

REMARKS

by

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to

9th and 10th Cavalry Association

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I SINCERELY APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE WITH YOU ON THIS OCCASION, AND I AM DEEPLY HONORED TO ADDRESS FELLOW PROGENY OF "THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS" WHOSE SKILL AND DARING IN FRONTIER FIGHTING, ALONG WITH OTHER HEROIC EXPLOITS, COMPILED FOR THEM A PROUD HISTORY. THEIR ERSTWHILE DEEDS AND NOBLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONSTITUTED THE RICH AND PROFOUND LEGACY THAT BECAME A SIGNIFICANT PART OF OUR MILITARY HERITAGE. WHO WOULD CHALLENGE THE ASSERTION -- THAT THE 9th AND 10th CAVALRY REGIMENTS SPAWNED, THROUGH THEIR CADRES, MOST OF THE NEW ORGANIZATIONS DURING THE MILITARY EXPANSION OF BLACK UNITS -- MY OWN OUTFIT, THE 349th, TO NAME BUT ONE.

IT WOULD AFFORD ME PLEASURE TO DELVE INTO THE NOSTALGIA OF BOTH THE DISTANT AND MORE RECENT PASTS, BUT MY ATTEMPTS TO RECREATE VICARIOUSLY WHAT MANY OF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED FIRST-HAND WOULD BE SOMEWHAT PRESUMPTUOUS - ACADEMIC AT BEST - AND HARDLY WORTHY OF YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION. BESIDES, AS I LOOK OUT AMONG YOU IT SEEMS APPARENT TO ME THAT YOU ARE NOT TOO CONCERNED ABOUT REFLECTING ON THINGS PAST. YOUR PRESENCE HERE THIS EVENING SUGGESTS

THAT YOU ARE NOT ONLY INTERESTED IN, BUT ALSO VITALLY CONCERNED ABOUT AND ATTUNED TO WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WORLD TODAY. ALTHOUGH MOST OF US ARE OVER THIRTY, THIS FACT DOES NOT DAMPEN THE FERVOR IN OUR HEARTS FOR THE POSITIVE THINGS TAKING PLACE DURING THE TENURE OF WHAT IS CALLED THE "NOW" GENERATION.

YOU AND I KNOW THAT THE BEDROCK FOUNDATION FOR MANY OF TODAY'S ACHIEVEMENTS WAS LAID YEARS AGO BY MEN AND WOMEN WHO ENDURED THE AGONIES OF HELL FOR A NATION THAT KICKED THEM AT EVERY TURN. HOW AND WHY THEY WENT ON UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES NEARLY DEFIES HUMAN ANALYSIS, BUT AS BENEFICIARIES AND AS PARENTS WE UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THEIR ORDEALS.

THEREFORE, IT IS OF RELATIVELY LITTLE IMPORT FOR ME TO RECOUNT TO YOU THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS, THE SUCCESSES AND FAILURES, THE BREAKS, FRUSTRATIONS AND HEARTACHES THAT PRECEDED THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND ACCOUTERMENTS WHICH I NOW WEAR BEFORE YOU, ALTHOUGH I AM VERY PROUD AND TRULY GRATEFUL FOR WHAT IT REPRESENTS BOTH IN REALITY AND SYMBOLICALLY. ----- IF YOU WILL ALLOW ME THIS METAPHOR OF COMPARISON - I, LIKE ROY CAMPANELLA, LARRY DOBY, OR DON NEWCOMBE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE, AS THEY SURELY HAD TO, THAT THERE WERE OTHERS BEFORE ME WHO HAMMERED ON THE WALLS FOR RECOGNITION, WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF THE REQUISITE QUALIFICATIONS, BUT WHO DID SO AT A TIME WHEN THE DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY WERE NOT ONLY CLOSED, BUT ALSO BARRICADED. I AM EVER MINDFUL OF AND HUMBLLED BY THIS AWARENESS AND THUS SINCERELY APPRECIATIVE OF MY OWN GOOD FORTUNE.

WITH THESE FACTORS IN MIND, I INTEND TO FOCUS MY REMARKS ON OUR CONCERN FOR AND INVOLVEMENT WITH THE FUTURE THAT IS TO BE AMERICA'S. WE HAVE AN ACTIVE

ROLE TO PLAY IN GUIDING AND ENCOURAGING YOUNG FOLK TO PURSUE PROPER PREPARATION FOR LIFE'S WORK. WE CANNOT SHIRK THIS RESPONSIBILITY - AND IT IS FOLLY FOR US TO DECRY A FAILURE TO UNDERSTAND THE YOUNGER GENERATION. WE FEIGN CONFUSION DUE TO THE FACT THAT TODAY'S YOUTH ARE SO IMPATIENT AND WANT ONLY TO DO "THEIR THING"HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT WE TOO WERE IMPATIENT AND THAT VARIATIONS OF "OUR THING" WERE CALLED SPARKING, QUILTING, COURTING, CORNSILK CIGARETTES AND SEN SEN; THAT THERE WERE PERIODS IN THE PAST REFERRED TO AS "THE GAY 90's", "THE ROARING 20's", "THE ERAS OF PROHIBITION AND "THE ZOOT SUIT" AND A FEW IGNOBLE THINGS THAT EACH OF US CAN RECALL WITHOUT TOO MUCH DELIBERATION.

YET, THERE WAS A CONSTANT IN OUR LIVES WHICH WE PROBABLY TOOK FOR GRANTED AND CONSEQUENTLY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO RECALL. WHEREVER WE TURNED OR STRAYED IN OUR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES, WHETHER THEY WERE RESPECTABLE OR NOT - THERE WAS ALWAYS AN OLDER PERSON, A GROWN-UP, AN ADULT, SOMEONE WITH MORE EXPERIENCE THAN WE HAD, SOMEONE WHO DID NOT WANT TO SEE US MAKING THEIR SAME MISTAKES AND WHO OFFERED US ADVICE OR GUIDANCE WHETHER WE HEEDED IT OR NOT -- AND USUALLY WE DID NOT.

ADMITTEDLY, TIMES AND COMMUNITIES HAVE CHANGED AND IN THE WORDS OF CHARLES H. SPURGEON, AN ENGLISH CLERGYMAN: "IT IS FOOLISH TO TRY TO LIVE ON PAST EXPERIENCE. IT IS A VERY DANGEROUS - IF NOT A FATAL - HABIT TO JUDGE OURSELVES TO BE SAFE BECAUSE OF SOMETHING THAT WE FELT OR DID 20 YEARS AGO." THE INDICTMENT OF THOSE WORDS TAKE ON ADDED MEANING WHEN WE HEAR ADULTS REBUKE THE YOUTH OF TODAY FOR NOT ACCEPTING BLINDLY OR FOR REJECTING MUCH OF OUR SEASONED ADVICE AS NOT BEING VIABLE IN THE 1970's. BUT IF THERE IS

A KEY OR SIGNIFICANT INGREDIENT MISSING FROM THE LIVES OF OUR YOUTH TODAY, IT SEEMS TO BE THE CONSISTENT, PERVADING AND SANCTIONED REINFORCEMENT OF COUNSEL OUTSIDE THE HOME THAT WE DERIVED FROM ADULTS THROUGHOUT OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

YES, THE TIMES HAVE CHANGED MARKEDLY -- IN FACT, THE RAPID CHANGES IN TECHNOLOGY, A SEEMING ISOLATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL, AN INCREASED INTERDEPENDENCE, AND A HEIGHTENED SENSE OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY CONSTITUTE THE DOMINANT CHARACTERISTICS OF CONTEMPORARY TIMES. SOCIETY IS ADJUSTING TO THESE CHANGES, ALBEIT WITH RELUCTANCE FOR THE MOST PART, WITH LETHARGY HERE AND THERE, AND IN SOME CASES WITH OUTRIGHT RESISTANCE; BUT NONETHELESS AND INEVITABLY, SOCIETY IS COMING ABREAST TO THE TIMES IN WHICH WE LIVE. OPPORTUNITIES HAVE INCREASED FOR CITIZENS IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

IT IS PRECISELY BECAUSE OF THE HEIGHTENED OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS THAT I SENSE A NEED TO STRESS AND SOLICIT YOUR SUPPORT. OUR COUNTRY HAS NEVER HAD SO GREAT A NEED FOR HIGHLY EDUCATED AND WELL MOTIVATED YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN. ONLY RECENTLY HAVE YOUNG BLACK AMERICANS IN SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS BEEN ABLE TO MOVE FROM THE COLLEGE CAMPUS INTO A WORLD OFFERING SO BROAD A RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUAL FULFILLMENT AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE WELFARE OF HUMANITY. NEVER HAVE SO MANY OF OUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN BEEN SO VOCAL AND CONFIRMED BY ACTION, THEIR DEEP DEDICATION TO ERADICATING THE EVILS OF IGNORANCE, POVERTY AND BIGOTRY FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE LAND.

WHILE YOU ARE AWARE OF THE NUMEROUS OPTIONS EXISTING WITHIN THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY, I AM CONCERNED THAT EQUALLY CHALLENGING AND REWARDING

ENDEAVORS AFFORDED BY THE MILITARY SERVICES MAY HAVE BECOME OBFUSCATED BY THE WIDESPREAD DISENCHANTMENT AND NEGATIVE ATTITUDES AND ASPECTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE VIETNAM WAR. I FEEL THAT THE OPPORTUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES THAT ARE AFFORDED BY THE ARMY AS WELL AS SISTER SERVICES SHOULD BE INCORPORATED INTO YOUR GUIDANCE TO YOUTH RATHER THAN IGNORED OR SHUNNED AS HAVING NO POSITIVE VALUES TO CONTRIBUTE. THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT ONE OF OUR ACKNOWLEDGED SHORTCOMINGS ATTRIBUTED PRIMARILY TO THE INNER CITIES AND RURAL AREAS IS A LACK OF QUALIFICATIONS RESULTING FROM A POOR EDUCATION OR FORMAL TRAINING WHICH CAN BE VIRTUALLY ELIMINATED DURING A FEW YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE FOR THOSE WHO TERMINATED SCHOOLING PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF A DIPLOMA OR A DEGREE.

I KNOW THAT GIVEN THE TRAINING AND OPPORTUNITY OUR YOUTH COULD PERFORM ANY JOB AS WELL AS IF NOT BETTER THAN THE NEXT MAN. IN THE ARMY AND IN THE CIVILIAN WORLD WE MUST PROVE A CAPABILITY BEFORE RECEIVING THE OPPORTUNITY AND THE PROOF IS AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT - BE IT A CERTIFICATE, DIPLOMA OR DEGREE STATING THAT WE ARE QUALIFIED TO PERFORM A PARTICULAR TASK.

AN INDIVIDUAL'S WORD WITHOUT THE REQUIRED PIECE OF PAPER IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH. THE NEED EXISTS TO PRODUCE THE EVIDENCE THAT ATTESTS TO ONE'S CAPABILITY, BUT RATHER THAN PREPARATION IT SEEMS THAT OUR YOUTH ARE DEMANDING RIGHTS WHICH BECOME REJECTIONS WHEN THE DOORS ARE OPENED AND THE EMPLOYER INSISTS UPON DOCUMENTED EVIDENCE OF CAPABILITY WITHOUT REGARD TO INHERENT SKILLS, NEED OR DESIRE. THE ARMY OFFERS AN IDEAL PLACE TO RESTART AND OBTAIN THE NEEDED CREDENTIALS. IT AFFORDS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN WHILE EARNING AND THE ONLY COST IS A SMALL PORTION OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S TIME. WHEN

WE CAN COUNTER SUCCESSFULLY THE "YOU'RE UNQUALIFIED" TACTIC WE CAN MORE EASILY IDENTIFY THE SENIOR OR EMPLOYER WHOSE MOTIVES ARE SUSPECT AND WHOSE PRACTICES ARE ILLEGAL.

IT IS KNOWLEDGE THAT WILL ENABLE AN INDIVIDUAL TO BECOME MORE COMPETITIVE IN THE MILITARY AS WELL AS IN CIVILIAN LIFE FOR BETTER JOBS, BETTER SALARIES AND ALL OPPORTUNITIES. KNOWLEDGE POWER AND SKILL POWER BEGET EQUAL BARGAINING POWER. POSSESSING SOMETHING THAT IS NEEDED BY THE PERSON DOING THE HIRING IS ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS. IN THE WORDS OF THE WASHINGTON, D.C. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATE WALTER E. FAUNTROY: "BLACK POWER WITHOUT BRAIN POWER--IS JUST SKIN DEEP."

WE MUST EMPHASIZE THE PREPARATION TO ASSUME POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP IN THIS QUEST FOR A BETTER AMERICA. LET ME CALL UPON EACH OF YOU TO INVOLVE YOURSELVES -- TO GUIDE AND ENCOURAGE, BY EXHORTATION AND EXAMPLE, OUR YOUTH TO CHALLENGE THEMSELVES TO THE FULLEST.

AS IT MOVES TOWARD REDUCED RELIANCE ON THE DRAFT, THE ARMY OF THE 70'S IS CHANGING. IT IS BEING REFORMED AND REVITALIZED, KEEPING ABREAST OF THE EDUCATIONAL, TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT OF OUR SOCIETY. GONE ARE MANY OF THE PETTY IRRITANTS SO FAMILIAR TO SOLDIERS OF THE 40'S, 50'S, AND 60'S. ACTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO REMOVE FROM ARMY LIFE THE IRRITANTS, SMALL AND LARGE, WHICH DETRACT FROM THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THE MILITARY MAN AND HIS FAMILY LIVE. THESE ACTIONS SIMPLY EVIDENCE A LEADERSHIP WHICH RECOGNIZES MORE FULLY THE HUMAN QUALITIES OF TODAY'S SOLDIER--HIS CONCEPT OF INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM AND HIS MATURE SENSE OF DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY. TO BE A GOOD SOLDIER, SAID GENERAL PATTON, "A MAN MUST HAVE DISCIPLINE, SELF RESPECT,

PRIDE IN HIS UNIT AND COUNTRY, A HIGH SENSE OF DUTY AND OBLIGATION TO HIS COMRADES AND TO HIS SUPERIORS, AND THE SELF-CONFIDENCE BORNE OF DEMONSTRATED ABILITY." FOR THE SUCCESSFUL OFFICER, ENLISTED MAN OR CIVILIAN, THERE HAS BEEN NO DEVIATION FROM THESE PRINCIPLES--AND THERE CANNOT BE. PROFESSIONALISM IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE IS AND MUST REMAIN AT THE APEX OF THE ARMY'S AND OUR SOCIETY'S GOALS. THUS, TODAY'S SOLDIER MUST STILL POSSESS THOSE ATTRIBUTES SO ABLY EXPRESSED BY GENERAL PATTON AND THOSE QUALITIES WHICH OUR FOREFATHERS BROUGHT TO OUR ARMY, AS WE REFERRED TO EARLIER WITH THE BUFFALO SOLDIER: DEDICATION, LOYALTY, SACRIFICE, AND COURAGE.

IN A LIKE MANNER, THESE QUALITIES WERE EVER PRESENT AMONG THE MANY BLACKS WHO WERE SELECTED TO INTEGRATE MILITARY UNITS AND WHO TOOK IT UPON THEMSELVES TO PAVE THE WAY FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW. THE ROLE AS THE INTEGRATOR --THE INNOVATOR OF CHANGE--HAS NOT BEEN AND WILL NEVER BE WITHOUT ITS PRICE. ONE IS FORCED TO EXCEL PROFESSIONALLY--TO BE BETTER THAN MOST IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE THE POSSIBILITY OF LEGITIMATE CRITICISM. WE, BOTH YOU AND I AND OTHERS, HAVE FELT THE SUBTLE--AND SOMETIMES NOT SO SUBTLE--REACTIONS OF OTHERS TO OUR PRESENCE IN PREVIOUSLY NON-INTEGRATED UNITS, AND WE HAVE FELT THE LONELINESS THAT COMES WITH BEING ONE OF A KIND IN A UNIT. BUT, WE HAVE PAID THIS PRICE WILLINGLY BECAUSE IT HEIGHTENED THE PROBABILITY THAT THOSE WHO FOLLOWED US WOULD NOT HAVE TO DO SO.

I WOULD LIKE TO OUTLINE FOR YOU A FEW OF THE RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS OF BLACK SOLDIERS.

IN 1962 THERE WERE ONLY 3,805 BLACKS IN THE TOP THREE ENLISTED GRADES IN THE ARMY. TODAY, THERE ARE MORE THAN 13,000. INCLUDED IN THIS NUMBER

IS COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR CHARLES HALL WHO FOR THE PAST YEAR HAS SERVED AS THE SENIOR NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM. HE WAS THE FIRST BLACK MAN TO SERVE IN THE HIGHEST ENLISTED POSITION OF A MAJOR AMERICAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS DURING A TIME OF WAR.

THE OFFICER CORPS HAS ALSO EXPERIENCED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN ITS BLACK OFFICER STRENGTH. IN 1962, THERE WERE ONLY 547 BLACK COLONELS, LIEUTENANT COLONELS AND MAJORS--AND NO GENERALS. TODAY, THERE ARE 1,948 BLACK FIELD GRADE OFFICERS, ONE MAJOR GENERAL, TWO BRIGADIER GENERALS, AND ONE BRIGADIER GENERAL NOMINEE. THE PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF THESE OFFICERS ARE TOO NUMEROUS TO COVER TODAY, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO OUTLINE A FEW. FOURTEEN OF THESE OFFICERS WERE RECENTLY SELECTED TO ATTEND ONE OF THE 5 SERVICE WAR COLLEGES, THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION IN THE ARMED FORCES. ONE OF THESE OFFICERS IS COMMANDING THE LARGEST COMBAT UNIT IN THE CANAL ZONE, AND 4 OTHERS ARE COMMANDING BRIGADE LEVEL UNITS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. THE ARMY IS JUSTLY PROUD OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THESE OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN.

THE ARMY IS MAKING TREMENDOUS STRIDES IN ITS EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY THE ROOT CAUSES OF RACIAL UNREST. ONE OF THE MAJOR PROJECTS FOR IMPROVED RACE RELATIONS HAS BEEN THE CONDUCT OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY SEMINARS AT ARMY INSTALLATIONS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND OVERSEAS. THESE SEMINARS WERE HELD TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN RACIAL GROUPS TO GET PEOPLE THINKING ABOUT WAYS AND MEANS OF DEVELOPING MEASURES TO ELIMINATE RACIAL TENSION AND TO IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING OF ARMY POLICIES. THESE SEMINARS HELPED SERVE AN IMPORTANT INITIAL GOAL--TO GET DISCUSSION OF THE RACIAL SITUATION

OUT IN THE OPEN, AND LET OUR PEOPLE KNOW THIS WAS SOMETHING WE WANTED THEM TO TALK ABOUT FRANKLY--SINCE WE KNEW THEY WERE THINKING ABOUT IT ANYWAY.

A REALLY INNOVATIVE COURSE OF INSTRUCTION IN RACE RELATIONS WAS DEVELOPED AT THE UNITED STATES ARMY INFANTRY SCHOOL, FORT BENNING, GEORGIA. THE MAJOR WHO AUTHORED THIS COURSE OF INSTRUCTION IS A 1961 ROTC GRADUATE OF FLORIDA A AND M UNIVERSITY. THIS TRAINING IS NOW BEING PRESENTED TO OFFICERS, WARRANT OFFICERS, NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN FROM BASIC TRAINING TO THE COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE. IT SEEKS TO DEVELOP AMONG THESE PERSONNEL A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE BASIC FACTORS IN RACE RELATIONS--TO GET THEM TO REALIZE THAT ONE SIMPLY CANNOT BE AN EFFECTIVE LEADER IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TODAY WITHOUT FEELING AT EASE WITH RACIAL PROBLEMS.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN MORE BLACK JUNIOR OFFICERS. THESE EFFORTS ARE NOW BEING GIVEN HIGHEST PRIORITY. ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF BLACK FIELD GRADE OFFICERS HAS SHOWN A STEADY INCREASE SINCE 1962, FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS THERE HAS BEEN AN ACTUAL DECREASE IN BLACK JUNIOR OFFICER STRENGTH. THAT DECREASE IS ALARMING -- NOT JUST BECAUSE OF WHAT IT COULD MEAN FOR OUR SENIOR OFFICER RANKS IN THE FUTURE, BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT IS THE COMPANY GRADE OFFICER WHO HAS CONTACT WITH THE ENLISTED MEN, WHOM BLACK SOLDIERS SEE. AS A RESULT OF RECENT EFFORTS IN THIS AREA, THE ENROLLMENT OF BLACK CADETS IN THE PLEBE CLASS AT THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY HAS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS. THERE ARE NOW AT WEST POINT 87 BLACK CADETS, AND 75 OF THESE HAVE ENROLLED WITHIN THE LAST TWO YEARS. STEPS HAVE ALSO BEEN TAKEN TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ROTC UNITS AT PREDOMINANTLY BLACK COLLEGES TO TRY TO GET MORE BLACK HIGH

SCHOOL STUDENTS INTERESTED IN ROTC AND TO PROVIDE ROTC SCHOLARSHIPS TO HIGH SCHOOLS IN ECONOMICALLY DEPRIVED AREAS.

BESIDES THESE EXAMPLES OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS, OUR TOP LEADERS HAVE CONTINUALLY EXPRESSED TO ALL ARMY PERSONNEL THEIR PERSONAL COMMITMENT IN THIS AREA. COMMANDERS WORLD-WIDE ARE BEING ENCOURAGED TO ESTABLISH COUNCILS, PERIODIC SEMINARS, OR SIMILAR DEVICES TO PERMIT ENLISTED MEN TO AIR THEIR THOUGHTS IN AN INFORMAL SETTING. NEW POLICIES HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED WHICH EMPHASIZE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMANDERS TO TAKE EVERY STEP AVAILABLE, INCLUDING OFF-LIMITS SANCTIONS, TO ASSURE THAT RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN OFF-POST HOUSING AND PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT ENDS. THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HAS RECENTLY STATED THAT "THE ARMY POLICY IS SIMPLE: AN ESTABLISHMENT, IN THE UNITED STATES OR ABROAD, IS EITHER OPEN TO ALL SOLDIERS, REGARDLESS OF RACE, OR IT SHOULD BE OPEN TO NONE." THIS IS THE TYPE PERSONAL COMMITMENT WHICH WILL PAY GREAT DIVIDENDS IN THE FUTURE.

FOR MANY YEARS, LEADERSHIP IN INTEGRATION AND THE REDUCTION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION WAS ONE OF THE ARMY'S PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS. THE PASSAGE OF TIME HAS BROUGHT NEW PROBLEMS. IT HAS BROUGHT NEW ASPECTS TO OLD PROBLEMS. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE ARMY'S FUTURE WILL BE BRIGHT AND THAT YOU WILL CONTRIBUTE GREATLY TO THE ARMY'S EFFORT TO REGAIN THE POSITION AS OUR SOCIETY'S LEADER IN HUMAN RELATIONS.

MY TIME FOR OFFICIALLY CATALYZING CHANGE IS LIMITED IN THAT I WILL BE RETIRING BEFORE MANY MORE YEARS HAVE PAST. SO, I WILL BE LEAVING THIS ACTIVE ROLE AND JOINING YOUR RANKS--THEN, IT WILL BE LEFT TO THOSE NOW SERVING AND THOSE WHO SUCCEED US TO PERPETUATE THE LEGACY AS WE HAVE DONE, TO CHALLENGE

THE ASSERTION, CONFRONT THE ISSUES, AND IN A BROADER SENSE, TO INCREASE TO
EVEN GREATER HEIGHTS THE PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION OF BLACK AMERICANS
WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE ARMY. OUR CHALLENGE IS TO ENCOURAGE OUR YOUTH TO
MAKE GOOD WITHIN A VIABLE SYSTEM AND TO USE THE QUALITIES IN THEMSELVES,
AND THEIR FELLOWMAN AS WELL AS THE BEST ELEMENTS OF ARMY TRADITION AND
PRACTICE TO BRING ABOUT THE CHANGES THAT MODERN AMERICA NEEDS SO DESPERATELY.