

MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

27 May 1952

To: Mr. Nash

From: Charles Tyroler 2nd

Per request.



DECLASSIFIED  
Authority E.O. 10501

~~RESTRICTED~~  
SECURITY INFORMATION  
SECURITY INFORMATION  
HEADQUARTERS  
EUROPEAN COMMAND

COPY

AG 300.2 GPA-AGO

AFO 403  
1 April 1952

SUBJECT: Racial Integration of EUCCOM Army Units

TO: Commanding Generals:  
Seventh Army  
EUCCOM Communications Zone  
7791 Office of US Commander, Berlin  
Director, EUCCOM Special Activities Division  
All Military Post Commanders (excl Wiesbaden Mil Post)  
Chiefs:  
Administrative and Technical Services  
Armed Forces Information and Education Division  
Finance Division  
Commanding Officers:  
32d AAA Brigade  
66th CIC Detachment  
7756 Audit Agency  
Special Troops, Hq EUCCOM  
7691 EUCCOM Detachment



1. The Department of the Army has directed that this command initiate, on 1 April 1952, a phased program of racial integration for the Army elements of this command. The first units to be integrated will be combat units. As the program progresses, service type units and T/D organizations also will be integrated. Complete integration of combat units will be accomplished over a period of from six months to one year. Service unit integration may require from one to two years for completion.

2. In accordance with the instructions indicated in paragraph 1, the following policies which will govern in the implementation of this program in the European Command are established:

a. The operational efficiency of the units of this command will be maintained during the phasing of the integration program. Personnel transfers which will be required under this program will be made so that operational efficiency of the units will not be reduced thereby. This consideration governs planning and administrative details required in the implementation of this program.

b. Integration will be accomplished in two ways: first, by redesignation of units and the removal of racial identifying symbols, concurrently with personnel transfers from such units and their replacements with other personnel; secondly, by the assignment of loss replacements from the replacement stream to units in accordance with their MOS requirements, regardless of race or color.

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That aspect of this program which involves the redesignation of Negro units, the removal of racial identifying symbols, and the transfer of Caucasians into such units will be accomplished only after receipt of specific instructions from this headquarters. Large scale transfers of Negro personnel from Negro units to Caucasian units will be accomplished only after prior approval of this headquarters; however, addressees have the authority to accomplish individual transfers of Negro personnel to Caucasian units, where it appears that better utilization of available manpower may thereby be effected. The assignment of loss replacements from the replacement stream will commence immediately, and addressees are advised that they can expect to receive Negro personnel for assignment into service type units and T/D organizations which are not designated currently as Negro units.

c. Initially, the Negro element of integrated combat units will approximate 10 per cent of the unit's strength. The limitation may be exceeded to a reasonable degree in the service type and T/D units during the initial phases of the program. Eventually, Negro strength in all units will approximate the Negro percentage of the total command strength.

d. Personnel will be integrated into existing organizations on an individual basis. Separate units such as squads, platoons, companies, or separate detachments will not be organized to consist solely of Negro personnel.

e. This program will proceed without any advance publicity. Queries from the press concerning any phase of this program will be referred to this headquarters.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL HANDY:

/s/ V. M. Smith  
/t/ V. M. SMITH  
Lt. Col, AGC  
Assistant Adjutant General



Telephone: Heid Mil 8220

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