laurie B. Davis**  
Assistant Special Agent in Charge  
Special Investigations and  
Support Division

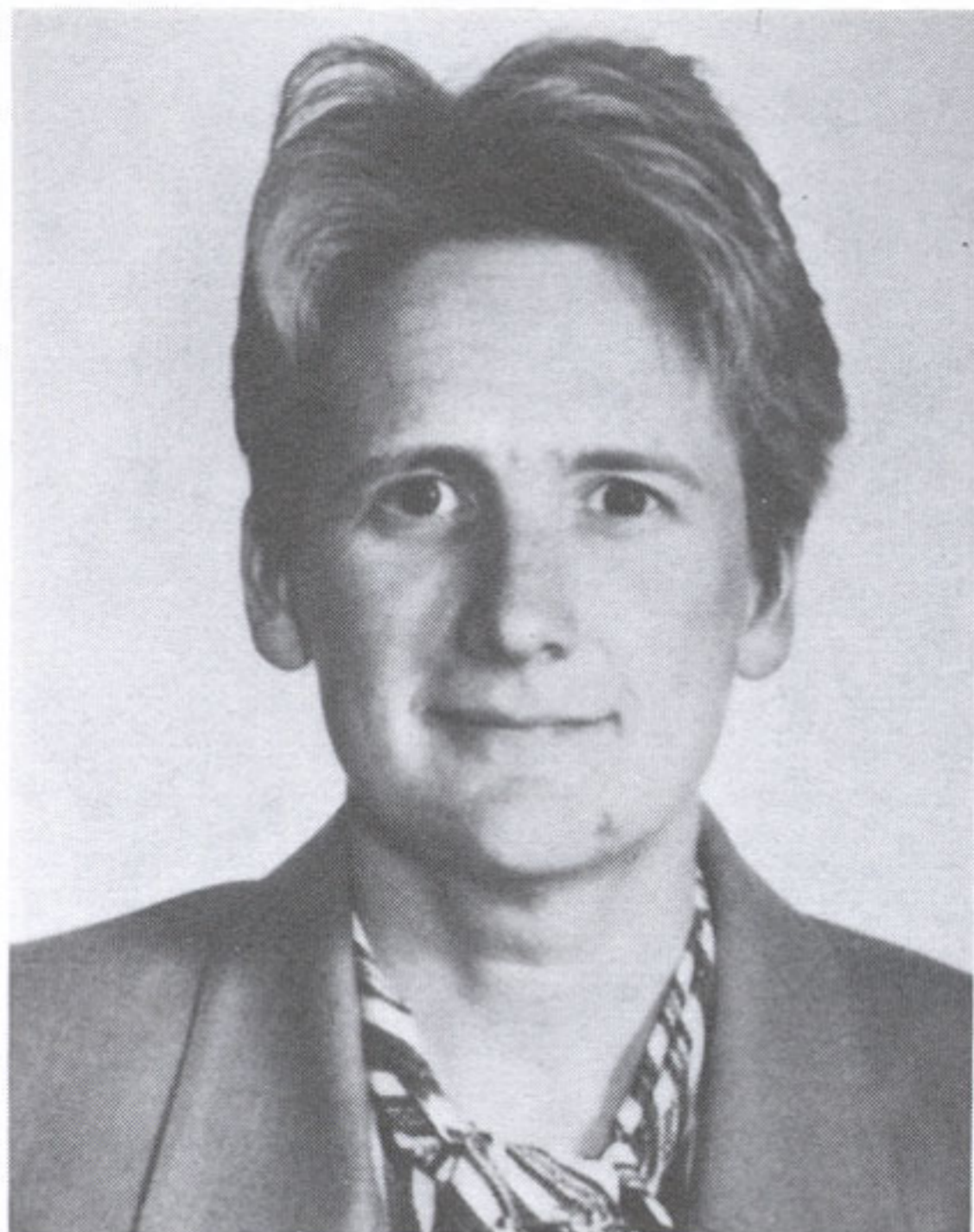


Background: B.A. in sociology; M.A. in Human Resources Management; Former Washington Metropolitan Police Officer; Former officer of the Executive Protective Services (now known as the USSS Uniformed Division).

ASAIC Laurie Davis was one of the first five women hired by the Secret Service in 1970 to serve as officers in the Executive Protective Service. A year later, she became one of the first women appointed as a special agent (1811 series). In the course of her career, Laurie has achieved numerous other "firsts" in the Service. She was the first woman agent to be assigned to the Office of Government Liaison and Public Affairs, Fraud and Forgery Division, INTERPOL, and to the Office of Inspection. Laurie was also the first woman agent supervisor in the Intelligence Division and in the Special Investigation and Security Division.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Barbara Riggs**  
**Assistant to the Special Agent in**  
**Charge**  
**Presidential Protective Division**



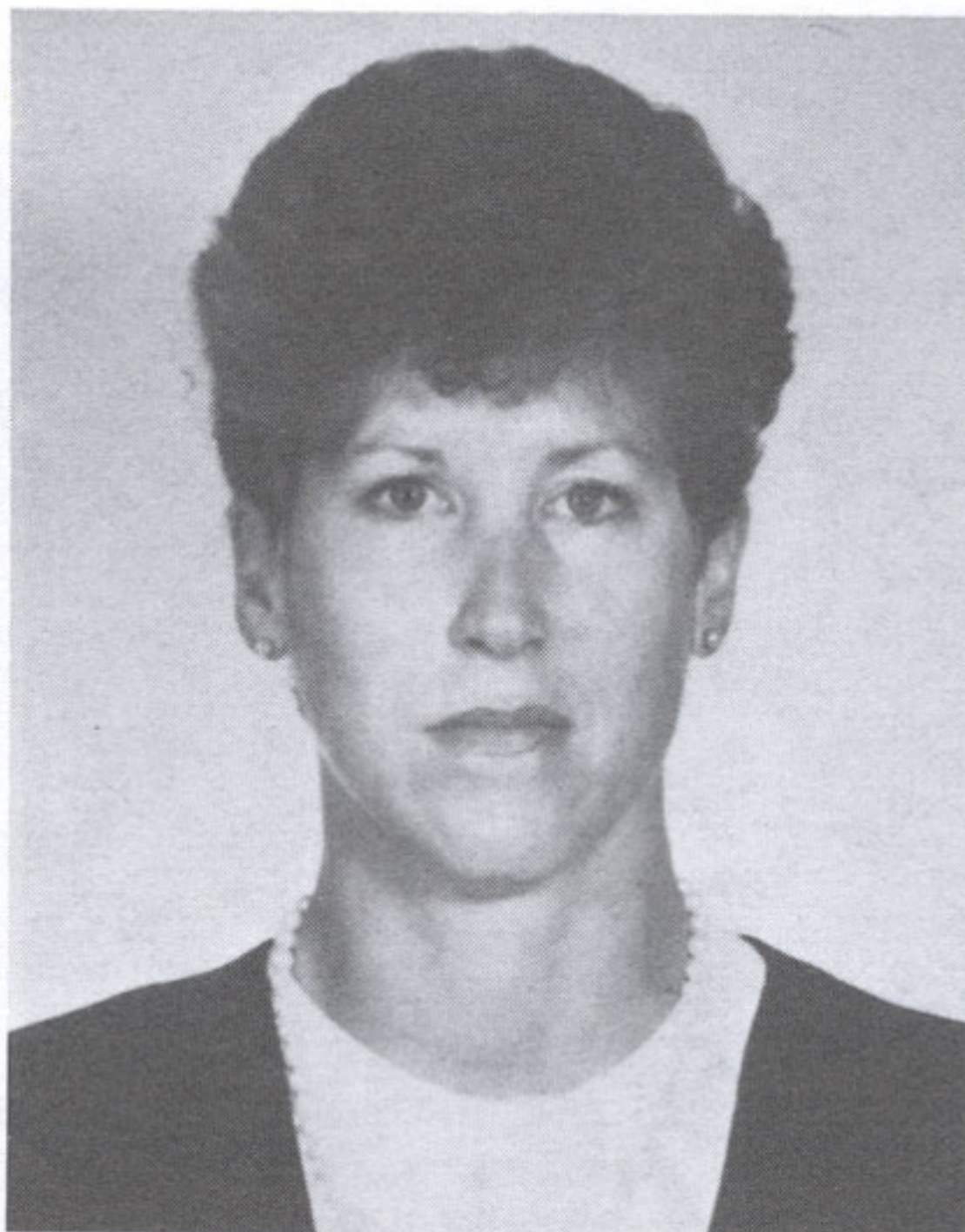
Background: B.A. in international relations and Spanish, Cornell University, College of Arts and Sciences.

Barbara Riggs is the first woman to serve as a Shift Leader in the Presidential Protective Division. She was appointed to the Service as a special agent in 1975 and started her career in the Washington Field Office. Subsequently, Barbara was assigned to the Intelligence Division and then to the Presidential Protective Division for five years. She became the first woman Group Leader for the Forgery and Counterfeit Squads in the Los Angeles Field Office and the first ATSAIC for a field office (New York).

In her present position, Barbara is one of three shift leaders responsible for 24-hour protection of the President.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Shawn M. Campbell**  
**Resident Agent in Charge**  
**Austin Resident Agency**



Background: B.A. in political science, Texas A&M University, 1976.

Shawn Campbell is the Service's first woman agent in charge of a field facility. She started her career as a special agent in 1976 in the Houston Field Office. She served on the Presidential Protective Division during both the Carter and Reagan administrations. Later assignments included the Candidate/Nominee Protective Division, the Office of Training, and the Office of Inspection (where she participated in OPM's Legis Fellow Program in the U.S. Senate). She served as ATSAIC of Research and Training in the Intelligence Division and was transferred one year later to the Dallas Field Office as ATSAIC (Fraud Squad). Shawn is also an Ombudsman for the U.S. Secret Service.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Mary Ann Gordon**  
**Special Agent**  
**Intelligence Division**



Background: B.S. in law enforcement, Penn State; M.S. in strategic intelligence, Defense Intelligence College.

Mary Ann Gordon entered the Service in 1974 as a special agent. In 1978 she became the first woman agent permanently assigned to the Presidential Protective Division and subsequently was also the first woman to drive the President's limo.

Mary Ann drove in President Reagan's 1981 Inaugural Parade and was the transportation agent on March 30, 1991, when the assassination attempt occurred. As the motorcade left the Hilton, a communications break occurred with the Metropolitan Police motorcade units. Mary Ann ordered her driver to take the lead in front of the President's limo and then led the motorcade to George Washington Hospital.

She returned to field office duty in 1981 (Baltimore Field Office), and was transferred two years later to serve as the first woman agent in the Liaison Division. In 1989, while assigned to the Office of Training, Mary Ann attended the Defense Intelligence College and received a master's degree. She is presently assigned as intelligence liaison with the Department of Defense.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Lt. Lawrie C. Rich**  
**Office of Deputy Chief**  
**Foreign Missions Branch**  
**USSS Uniformed Division**



Background: U.S. Marine Corps (Sgt.) Associates of Arts degree in police science, Northern Virginia Community College; B.S. in criminal justice administration, University of Maryland.

Lawrie Rich entered the Service in 1976 and was assigned to the Foreign Missions Branch (Operations) until 1980. She then transferred to the White House Branch and in two years was promoted to Sergeant. In 1984 she became the first woman Uniformed Division Recruiting Sergeant for the Administration and Program Support Branch. She was reassigned to the White House Branch (Treasury Building) in 1987. In 1989 she was promoted to Lieutenant and reassigned to the Foreign Missions Branch. Currently she is serving on the Deputy Chief's staff (Foreign Missions Branch) and is in charge of scheduling and assignments.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Lt. Carolyn M. Beal**  
**Office of Deputy Chief**  
**White House Branch**  
**USSS Uniformed Division**



Background: Two years of college work, Boston, MA.

Lt. Beal was the first woman promoted to the position of Lieutenant in the Uniformed Division. She entered the Service in 1979 and was assigned to the White House Branch. After three years, Carolyn was transferred to the Foreign Missions Branch and promoted to Sergeant. In 1987, she was promoted to Lieutenant and reassigned to the White House Branch. In 1989 she was asked to serve on the Chief's Staff and subsequently reassigned to the White House Branch ten months later. Lt. Beal's current assignment is an administrative position involving procurement policies, budget, training, and special projects.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sgt. Donna K. Carpenter**  
**White House Branch**  
**USSS Uniformed Division**



Background: B.S. in criminal justice, West Georgia College, 1985.

Sgt. Carpenter entered the Secret Service in 1985. Her first assignment was in the Foreign Missions Branch. Two years later, she was transferred to the White House Branch, where she was assigned to the Control Center. Donna was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in July 1990. She has since had a variety of assignments including the New Executive Office Building. She is currently assigned as a supervisor at the Southwest Gate in the White House Complex. Donna has been a WIFLE committee member since April 1988. She currently serves as Treasurer of the WIFLE committee.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Officer Jocelyn C. Pearson**  
**White House Branch**  
**USSS Uniformed Division**



Officer Pearson has been a member of the Uniformed Division since 1975 and was first assigned to the Foreign Missions Branch (Operations). She transferred to the Vice President's Residence when it was first established during Vice President Rockefeller's term. After two years, she was assigned to the Foreign Missions Control Center, where she worked as a dispatcher and station clerk.

Jocelyn was chosen as the first woman canine handler in 1981 when there were very few women handlers nationwide. During her time in the program, she and her assigned canine "Poopsie" traveled extensively, working at the Reagan Ranch and at Kennebunkport. They also competed successfully in local bomb dog competition, placing first in 1987.

Officer Pearson was transferred out of canine in 1989 and assigned to the White House Branch. She is currently assigned to the White House Control Center. ("Poopsie" is now retired and lives with Pearson on her horse farm.)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sgt. Rita C. Hamon**  
**Headquarters,**  
**Staff Inspections Unit**  
**USSS Uniformed Division**



Background: U.S. Capital Police Officer.

Rita was sworn into the Uniformed Division in 1976 and assigned to the Foreign Missions Branch. In 1981 she was reassigned to the White House Branch and spent 4 years assigned to the Special Operations Section as a Tour Officer. Rita was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and reassigned to the Foreign Missions Branch in 1987, where she served as Zone Sergeant and Building Sergeant. In July 1990, she was reassigned to Headquarters to the Staff Inspections Unit.

Rita (who is the mother of two daughters, Jessica and Sharon) is also an Officer In Charge of the Uniformed Division Ceremonial Honor Guard and a member of the WIFLE committee. She was Cochair of the Conference Committee in 1990.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Janet L. Dakin**  
**Staff Analyst**  
**Office of Investigations**



Janet left private industry to join the federal workforce in 1971. She joined the Secret Service as a Clerk Stenographer in the Protective Support Division and within five years was promoted to the position of Office Manager. She was promoted again a year later and reassigned to the Office of the Assistant Director, Office of Investigations, as an investigative specialist. Her work in the area of personnel management culminated in another promotion in 1984 when she became a Staff Assistant to the Assistant Director. Janet has chaired a subcommittee to consider grade issues and resolve a critical shortage of administrative personnel. She has also been instrumental in developing a career structure for administrative personnel. In February 1990, Janet was promoted to Staff Analyst where she continues to research and evaluate the staffing criteria for the Assistant Director, Office of Investigations.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Nancy A. Nifong-Kerlin**  
**Chief, Procurement Division**  
**Office of Administration**



Background: B.S. in political science, University of Missouri  
 M.A. in business, George Washington University.

Ms. Kerlin has been Chief of the Procurement Division since 1985 and is the first woman to hold this position in the Secret Service. She is responsible for procurement and contract management for all Secret Service acquisitions.

Nancy has worked on both the operational and staff sides of procurement throughout her career. Previous assignments were with the General Services Administration, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Department of the Defense. Nancy is a certified professional contract manager.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Donna L. Boudreau**  
**Senior Attorney**  
**Office of Chief Counsel**



Background: B.A. in history, College of Holy Cross J.D., Case Western Reserve University Law School.

At the time Ms. Boudreau was hired as an attorney in the Office of the Chief Counsel, she was the only woman attorney in the office. Since that time the staff of the Office of the Chief Counsel has grown to include three other women attorneys.

As the Senior Staff Attorney, Ms. Boudreau provides advice and representation to the Secret Service on a variety of legal issues arising from the criminal law enforcement and protective responsibilities of that agency. In particular, Ms. Boudreau provides advice concerning constitutional issues, personnel and administrative law, the privacy rights of individuals, and the Freedom of Information Act. In this position, Ms. Boudreau also drafts legislation and regulations, and represents the Secret Service before administrative bodies such as the Merit Systems Protection Board and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Vivian V. Havian**  
**Staff Assistant Office of Training**



Background: A.A., Goldey Beacom Junior College B.A. in human resource development, George Washington University.

Ms. Havian joined the Secret Service's Office of Training in 1974 after 15 years in the private sector. One year later she became the first woman in a professional series to conduct training for GS-1811 (agent) personnel. Later, she became the first woman Branch Chief in the Office of Training and the first non-agent woman to supervise GS-1811 personnel. Vivian was recently promoted to the position of Staff Assistant to the Assistant Director, Office of Training.

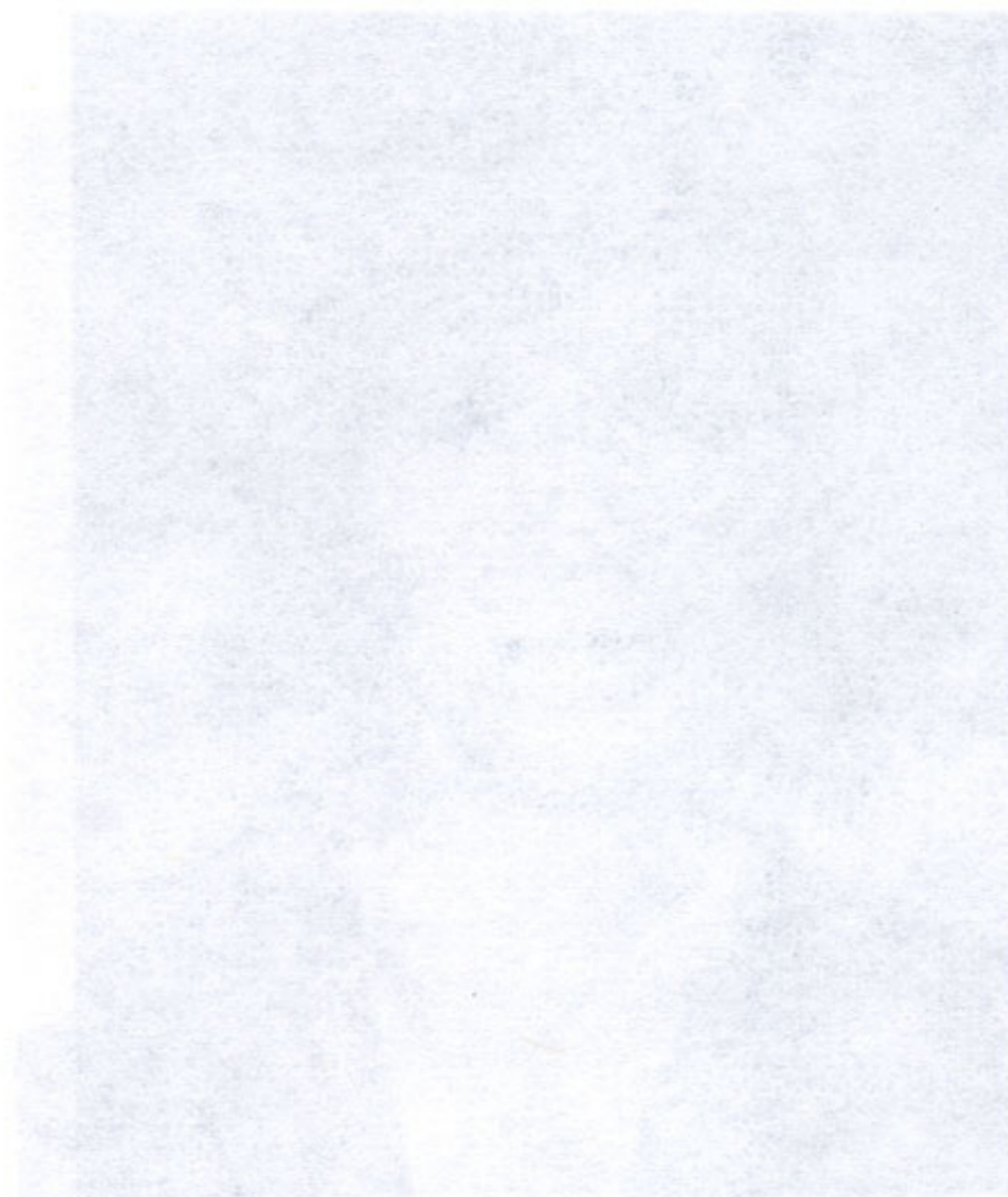
\*\*\*\*\*

**Hilda B. Hamed**  
**Assistant Chief**  
**Information Resources**  
**Management Division**



Ms. Hamed joined the Secret Service in 1987 and was recently appointed Assistant Chief for Applications Development. Until this appointment, she had spent the majority of her tenure (both in technical and managerial positions) in support of the Secret Service's nationwide data network.

Hilda started her career in the computer field as a computer specialist intern in 1976. Later, she worked for the United States Army, developing applications in support of battlefield computer systems. In 1984 she left government to work for private industry in the data communications field and returned to federal service three years later.

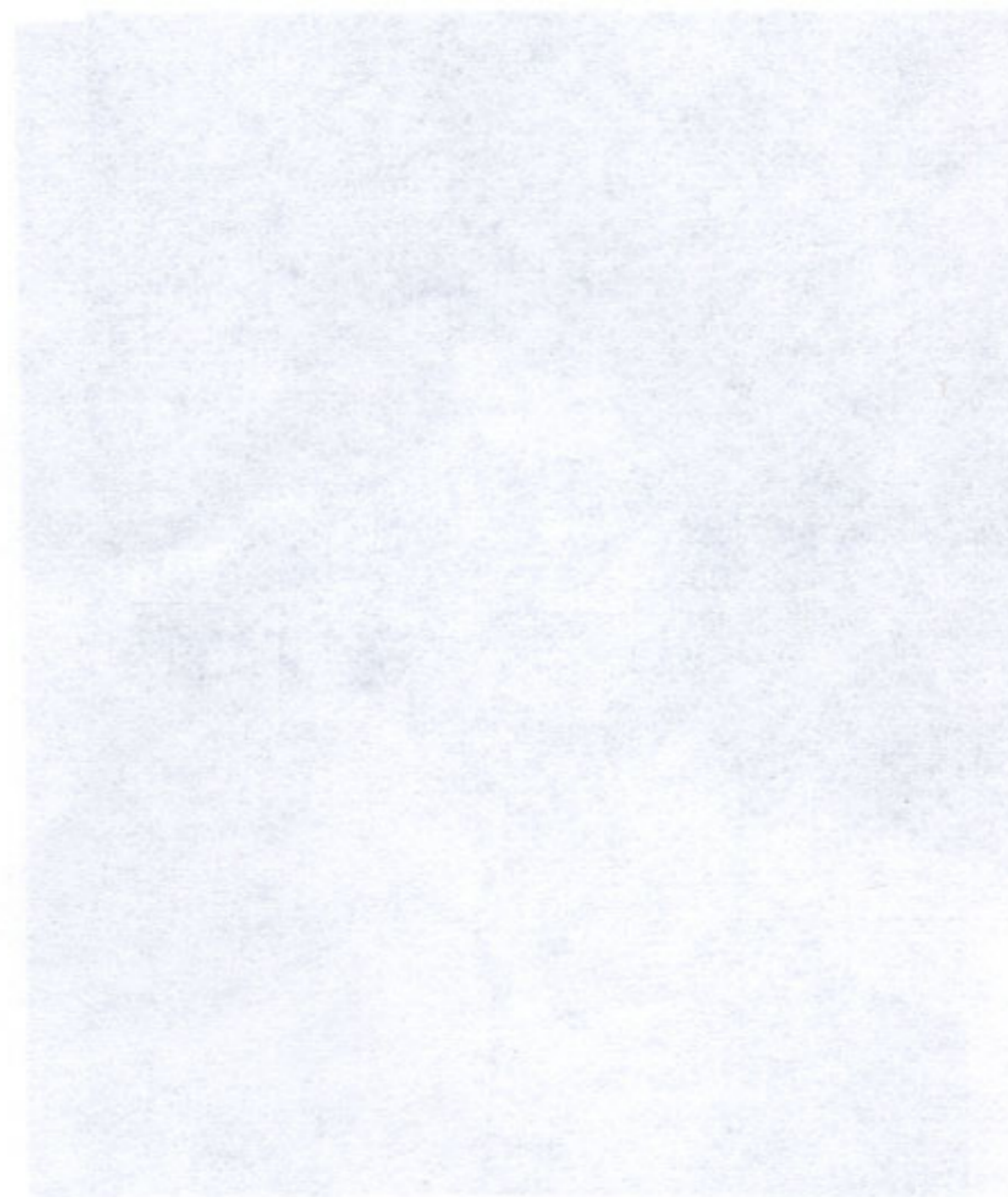


Background: B.A. in History, College of Holy Cross; D.C. in Western Reserve University Law School.

At the top of the Secret Service, she was the only woman attorney in the Office of the Chief Counsel. Her staff of attorneys included three other women attorneys.

As the Senior Staff Attorney, she has provided legal advice concerning constitutional issues, personnel and organizational law. The agency's legal initiative has been the primary focus of individuals and the Region of the Information Act. In this position, Ms. Bourne also has developed and implemented a variety of legal issues regarding the criminal law enforcement and the protection of the agency's information. In particular, Ms. Bourne provides advice concerning constitutional issues, personnel and organizational law.

Ms. Bourne also has been a member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Federal Reserve Board and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.



Background: B.S. in Political Science, University of Massachusetts; M.A. in Business Administration, Washington University; Ph.D. in Political Science, Washington University.

Ms. Kesteven is currently the Assistant Chief of the Information Resources Management Division. She has held several positions in the Secret Service, including Director of the Information Resources Management Division.

Ms. Kesteven has worked for the Secret Service for over 10 years. She has held several positions in the Secret Service, including Director of the Information Resources Management Division. She has also worked for the Federal Reserve Board and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Ms. Kesteven has also worked for the Federal Reserve Board and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She has a Ph.D. in Political Science from Washington University and a M.A. in Business Administration from Washington University.