

THE NAVY AND THE NEGRO TODAY

A Supplementary Report for

**The Honorable John L. Sullivan
Secretary of the Navy**

Prepared, as Directed, by

Lieutenant Dennis D. Nelson, USNR

- I. Navy Public Relations and the Opinions of the Negro Citizen**
- II. The Stewards Branch - Status and Uniform**
- III. Commissions for Additional Negro Officers**
- IV. Education and Training**
- V. The Marine Corps**

26 May 1948

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
Office of Public Relations
Washington

27 May 1948

The Honorable John L. Sullivan
Secretary of the Navy
Department of the Navy
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Your keen insight and profound interest manifested in the Navy's program of integration has been most gratifying. The assignment that you have given me to suggest ways and means by which the Department of the Navy's existing personnel program under the policy of integration could be further accentuated, extended and improved is herein inclosed.

I am sure you will agree that integration and inevitable assimilation are social phenomena requiring constant nurturing to this end, and that any perceptible growth and improvement can best be acquired by intelligent planning and continuous supervision. In spite of the Navy's idealism and its conscientious efforts to promote democratic principles within the service, we still have fallen far short of our goal, and the Navy is still open to much adverse criticism as has been manifested in a typical article appearing in the CHICAGO TRIBUNE, dated May 25, 1948.

The observations and recommendations inclosed are in accord with Mr. Lester Granger and Mr. James Evans' thinking, and they are the results of numerous conferences with them. These recommendations have been made before, but are submitted for further study and consideration by you. These are matters of pressing importance to the service as they affect a large segment of the Navy family, which in turn affects the Navy as a whole. The national and international implications are obvious, too, in view of the Navy's role as the Nation's Good Will emissary.

It is sincerely believed that the implementation of these recommendations will tend to alleviate many of our present personnel problems, will help remove the last vestige of public doubt of our sincerity, will build an even firmer basis for the development of a more efficient Negro personnel, and an even stronger Navy.

Sincerely,

DENNIS D. NELSON
Lieutenant, U.S.N.R.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

26 May 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

Subject: The Negro and the Navy

1. Lieutenant Dennis D. Nelson, USNR, has prepared at your direction the accompanying current report on the Negro and the Navy. The background of this report is "The Integration of the Negro into the United States Navy--1776-1947", a thesis by Lieutenant Nelson, copy of which was recently presented to you.

2. The accompanying report carries the indorsement, collaboration and concurrence of this office. It is hoped that it will provide basis for further strengthening of the Service.

James C. Evans
Advisor to the
Secretary of Defense

COPY

I

Topic:

Navy Public Relations and the Opinions of the Negro Citizen.

Observations:

a. The Negro segment of the American populace is not yet well informed on the active progress of the Navy on abolition of racial differentials.

b. Consequently there is increasing demand for evidence and examples.

Recommendations:

1. Evaluate the coverage of the Negro press on Navy news items, photographs and features.

2. Continue to procure, produce and disseminate pictorial evidence, reports and announcements of news value to the public.

3. Direct the preparation of a special report evaluating current opinion of the Negro citizen regarding Navy policy and practice.

4. Take appropriate action on basis of findings.

Negroes in the armed services DISCUSSION the framework of segregation.

It should be borne in mind that the members of this body were not. In any given society, it is logical to expect the military to conform to the basic theory of that society. In a fascist state, it is expected that the army, navy, and air corps will conform to the tenets of fascism. In a communist state, it is expected that communism will be reflected in the composition, method and ideology of its armed forces.

By the same token, the armed services of a democratic nation may be expected to be democratic in structure and function. This appears to be a fair principle of historical criticism and social analysis which may be applied universally.

It is no military secret that the armed forces of the American democracy in World War II did not successfully meet such a test, and there have been few instances where attempts have been made in improving this situation.

In the testimony presented on April 26, 1948, to Secretary of Defense Committee as to Navy policy on racial matters under its existing program of integration and of the experiences and successes gained, Mr. John Nicholas Brown, Assistant Secretary of Navy for Air, with the assistance of Captain Fred Stickney, USN, (Assistant Director Planning and Control), ably presented and defended the Navy's stand on racial policies. True, it was obvious that the present numerical strength of Negroes in the Navy precluded scientific deductions of their participation and utilization or reliable predictions of their future assimilation in the service.

The Committee showed great appreciation for the Navy's sincere efforts to promote through fundamental policy and practical demonstration of democratic principles that would continue to promote an efficient and effective naval force through intelligent selection, training, utilization and treatment of its total personnel without regard to such illogical, time and energy consuming factors as color and race.

Thus, this Conference on racial problems failed to achieve the results contemplated by its planners. Instead it literally threw the entire issue back in the laps of the armed forces. It had been hoped that out of the conference would "come specific constructive recommendations for improvement in defense policies--immediately and on a long-time basis". They quickly realized that it was not their function but that of the Secretaries of Army, Navy, and Air Forces to map plans for the complete elimination of racial segregation from the armed services. The conferees made it plain to Secretary of Defense Forrestal that they would not work with the armed services in formulating any program for participation of

Negroes in the armed services within the framework of segregation.

It should be borne in mind that the members of this body were not idle dreamers, rabble-rousers, agitators, sensationalists, or lobbyists, but leading citizens and prominent civilian sociologists, lawyers, college presidents, and newsmen--a number of whom were members of the recent President's Civil Rights Committee whose services were solicited by Secretary of Defense to aid in the problem of civil rights as they pertained to the armed forces. A great force for constructive improvement was thereby lost.

Consideration must be given to the fact that the armed forces are growing concerns, the enlargement of which only multiplies the existing problems. This added to the growing attitudes of young educated Negroes against any form of military service in the face of the resistance of the Nation to Civil Rights, and the resulting lack of patriotism in "What the hell are we fighting for" and "To risk life and limb - for what?" - makes this problem one of vital importance where the Navy is concerned. Possible solutions require no change in policy and would not require considerable study and effort to improve the situation.

It is clear that definite and positive gains have been made toward Democracy within the Navy; progressive steps from exclusion, to segregation, to integration. The accruing results have brought the Navy to inevitable stages of integration and assimilation.

It would be most difficult to adequately or scientifically appraise the success of integration in the Navy at this stage due to insufficient numbers of Negroes in the service outside the Steward's Branch. Isolated instances of one or two Negro men in scattered Naval Reserve units throughout the country (particularly the deep South), the selection and training of a Negro lad here and there in Navy technical training schools, the training of half dozen Negro midshipmen in the Navy ROTC units and the Naval Academy, the barest minimum of Negro officers, nurses and WAVES on active duty, are deplorably insufficient to keep alive the interest of the service in the minds of the Negro public, or such qualified Negro men that the Navy should attract, or to test, appraise or improve the process and program of integration within the Service.

The United States Navy, now a small compact unit, still highly selective in personnel and technical in nature, can least afford to relax under their program of integration. In the overall retrenchment to pre-war size and the maintenance of the highest possible efficiency, the Navy should continue to do all possible to incorporate and indoctrinate the principles of integration through its establishment.

True, the Navy has taken and has maintained the lead in advanced policies of racial integration and has successfully conducted its program through intelligent utilization of its personnel. A change in policy, and the application of such changes could be easily incorporated in the other services. During the war it was agreed that the change in policy by the Navy was a "political necessity" and a "war-time expediency". The justification of the program was proven beyond a doubt, but the sincerity of the service to continue democratic social practices can best be accomplished in the post-war era.

As has been borne out by the recent study, the "Integration of the Negro in the U. S. Navy", the needs of war, the experiments, trial and error methods, tolerations and accommodations made have brought the Navy to the realization that its policy of integration is a workable plan to the best utilization and efficiency of its manpower. We have at last arrived at the stage of "assimilation" - the removal of social and racial barriers that still beset the other services and the normal social intercourse between races throughout the country.

The public announcement of existing democratic policies and practices by the Navy, and even the conscientious efforts to conduct the service under such a program, is not sufficient to build an interest or desire on the part of Negro youth who are potential Navy personnel of the future. It is unfortunate but true that by and large Negro boys are not aware of the Navy's program and the present efforts of Recruiting or Procurement are insufficient. This can be best proven by the few qualified Negro high school graduates and college men that the Navy has been able to attract since the War, and the pitiful number who take the annual Navy ROTC examinations.

The armed forces of a democratic state should exemplify democracy. We may be justly proud of a democratic Navy when every citizen has upon him the same claim to service and has the same opportunity for danger or heroism as an individual, without any regard to his class, his place of birth, his religion, his ancestry, or the God-given color of his skin.

Certainly a country that would jeopardize its very existence rather than accept inevitable social reforms has little justification in assuming government, economic or social reforms elsewhere. A Jekyll and Hyde philosophy cannot be applied to democratic principles.

REFERENCES:

"The Integration of the Negro into the United States Navy 1776-1947", by Lt. Dennis D. Nelson, USNR.

Notations:

"The Navy asserts it has a policy of no discrimination or segregation. Yet the Navy has 17,900 Negro men, but only three male officers and 1 Nurse on active duty. About 80% of its enlisted Negro men are in the messmen's branch, and they even wear different uniforms."

Afro-American 5-8-48

5-18-48 Drew Pearson has set forth searching and embarrassing questions pertaining to the Navy's treatment and policy toward Steward's Mates - particularly with reference to the continuance of the Division restricted to racial groups; to the practice of Stewards not being Petty Officers despite their holding the pay grades that entitles them to the other privileges of POs.

5-19-48 Colonel McCormick (Chicago Tribune) rebukes the Navy for its practice of keeping the number of Negro officers to a bare minimum, and points out that even under the framework of segregation the Army provides greater opportunities for Negro officer selection and utilization than does the Navy. He points out editorially that there is no justification for this situation and suggests that it be remedied.

- Topics:**
- Observations:**
- a. Negroes number approximately 4 per 100 in total Navy personnel.
 - b. Four out of five Negroes or approximately 80% of total Negro personnel are in the Steward's Branch.
 - c. Negroes in the Steward's Branch though permitted to qualify and obtain all enlisted pay grades are not petty officers.
 - d. Design of uniforms of Stewards cover an extreme range.
 1. Give wider dissemination within the service and without, to policy changes which now form the transfer and training opportunities from the Steward's Branch to General Service.
 2. Eliminate the Steward's Branch as the sole separate division of labor in the service restricted to minorities.
 3. Establish rates in the Steward's Branch on the same basis as other branches of the service, making leadership, character and excellence of service the normal prerequisites for advancement.
 4. Direct a study toward modifying the uniform of messmen in an effort toward conformity with all other Navy uniforms worn by enlisted personnel.
- The Steward's Branch - (Status and Uniform)**

of the present having contact with them, that the service has been quite unsatisfactory where the Stewards' Branch is concerned, and many complaints bitterly because of the above-mentioned ill. This situation prevailing in the light of present and future expansion needs will prove detrimental to the Navy in its efforts to procure the best personnel.

DISCUSSION

It is agreed that all branches of the Naval Service are necessary in its conduct and maintenance, and from the lowest echelon upward all phases of the service should be conducted, supervised and maintained with efficiency and dignity. The Steward's Branch - a branch of the service less technical in nature than any of the others - still requires skill and training. The Navy should do all possible to provide constant and adequate leadership and supervision of these men, and to dignify as far as possible their important tasks.

The general type of Negroes selected for the Stewards' Branch has done little to stimulate the Negro's interest in Naval Service, and for the most part the laxity in training, supervision in duty and their off-duty conduct and activities has lessened to a marked degree the respect that the Negro public should hold for the service.

It is a well-known fact that for the most part the men of the Stewards' Branch have been most limited in educational and vocational backgrounds, and that this part of the Service because of its limitation has attracted a proportionally large percentage of sub-standard and underprivileged individuals. Because of the Navy's policy in making this branch a separate division of labor limited to minority groups (Filipinos and Negroes) the Negro public has frequently resented and opposed the Navy.

The Navy should supervise and train men of the Stewards' Branch with greater care. The fact that they are the principle handlers of food requires a better health program (the high V. D. rate jeopardizes the health of the entire crew); they are often the custodians of personal gear of officers and crew.

There are too numerous instances where stewards are ill-supervised - no officers to whom they are directly responsible - and their own unit leadership is usually based on seniority rather than capable leadership.

There are innumerable instances of conflict and difficulties that beset stewards in their relations to the outfit to which they are assigned and much can be done to eradicate them, and to raise the dignity of the branch and the morale of its members.

It has been most apparent from former Navy men who have served in the Navy in the capacity of Stewards, and civilians and members

of the press having contact with them, that the service has been quite unsatisfactory where the Stewards' Branch is concerned, and many complain bitterly because of the above-mentioned ills. This situation prevailing in the light of present and future manpower needs will prove detrimental to the Navy in its efforts to procure the best prepared and most efficient men for the service.

The Army and Air Force have developed programs and plans to dignify the uniform and the job performed by their personnel regardless of job levels and types through ARMY TALK #172, "Why a Uniform". The efforts to develop pride in self and in the services will doubtless pay increased dividends in work performed and in the increased morale of their personnel. There are numerous group and individual problems to be solved in the Stewards' Branch, and it is conceivable that many of the individual problems can and will be eliminated by prompt attention to those that affect the group.

Among these problems is that of the Stewards' uniforms. There has been a wide range of discrepancy between the Stewards' work and dress uniforms that tend to create a feeling and appearance of inferiority on the one hand, and causes resentment in the privilege of wearing Chief's uniforms at the other. It is suggested that work and dress uniforms conform more closely to those worn by other Navy enlisted personnel, and that Stewards be required to conform to all qualifications and regulations set for Navy personnel.

It is apparent, of course, that the Stewards themselves are not blameless, and that they are able to hide away many of their own inadequacies behind existing conditions in the Service. The improvement of regulations pertaining to Stewards would eliminate the basic problems - and the Stewards' Branch would gain the dignity and importance needed in their work - and would develop personal pride in themselves as well as in the Service.

attach, procure and provide more Negro officer candidates.

3. Recall a number of Negro Naval officers for brief or extended tours of active duty on general or special assignments.

4. Commission qualified Negro officers in the Regular Navy in such responsible billets in keeping with qualifications, age-grade levels as established for officer personnel selection.

5. Commission qualified Negro professionals such as doctors, dentists, lawyers, engineers, chaplains, and supply and administrative assistants.

III

It would be to the Navy's best interest that further development of Negro personnel be made under the existing program of integration, parallel along and throughout all echelons and branches of the service.

Topics: **Appointments, Commissions and Active**
officers as well as **Duty assignments for additional Negro**
Army and Air Forces under **Naval officers**, **officers** to attract and select
Negro youth have been noteworthy. Their programs are constantly progressing.
Observations: **a. One Negro Naval Reserve officer, 3 Negro**
regulars (line officers and a nurse) **are on active duty.**

On the date of **b. There are only 6 Negro Naval ROTC**
that among 285 Army ROTC **candidates for commissions in the 1947-**
selected for regular commission **48 school year. These constitute 50%**
consist of Negro **of the Negroes in ROTC schools, and 1/10**
outstanding - nation, dentist **of 1% of all candidates.**
- to the Army. Little wonder the Navy is of the opinion that their
selection has been limited **c. Among the Regulars, or on active duty**
and **in the Reserves, the Navy has no Negro**
doctors, dentists, engineers, lawyers, or
Chaplains.

Thousands of **high school and college**
never even a Negro officer and countless numbers have not heard of the
Navy's policies and even less of the opportunities of the service.

Recommendations: **1. Provide general and special duties to**
which Negro officers may be assigned for **training and service purposes.**
the Navy had been limited to the **2. Initiate official inquiry into immediate**
and underlying reasons why ROTC does not
attract, procure and provide more Negro
officer candidates.

It must be recognized that for many years **3. Recall a number of Negro Naval officers**
for brief or extended tours of active duty
on general or special assignments.

4. Commission qualified Negro officers in
the Regular Navy in such responsible billets
in keeping with qualifications, age-rank
basis as established for officer personnel
selection.

5. Commission qualified Negro professionals
such as doctors, dentists, lawyers, engineers,
chaplains, and supply and administrative
assistants.

DISCUSSION

It would be to the Navy's best interest that further development of Negro personnel be made under the existing program of integration, parallel along and throughout all echelons and branches of the service; parallel in procurement, training and full utilization of officers as well as enlisted personnel. The constant efforts of the Army and Air Forces under their limited systems to attract and select Negro youth have been noteworthy. Their programs are constantly presented in secondary schools as well as at college levels through ROTC program participation and the constant and progressive program of officer commissioning.

On the date of this writing, May 12, 1948, it was announced that among 253 Army ROTC distinguished graduates 15 Negro men were selected for regular commissions in that service. There has been a constant drain of Negro manpower resources in all fields of military endeavor - medics, dentists, engineers, chaplains, and other specialists - to the Army. Little wonder the Navy is of the opinion that their selection has been limited due to a dearth of available qualified Negro men.

Thousands of Negro students, high school and college, have never seen a Negro officer and countless numbers have not heard of the Navy's policies and even less of the opportunities of the service. Periodic contacts by Negro officers in many of these schools would make the work of procurement and recruiting far easier. It is unfortunate too that the average high school or college man who has served in the Navy had been limited to the Steward's Branch - or had been indoctrinated by their friends and relatives who had served in such capacities. Most cases prove the experiences were not pleasant ones, and this has not helped the interest of the Negro in the Navy.

It must be remembered that for many years announcements of Navy opportunities were limited to whites, and even to date posters used in recruiting show only the white sailor even when group pictures are used. It is still fresh in the minds of the Negro populace that on innumerable occasions when Negro candidates presented themselves at procurement and recruiting offices, they were told the opportunities existed but were restricted on the basis of race.

It is the opinion of some Naval authorities that a project to interest Negro school youth should not be undertaken, that we have neither the men, money, time or interest in any particular group to do the job. If we are sincere in our present policy and program, and conscientious in our efforts to secure for the service the best type of Negro to make the plan a continuous success, such cultivation, nurturing and encouragement are greatly needed.

Despite the limited policy of the Army with its opportunities based on racial parallelism - equal but separate theory - it recognizes the necessity of attracting to its service the best trained men available. Thus the Army through sundry means attracts a constant stream of Negro men, and the ROTC and field promotions - officers and enlisted men - makes possibly a ready pool of Negro men thumb-nailed for further training and service.

There are approximately 8,000 Negro graduates and professional men from Negro colleges this year. Fifteen percent of the Army's ROTC graduates to be commissioned will come from this group. From them will come the Army and Air Forces selection of doctors, dentists, lawyers, engineers, nurses and other specialists. How many will the Navy get? And what opportunities exist even comparable to the Army and Air Forces if they choose the Navy as a career? To absorb even a few of these college graduates and professionally trained people in a cross-section of Navy corps would prove of inestimable value to the Navy both in direct service rendered and indirectly in their willingness and efforts to encourage Negro college men to prepare themselves along Navy lines and to look forward to future Navy service.

It is little wonder that the Navy's experience has been that for the most part Negro men have not measured up to whites in the service. For the most part the Navy has been unable to attract the highest type and better educated Negro youth. The "average Negro on the street" who joins the Navy neither has the education or ability. To him the Navy is just another job - he is prepared for nothing in particular and as a rule has had such limited education as to be unable or unwilling to attempt any training then would be required for the Steward's Branch.

This has left the general public to believe that the Navy's policy of integration is far better than practices applied. Frankly in my opinion I do not think the Navy can afford to depend on obtaining adequate Negro personnel by simply awaiting him to drift in to local recruiting stations.

A few days ago in Washington, the Marine Corps commissioned in their reserve corps a number of the outstanding seniors and officers of local high school cadet corps. Similar encouragement extended to comparable units and to outstanding seniors in Negro high schools would do more to sell the Navy and Marine Corps than anything attempted to date. With continued improvement of the program of integration in both outfits - Navy and Marine Corps - it seems logical to assume that a growing number of good officers will and can be obtained.

In a period where the Navy is limited in numerical strength and actual recruiting being conducted on a limited scale, time and effort should be expended to conduct an educative process at the secondary school and college level for future needs. There should also be

some avenues open to absorb a continuous, though of necessity, small nucleus of Negro men outstanding in professional fields - research, aviation, medicine, etc.

After a few years of such guided interest on the part of the Navy, interest in the service and preparation toward this end would increase by its own momentum. General interest in the Navy by Negro youth has reached the pre-war level - and the inertia shown by the service has not helped matters any.

As you suggested, Mr. Secretary, a large number of Negro Reserve officers would be happy to participate in a tour of duty to help in such a program. And these should be in addition to those who might be recalled to an indefinite period of active duty. Three Negro officers on active duty is not even a token number, and it is indeed a poor test of democratic theories or our integration program.

The Navy now has approximately 17,900 Negroes in service - 80% of whom are still in the Steward's Branch. There are many reasons for this disproportion but it must be pointed out that the men of the remaining 20% caliber are not being attracted to the service. Even under far less desirable policies the U. S. Army has over 200 times the number of Negro officers. Negro enlisted personnel comprise approximately 5% of the Navy's total enlisted strength (350,000); Negro officers comprise 0.007% of the officer strength (43,000) (1 May). This is less than 1/100 of 1%.

To assist in the direction mentioned, time and effort have been expended in Washington with the three principle Negro high schools in conjunction with their vocational guidance and patriotic programs; occasional discussion groups at Miner Teacher's College and Howard University. In addition one hundred and fifty Negro high schools and colleges throughout the country have through request obtained copies of the Study "THE INTEGRATION OF THE NEGRO IN THE U. S. NAVY" for their libraries. In lieu of further follow-up of these initial contacts it is felt that at least some interest has been aroused and invitations will be forthcoming for more direct information from the Navy Department. Authority should be extended for further development in this direction.

4. Encourage tours of Negro officers to Negro schools throughout the country similar to the Dec. '45 tour of Lt. Commander B. S. Hope in behalf of NROTC. Such would include efforts of local Navy to interest parents.

5. Provide some pictorial evidence of Negro participation in the Navy through pictures, posters, motion pictures, etc., in recruitment and recruiting.

IV

Topic: Education and Training

Training program or of its efforts to incorporate throughout the

Observations:

- a. Majority of Negro students (Secondary schools and colleges) are in racially separate schools and the Navy seldom reaches into such schools.
- b. Periodic routine missions to these schools would yield promising naval personnel.
- c. The Navy would profit by assigning more Negro personnel to Naval Training (technical) Schools.

Technical schools throughout the country and particularly in the South have included small groups of Negro enlisted men. Prescribed studies and lectures in racial adjustment (in all Naval establishments, Academy and Officers' Training Schools) would facilitate understanding and implement Navy policy on matters pertaining to the elimination of racial differentials.

Recommendations:

1. Direct the preparation of special reports on programs, projects and procedures used by the Navy, and by the other services for improving racial adjustments.

The public commissioning of the Navy branches, and as in the other services, the aviation branch is considered the Navy's best by all means if growth is no longer remain a division branch should be open to those who because of limited qualifications require their assignment to it. This last be removed. This measure of complete integration throughout the Naval establishment, rather than continue to

2. Direct the Navy members of the ARMED FORCES TALK Committees to provide Navy policies and program interpretation for the periodical, and assist in its distribution throughout the Naval establishment.
3. Inquire into routine participation of NEGRO Personnel in all Naval training schools, including pilot training.
4. Authorize tours of Negro officers to Negro schools throughout the country similar to the Dec. '46 tour of Lt. Commander E. S. Hope in behalf of NROTC. Such would include efforts of Ensign Devos to interest nurses. Technology, in peace and in war, is essential that every individual be developed to his highest potential. Thus all services

There is a great potential in the intermediate pilot. In an age of science and technology, in peace and in war, it is essential that every individual be developed to his highest potential. Thus all services

5. Provide some pictorial evidence of Negro participation in the Navy through pictures, posters, motion pictures, etc., in procurement and recruiting.

DISCUSSION

removed from opportunities in navigation, meteorology, electricity, mechanics, drafting, and hydraulics, to mention only a few of the branches available to sailors in general.

There is no question concerning the caliber of the Navy's training program or of its efforts to incorporate throughout the policy of integration. The program has progressed to the extent that in any training program there is likely to be found one or a number of Negro trainees. The normal procedure of school personnel selection according to educational and ability standards has reached a point where Negro men are not picked out to fill even a hypothetical quota. One interesting example of this has been the Navy's new experimental universal military training unit at San Diego. The Navy Department had issued no instructions, nor was it aware that of the 320 men enrolled that there were twelve Negroes.

Technical training as is being conducted throughout the country and particularly in the South have included small groups of Negro enlisted men. The aviation photographer's school at Pensacola graduated its first and only Negro student a few months ago, a half dozen Negro midshipmen have completed ROTC training. These numbers can and should be appreciably enlarged in order that a well-knit nucleus of Navy trained Negroes can help encourage and train Negroes to follow. Negro pilots should be selected and trained. A few Negro youths were assigned to such training at the end of the war but the program was disbanded during the early period of demobilization.

The public considers the Steward's Branch at the lowest rung of the Navy branches, and as in the other services, the aviation branch is considered the highest. It would be advisable and certainly to the Navy's best interest under our present program - and by all means if growth is contemplated - that the Steward's Branch no longer remain a division of labor limited to a racial group. The branch should be open to any one desiring to be a member, or to those who because of limited qualifications might require their assignment to it. Thus a traditional policy and stigma would at last be removed. This change together with the prospects of Negro candidates as flying officers, the Navy would have achieved some measure of complete integration throughout its total establishment, rather than continue to limit it to programs between these two extremes.

There is a greater opportunity for developing manpower potential in the intermediate ranges between the Stewards and the pilots. In an age of science and technology, in peace and in war, it is essential that every individual be developed to his highest potential. Thus all barriers, individual or imaginary, should be

removed from opportunities to train in navigation, meteorology, electricity, mechanics, drafting, and hydraulics, to mention only a few of the branches available to sailors in general.

At the same time attention must be given to morale factors. It is not sufficient to ignore the fact of race, and the problems inherent in minority participation in the naval establishment. The assistance of the Chaplains service, and of sociologists, psychologists and educators should be utilized to prepare from the moment of enlistment, all naval personnel to deal realistically and effectively with questions of race. Such would promote the integration policy, while warding off in advance any problem situations.

"Guide to the Career of a Sailor" 1944.

"Training of Negro Sailors" 1944.

"Manual of Negro Training" 1944.

"Leadership and the Negro Sailor" 1944.

"Prejudice - Roadblock to Progress" 1944.

"Negro Manpower in the Army" 1947.

"Prejudice" Armed Forces 1947.

"Of One Mind" Army Chaplains 1947.

Various documents and working files, Navy and War Department.

REFERENCES:

"To Secure These Rights," Report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights, 1947.

**Myrdal, Gunnar "An American Dilemma"
Harper Bros., New York, 1942**

**Nelson, Dennis D. (Lieutenant USNR)
"The Integration of the Negro into the United States Navy 1776-1947" - Navy Publication**

"U. S. Naval Training Bulletin" Nav Pers Monthly

**"Guide to the Command of Negro Personnel"
Nav Pers 15092, Feb 1944.**

"Training of Negro Personnel" (Report prepared April 1947 for President's Committee on Non-Discrimination in the Armed Services)

"Command of Negro Troops" War Department 29 Feb 1944.

"Leadership and the Negro Soldier", Army Service Forces Manual M-5, October 1944.

**"Prejudice! - Roadblock to Progress" Army Talk 70,
May 1948.**

**"Negro Manpower in the Army", Army Talk 170,
April 1947.**

"Prejudice" Armed Forces Talk 210, 1948.

**"Of One Blood" Army Chaplains Hour Lecture 41,
March 1948.**

Various documentary and training films, Navy and War Department.

Topic:

The Marine Corps

Observations:

a. The Marine Corps is usually considered to follow Navy procedures, policy and orders.

b. The Navy carries an obligation for the conduct of the service, at least in the mind of the Negro citizen.

c. Recent dispersal of Negro Marines to more desirable assignments has been well received by the Negro public, in those limited areas where known.

d. Despite the commissioning of one Negro Marine officer at the end of the war, and the further commissioning of two NROTC Marine officers - none have received the opportunity of actively serving in the Corps in the capacity of officers.

e. There is a general impression that the Marines developed, when confronted with induction of Negro personnel, a messianic branch modelled after that being abandoned by the Navy as regards race.

Recommendations:

1. Navy and Marine Corps public relations should be on the alert to correct erroneous impressions which may appear in the Negro press concerning the Marine Corps.

2. Inquiry should be directed into Marine Corps conformity with Navy policy on the question of race, and the implementation of the Navy's integration policy.

3. Place on active duty for service and further training Negro Marine officers already commissioned.

DISCUSSION

A comprehensive discussion of the Negro in the Marine Corps, as written by Sergeant Edward J. Evans, appears in the November 1947 issue of LEATHERNECK, the magazine of the Marines. This is the issue of the 172nd Anniversary of the Marine Corps. From this and other data, it is pointed out that throughout the long and inspiring history of the Marine Corps, Negroes had not been included. When they were accepted in 1942, there began a chapter equally as challenging despite the late start of the Negro Marine. Some 20,000 were trained at Montford Point, an adjunct of Camp Lejeune, and they went into action with the Marines on many fronts in World War II.

The only Negro to win a commission in the Marine Corps was Frederick G. Branch of Charlotte, North Carolina. Qualified for the V-12 program, he came back to the States from overseas duty to attend Purdue University. He was nearly through the Reserve Officers Class at Quantico when the war ended. He received his commission as 2nd Lieutenant on November 10, 1945, at Camp Lejeune and was placed on the inactive list. By this action, no Negro has yet served as an officer in the Marine Corps and some public attention was given to this fact at the time.

The Marine Corps, confronted with absorbing a quota of Negroes of uncertain qualification and preparation, is generally considered to have established a messmen's branch, modelled after some of the procedures which the Navy was beginning to abandon in this service. Such did not add to the enthusiasm of the Negro for joining the Marines. There were two other points of questionable procedure upon which the Marine Corps has made definite advancement since the war ended. Negro Marines have been transferred from the somewhat remote adjunct at Montford Point into the main post at Camp Lejeune. Further there have been assignments of small contingents of Negro Marines to duty away from the main bases at Quantico and Lejeune. Such details at Philadelphia and elsewhere are reported to have established commendable records. They thus point the way for fuller diversification of the use of the Negro in the Marine Corps.

REFERENCE

Evans, Edward J. (Sergeant, M.C.) Man From Montford Point, LEATHERNECK Magazine, November 1947.

DEL MONTE PROPERTIES COMPANY
Del Monte, California

May 11, 1948

JOHN B. MORSE
President

Lieutenant Nelson
Office of Public Relations
Navy Department
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Nelson:

The Captains Webb and Lent of Bu-Pers have recently been here in connection with the transfer of our Hotel Del Monte to the Navy. We were swapping war experiences and I told them of my association in commanding the 16th Regiment at Camp Lawrence. They told me about you and your work and said many very complimentary things.

I, of course, remember you very well and I had great respect for your war service, which often was conducted under very trying circumstances.

They tell me that you have written a treatise for your Masters Degree on the subject of Negro training. If possible, I should love to see a copy, as I shall always be vitally interested in the subject. You may recall that I was relieved of my command because of my inability to support the principles which were set forth by Commander Armstrong. It was always my feeling that Negro training should be integrated with White training and not given a separate status and, failing that, that Negro regiments should be trained in exactly the same manner as other regiments. Commodore Ernst and Commander Turek concurred, but when they placed my regiment under Armstrong, who in turn was directly responsible to the Bureau, it was quite natural that Armstrong would seek to have those of us who did not agree with his policy replaced with his own men.

COPY

Lieutenant Nelson

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I was, however, in command for eight months and it was an experience which completely absorbed me, and which I remember as the finest of the entire war. I made many lasting friends and have come to understand many of the basic problems which beset this prime inconsistency of democratic principle.

I do hope you will feel free to write me and tell me what you are doing and what has developed concerning this matter during the past three years. If I may be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to call upon me.

Good luck, and meanwhile, kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

/s/ John B. Morse

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