Photograph, *Montford Point Marines in their dress uniforms*

National Archives and Record Administration (208-NP-10NN-2)
Photograph, *A platoon of African-American Marines listening to their drill instructor, Sergeant Gilbert Hubert Johnson at Camp Montford Point, North Carolina*

National Archives and Record Administration (208-NP-10FF-1)
Photograph, *African American Marines awaiting orders on the beaches of Saipan in the Mariana Islands*

National Archives and Record Administration (127-N-83928)
Photograph, *With the din of battle only a half mile away, these Korean War soldiers pause to receive communion during mass*

Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum (2007-738)
Photograph, *Wounded men receive treatment on a train enroute to hospitals...*

Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum (2007-733)
EXECUTIVE ORDER

ESTABLISHING THE PRESIDENT’S COMMITTEE ON
EQUALITY OF TREATMENT AND OPPORTUNITY IN
THE ARMED SERVICES

WHEREAS it is essential that there be maintained in the
armed services of the United States the highest standards of
democracy, with equality of treatment and opportunity for all
those who serve in our country’s defense;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in
me as President of the United States, by the Constitution and the
statutes of the United States, and as Commander in Chief of the
armed services, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the President
that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all
persons in the armed services without regard to race, color,
religion or national origin. This policy shall be put into effect
as rapidly as possible, having due regard to the time required
to effectuate any necessary changes without impairing efficiency
or morale.

2. There shall be created in the National Military Estab-
lishment an advisory committee to be known as the President’s
Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed
Services, which shall be composed of seven members to be design-
ated by the President.

3. The Committee is authorized on behalf of the President
to examine into the rules, procedures and practices of the armed
services in order to determine in what respect such rules, pro-
cedures and practices may be altered or improved with a view
to carrying out the policy of this order. The Committee shall
confer and advise with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary
of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Secretary
of the Air Force, and shall make such recommendations to
the President and to said Secretaries as in the judgment of
the Committee will effectuate the policy hereof.

4. All executive departments and agencies of the
Federal Government are authorized and directed to cooperate with the Committee in its work, and to furnish the Com-
mittee such information or the services of such persons as
the Committee may require in the performance of its duties.

5. When requested by the Committee to do so, persons in the armed services or in any of the executive departments
and agencies of the Federal Government shall testify before
the Committee and shall make available for the use of the
Committee such documents and other information as the Com-
mittee may require.

6. The Committee shall continue to exist until such
time as the President shall terminate its existence by Execu-
tive order.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
July 26, 1948.
Franklin D. Roosevelt, Executive Order 8802
National Archives and Records Administration (Record Group 11)

Executive Order 8802: Prohibition of Discrimination in the Defense Industry

Reaffirming Policy Of Full Participation In The Defense Program By All Persons, Regardless Of Race, Creed, Color, Or National Origin, And Directing Certain Action In Furtherance Of Said Policy

WHEREAS it is the policy of the United States to encourage full participation in the national defense program by all citizens of the United States, regardless of race, creed, color, or national origin, in the firm belief that the democratic way of life within the Nation can be defended successfully only with the help and support of all groups within its borders; and

WHEREAS there is evidence that available and needed workers have been barred from employment in industries engaged in defense production solely because of considerations of race, creed, color, or national origin, to the detriment of workers' morale and of national unity:

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the statutes, and as a prerequisite to the successful conduct of our national defense production effort, I do hereby reaffirm the policy of the United States that there shall be no discrimination in the employment of workers in defense industries or government because of race, creed, color, or national origin, and I do hereby declare that it is the duty of employers and of labor organizations, in furtherance of said policy and of this order, to provide for the full and equitable participation of all workers in defense industries, without discrimination because of race, creed, color, or national origin;

And it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. All departments and agencies of the Government of the United States concerned with vocational and training programs for defense production shall take special measures appropriate to assure that such programs are administered without discrimination because of race, creed, color, or national origin;

2. All contracting agencies of the Government of the United States shall include in all defense contracts hereafter negotiated by them a provision obligating the contractor not to discriminate against any worker because of race, creed, color, or national origin;

3. There is established in the Office of Production Management a Committee on Fair Employment Practice, which shall consist of a chairman and four other members to be appointed by the President. The Chairman and members of the Committee shall serve as such without compensation but shall be entitled to actual and necessary transportation, subsistence and other expenses incidental to performance of their duties. The Committee shall receive and investigate complaints of discrimination in violation of the provisions of this order and shall take appropriate steps to redress grievances which it finds to be valid. The Committee shall also recommend to the several departments and agencies of the Government of the United States and to the President all measures which may be deemed by it necessary or proper to effectuate the provisions of this order.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

The White House