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Two Women Are Now FBI Agents

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A former nun and an ex-Marine Corps lieutenant graduated yesterday as the first female FBI special agents since the bureau was founded 48 years ago.

Susan Lynn Roley, 25, a blue-eyed redhead who served at Camp Allen, Norfolk, Va., and tall, slender brunette Joanne Pierce, 31, once a member of the Sisters of Mercy religious order, became the first women in the special agent force of approximately 8700 men.

"They passed all the requirements," an FBI spokesman said, including use of pistols, shotguns and rifles, hand-to-hand combat, detection methods, laboratory sciences, police photography and legal training.

Miss Roley was assigned to the FBI field office in Omaha, and Miss Pierce to St. Louis. They graduated with a class of 45 men.

BADGE

Each woman was given a gun and a bronze badge

bearing the statue of Blind Justice to go along with their official credentials — a color photograph and two cards in a leather case which certify the bearer as a special agent of the FBI "charged with the duty of investigating violations of the laws of the United States."

Acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III refused to permit interviews with the women on the ground that new male agents are never given such attention. But officials at the FBI Academy at Quantico, Va., where the women underwent 14 weeks of training, said the girls had "worked hard and found it gruelling. They gained the acceptance of the men."

NATIVE

Miss Pierce, five feet nine, is a native of Laguna Beach, Calif., who earned a Master's Degree in history from St. Bonaventure University, Olean, N.Y., before joining the religious order. She became an FBI clerk here in 1970.

The five-foot-seven Miss Roley was born in Niagara Falls, N.Y., and graduated from California State College at Fullerton in 1968 before becoming a second lieutenant on June 25, 1969.

She served at El Toro Marine Corps Station from November, 1969, until January, 1971 and then was promoted o first Heutenant serving at Jamp Allen, Norfolk, Va., until last July when she apolied to become an agent.