

I.H.E. to Assistant Secretary of War, February 17, 1943. 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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DOD Dir. 5200.10, June 29, 1960
NND by PPB date 4*5/1961

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
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DOD DIR 5200.10 NARS-NT

February 17, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR:

Subject: Utilization of Grade V Negro Personnel.

1. Based on past experience approximately 47 per cent of all Negroes inducted into the Armed Forces will be classified in Grade V and 30 per cent in Grade IV as a result of the Army General Classification Tests. White personnel falling within Grade V is approximately 9 per cent; Grade IV, 22 per cent (Tab A). Considering the number of noncommissioned officers and specialists required in modern armies, it is evident that it is difficult to build efficient Negro units where personnel in the higher intelligence brackets is so limited. There are, however, many tasks in the Army which can be efficiently performed by Grade V men provided effective and intelligent supervision is provided.

2. These two considerations lead to the conclusion, first advanced by the Army Ground Forces, that a new policy covering the employment of a part, at least, of the Grade V Negroes can be promulgated both to the advantage of the Army and to the advantage of the Negroes themselves. The plan proposed -- to be tested on a reduced scale at first -- provides for the screening of all Grade V Negro personnel, in excess of 9 per cent (the average white percentage) out of selected Negro combat units replacing the personnel so screened with Grade I, II, III and IV personnel. This should materially raise the caliber of the unit in question and permit its development into a reasonably efficient combat unit.

3. The Grade V personnel so screened would be used to activate the necessary number of service units whose chief function is that of labor troops, Quartermaster port battalions and service battalions being typical of this type. By supplying these units with carefully selected white officers and noncommissioned officers these latter units, likewise, should reach a reasonable stage of efficiency in so far as their contemplated tasks are concerned. While definite figures are not available, it is believed that the majority of Negroes falling into Grade V are from the South where they have been accustomed to performing common labor under immediate white supervision. If this is the case, little resentment should result on their part for the maintenance of their status quo after donning uniform.

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4. Specifically the plan now under consideration provides for the screening of Grade V Negro personnel, in excess of 9 per cent, from the 92nd Division, its replacement with Grade I, II, III and IV personnel, and the activation of 2 port battalions and 7 Quartermaster service battalions to absorb the excess Grade V personnel, the latter units to be staffed with white officer and noncommissioned officers.

5. Approval of the plan outlined above is recommended. Approximately 7,000 Grade I, II, III and IV men will be required to replace Grade Vs in the 92d Division. To obtain this number it will be necessary to induct approximately 15,000 Negroes. Grade Vs obtained from this number will be sufficient to furnish privates and privates first class for the service and port battalions indicated. After a sufficient period of trial, the Commanding Generals, Army Ground Forces and Services of Supply should be called on for a report as to the advantages and disadvantages of the plan in order that the War Department may have data on which to base further action in this regard.

I.H.E.



MEMO FOR RECORD:

G-3 outlines proposed new plan to absorb Negro Grade V personnel. This plan originally proposed by AGF. SGS has been asked for similar recommendations.

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COMPARISON OF THE INTELLIGENCE CLASSIFICATIONS OF NEGROES
AND WHITES PER 1,000,000 MEN

<u>Class</u>	<u>Negro</u>		<u>White</u>	
	<u>Per Cent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>	<u>Number</u>
I	0.6	6,000	7.6	76,000
II	5.0	50,000	29.2	292,000
III	16.5	165,000	32.7	327,000
IV	30.4	304,000	21.6	216,000
V	47.5	475,000	8.9	89,000
Total	100.0	1,000,000	100.0	1,000,000

NUMBERS OF OFFICERS AND NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS REQUIRED
BY GRADE PER 1,000,000 MEN

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>	<u>Number</u>
Officers	8.2	82,000
Warrant Officers and Non-commissioned officers of 1st three grades	7.3	73,000
Sergeants	11.9	119,000
Corporals	19.2	192,000
Pfc and privates	53.4	534,000
Total	100.0	1,000,000

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