

# FBI Men: It's Only a Matter of Time Before G-Women Are on the Job

5/30/72  
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Associated Press

FBI officials across the country say it's only a matter of time before a woman wears the badge of the legendary G-men.

An estimated 10 to 20 applications from women who want to be agents are in Washington, waiting to be processed when the Federal Bureau of Investigation decides whether to change its physical requirements.

Regional officials also say they've gotten a large number of telephone inquiries from women, although the bureau hasn't even started soliciting applications.

L. Patrick Gray III, who took over as acting director of the law enforcement organization when J. Edgar Hoover died earlier this month, brought with him a number of women, whom he named to top administrative and legal posts.

Now what about a woman agent?

Regional agents in charge emphasize that any woman hired and trained as an agent must be prepared to take on everything the male agents handle.

E.J. Krupinsky, assistant special agent in charge of

Michigan, says he has received about a dozen inquiries from women, but most fail to meet the physical requirements. Those requirements include a 5-foot-7 height minimum, 128-pounds weight minimum and vision correctible to 20-20.

Roy K. Moore, head of the Chicago office, says studies are being conducted on whether the same physical guidelines applied to men will be adjusted for a woman's smaller size.

"Otherwise," he says, "all requirements will be the same. It shouldn't take too long to process the requirements because the changes, if any, will be minimal."

The size problem should not be an important one. "When an agent is trying to subdue a 6-foot-7 suspect, it makes little difference if the agent is 5-foot-2 or 5-foot-8," Moore said. "He, or she, is going to want another agent to help make the arrest."

Atlanta agent Dick Berry says the women who have applied through his office do not qualify physically, but are exceptionally well-qualified educationally.

Berry says only about one-third of the women are serious about a job with the FBI. The others apply out of curiosity.

He says about four are expected to follow through with the battery of tests and inten-

sive background check that precede acceptance as an agent trainee.

Any woman who passes the tests and background check will be listed with other trainees in a pool to be drawn upon when a vacancy opens.

Krupinsky questions some of the female applicants' motives.

"They think an agent's life is glamorous and filled with adventure," he says. "They don't realize that they are subject to call 24 hours a day, and might be called out at 2:30 a.m. or on weekends."

Moore says he recently spoke to the National Association of Policewomen about the prospects for women FBI agents.

"Most of them were worried they would be transferred out of their hometowns," he said.

Despite the physical barriers and complex application procedures, few agents doubt that, within a year, a woman will be among the 30 to 35 would-be G-men in training classes at Quantico, Va., or Washington, D.C.

"I think we can assimilate them quite well," Moore said. "She'll be trained in the field, not assigned to an office somewhere as a token," he added, referring to the first woman agent.