



Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Integration in the United States Military


"Culture does not change because we desire to change it. Culture changes when the organization is transformed; the culture reflects the realities of people working together every day. Culture is the beliefs and values practiced by an organization."

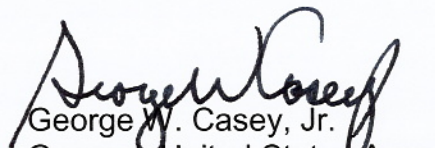
*Frances Hesselbein,
Presidential Medal of Freedom Recipient*

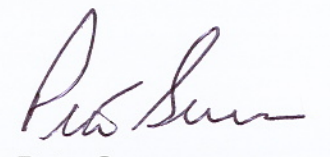
On July 26, 1948, President Harry Truman issued Executive Order 9981, which established equal treatment and opportunity in the United States military, and Executive Order 9980, to integrate the civilian workforce. The President believed it essential that inclusion—the highest standard of democracy—be afforded to those who defend our country. Thanks to President Truman's transformational executive order, our Army today is a reflection of our society—a diverse force strengthened by our many different perspectives, approaches and skills.

Military leaders understand that unit effectiveness depends on the ability of people of different backgrounds to work together. With a culture that embraces diversity, the U.S. military is able to operate successfully across the Nation and around the world. Army leaders, in particular, manage and promote diversity by creating and maintaining an inclusive environment where individual attributes are accepted, understood and valued—inspiring all Soldiers and Army Civilians to be culturally astute, agile, and adaptive public servants.

So, let us celebrate this historic occasion, knowing that the blending of cultures and backgrounds is one of our Nation's greatest strengths. We are the best Army in the world, and, together, we are Army Strong.


Kenneth O. Preston
Sergeant Major of the Army


George W. Casey, Jr.
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff


Pete Geren
Secretary of the Army