

WAR DEPARTMENT
The Adjutant General's Office
Washington

October 16, 1940.

AG 291.21 (10-9-40) M-A-M

SUBJECT: War Department policy in regard to negroes.

TO: Commanding Generals of all Armies, Corps Areas and Departments,
and Chiefs of Arms and Services.

W.D. Policy
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It is the policy of the War Department that the services of negroes will be utilized on a fair and equitable basis. In line with this policy provision will be made as follows:

- a. The strength of the negro personnel of the Army of the United States will be maintained on the general basis of proportion of the negro population of the country.
- b. Negro organizations will be established in each major branch of the service, combatant as well as non-combatant.
- c. Negro Reserve officers eligible for active duty will be assigned to negro units officered by colored personnel.
- d. When officer candidate schools are established, opportunity will be given to negroes to qualify for Reserve commissions.
- e. Negroes are being given aviation training as pilots, mechanics, and technical specialists. This training will be accelerated. Negro aviation units will be formed as soon as the necessary personnel has been trained.
- f. At arsenals and Army posts negro civilians are accorded equal opportunity for employment at work for which they are qualified by ability, education and experience.
- g. The policy of the War Department is not to intermingle colored and white enlisted personnel in the same regimental organizations. This policy has been proven satisfactory over a long period of years and to make changes would produce situations destructive to morale and detrimental to the preparations for national defense. For similar reasons the Department does not contemplate assigning colored Reserve officers other than those

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of the Medical Corps and chaplains to existing negro combat units of the Regular Army. These regular units are going concerns, accustomed through many years to the present system. Their morale is splendid, their rate of reenlistment is exceptionally high, and their field training is well advanced. It is the opinion of the War Department that no experiments should be tried with the organizational set-up of these units at this critical time.

By order of the Secretary of War:

Adams

Major General,
The Adjutant General