

Rea Cichocki

Rea Cichocki enlisted in the Women's Army Corps in 1968 after graduating from Hiram Johnson Senior High School in Sacramento California. Ms. Cichocki served a total of 38 years and retired with honors as a Master Sergeant (E-8) in 2010.

After completing bootcamp in Ft. McClellan Alabama, Ms. Cichocki was assigned to the medical corps as an administrative assistant. She recalls that in those days, jobs for women in the Army were limited to either administrative or medical assignments. However, by the time she retired as a Master Sergeant in 2010, Rea held a total of 16 different Military Occupational Specialities (MOS) and served in three overseas theaters, including three years in Iraq from 2006 – 2009. She saw firsthand how the military changed in its support of women – from mostly support positions – to growing leadership assignments and serving alongside male service members in combat.

Rea Cichocki's long and distinguished career also included earning three Meritorious Service Medals, six Army Commendation Medals, and eight Army Achievement Medals. Since retiring from the military, she continues to serve her community in a number of ways. Ms. Cichocki is very active in the California Veterans community and conducts ongoing outreach and support to her brothers and sisters in arms. She is also a lifetime member of Disabled American Veterans and AMVETS and a tireless advocate for women Veterans and Native American Veterans in California.