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LESSER KNOWN PEOPLE OF INDIA - PART -2

#WomenDay2021 special

Posted in Bastar, Usha Kiran Is the First Woman Officer of the Elite Commando Force Cobra!

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She Is The First Woman Officer From All Armed/Central Forces To Be Deployed In Counter Insurgency/Combat Operations.

She is the youngest female CRPF officer to be a part of Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (COBRA) and is currently serving the volatile region of Bastar

Usha is a third generation CRPF officer after her grandfather and father, so the passion for the forces naturally developed in her. "Getting into CoBRA was definitely my choice. I had this wish during my basic training at CRPF Academy Kadarpur Gurugram.

But it was an all male force at that time and no woman ever joined CoBRA," she recalls, adding, "Soon after passing out of the Academy, I first decided to work in Chhattisgarh, and was fortunate enough to get a chance to serve in the Bastar region. During my year there,

I gained knowledge and confidence about CRPF's counter insurgency operations and also got to practically know about the functioning of CoBRA. That's when I decided to join the elite commando force," says the former national athlete, who represented Delhi in triple jump.

Usha recalls that her father used to take her to Republic Day celebrations at Rajpath every year without fail where she would admire the poise of soldiers marching smartly. No wonder then that the uniform always attracted her. "As I grew older, I started understanding their work.

I got to know that forces do a lot more than just walking down Rajpath. I started feeling the sense of pride they have," says the Lady Singham as she has been rightly nicknamed.

However, induction of a woman into CoBRA is no cake walk. As Usha points out, "It was a tough call because CoBRA is a 10 Battalion commando force with no women. But I am privileged to have very good seniors in this force who saw my application positively and gave me a chance

to be a part of CoBRA."