

Draft of Proposed Directive for the Armed Forces for the Period of 1 July 1949 to 1 July 1950, c. March, 1949. Security Classified Records, Record Group 220: Records of the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services.

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RWD by FMB date Oct 5, 1961

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of

PROPOSED DIRECTIVE FOR THE ARMED FORCES FOR THE PERIOD

1 JULY 1949 TO 1 JULY 1950

1. It is the policy of the National Military Establishment that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the Armed Forces without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin.

2. To insure uniform application of this policy, the following supplemental policies are announced:

a. There will be no strength quotas of minority groups established by the National Military Establishment or by any of the Armed Forces.

b. The National Military Establishment shall establish uniform standards of induction for the Armed Forces for

- (1) Service in peace-time, and
- (2) Service in time of emergency.

c. In time of emergency all manpower, including members of minority groups, shall be assigned to the several Armed Forces on a basis proportionate to their strength. This proportionate division shall be made both qualitatively and quantitatively. The strengths of the several services in the various AGCT categories at the time of the emergency shall be computed in the over-all determination of proportionate strengths in order to arrive at an equitable division of manpower resources.

d. All individuals will be accorded equal opportunity for

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d. All individuals will be accorded equal opportunity for appointment, advancement, professional improvement, promotion, and

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retention in the Armed Forces. In no circumstances will officer or non-commissioned officer quotas be established for minority groups. Members of minority groups will compete for such positions on the same basis and under the same conditions as all other personnel.

e. All enlisted men of Negro units and detachments will be afforded full opportunity to transfer as individuals to a white unit of the same type for the same service provided the individual in question has at least a year remaining on his present enlistment or indicates his intention to re-enlist. Men desiring such transfers will be transferred as rapidly as administrative and budget requirements permit. As a matter of policy, not less than four Negroes will be assigned to a company or comparable unit and not more than ten per cent. Such transfers will not be approved where the individual involved is under charges, awaiting trial, serving sentence, venereally infected, or whose record as a serviceman will not warrant re-enlistment. Nor will such a transfer be approved where the applicant is sub-standard in the discharge of the type-duty to which he is assigned.

f. All successful Negro candidates for enlistment in the Armed Forces will state in writing whether they desire service in an all-Negro unit or detachment, or on an integrated basis in a mixed unit. Successful white candidates for enlistment will be assigned to all-white or integrated units on the basis of administrative requirements and without regard to preference.

g. The transition from the policies under which the several

g. The transition from the policies under which the several services are presently operating to the policies set forth in this directive shall be accomplished progressively but gradually starting

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1 July 1949 and shall be completed by 1 July 1950. It is the intent of this directive that the maximum integration of members of minority groups throughout the military establishment shall be accomplished by 1 July 1950 but without transferring members of minority groups to mixed units against their will. During this transitional period, enlisted men of one race who find themselves serving under an officer of another race may, after thirty days and before forty-five days, apply for transfer to a unit commanded by an officer of their own race. This option does not apply to officers and non-commissioned officers.

h. During the period 1 July 1949 to 1 July 1950 the services shall make a detailed study of the effects of the policies set forth in this directive. Detailed, factual, statistical data touching on all aspects of the problem shall be carefully recorded by each service. Periodic studies shall be made by the Troop Attitude Research Branch, Troop Information and Education Division, under direction of the Secretary of Defense to determine the effects on attitudes and on morale of the officers and men of the several services. Immediately after 1 July 1950, these data shall be assembled and the Personnel Policy Board, Office of the Secretary of Defense, shall undertake a study of this directive and these data with the view of developing a permanent unified policy that will make the most effective use of the nation's manpower under conditions conforming to the national interest and national policy.

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28 Feb 1949 revised 15 Mar 1949