

*The Ceremony and Exhibit
Blacks in the Military
February 1988*



“ . . . Look what we're able to do in this country. Look what we're able to do with a system such as ours, when finally the inconsistencies between the dreams contained in our founding documents and the reality come into direct conflict. What other nation in the world can make this sort of adjustment and commit itself to a dream that says the only thing that should limit anyone is their own talent, their own ambition, their own dreams? That's the blessing of this nation. That's the blessing of this society in which we live.”

Lt. Gen. Colin L. Powell,
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs,
during his address at CIA
Headquarters on 18 February 1988
in honor of Black History Month.



Lt. Gen. Colin L. Powell — Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

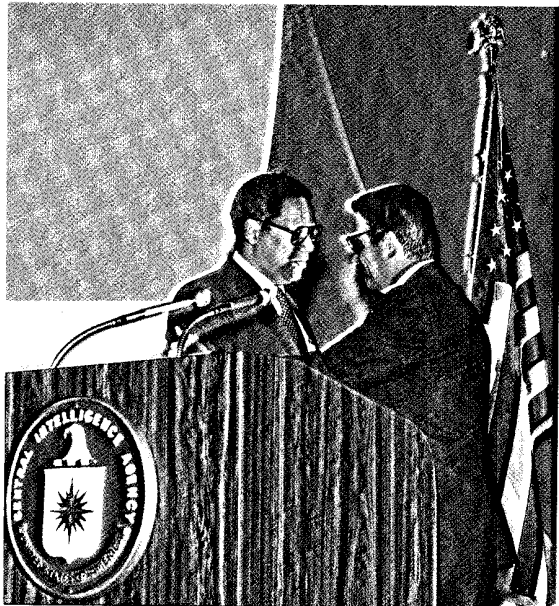
Prior to his appointment as NSC adviser on 5 November 1987, Gen. Powell had served as deputy to then NSC head Frank Carlucci. He previously commanded V Corps in Frankfurt, West Germany. Among his military decorations Gen. Powell holds the Distinguished Service Medal and the Bronze Star.

National Security Adviser Colin Powell as he was depicted in the February 1988 Central Intelligence Agency Black History Month exhibit "Blacks in the Military."

On 18 February, General Powell spoke before an audience composed of Agency employees and invited guests on the contributions of Black Americans to the defense of the United States. The ceremony and exhibit were presented by the Director of Equal Employment Opportunity and the Office of Information Resources.



Judge William H. Webster, Director of Central Intelligence, introduces General Powell. During his remarks, Judge Webster said that he expected "to see more minorities in [CIA's] professional work force, as well as increases of both women and minorities in the middle and senior levels of management."



Judge Webster greets General Powell, whom he called a "personal friend of mine."



General Powell addresses the 18 February 1988 ceremony commemorating Black History Month.

The President's National Security Adviser began his speech by thanking CIA employees for "all you have collectively done for me [since] I have been with the NSC." Following his talk, he and Judge Webster visited the "Blacks in the Military" display located in the Agency's Exhibit Hall.

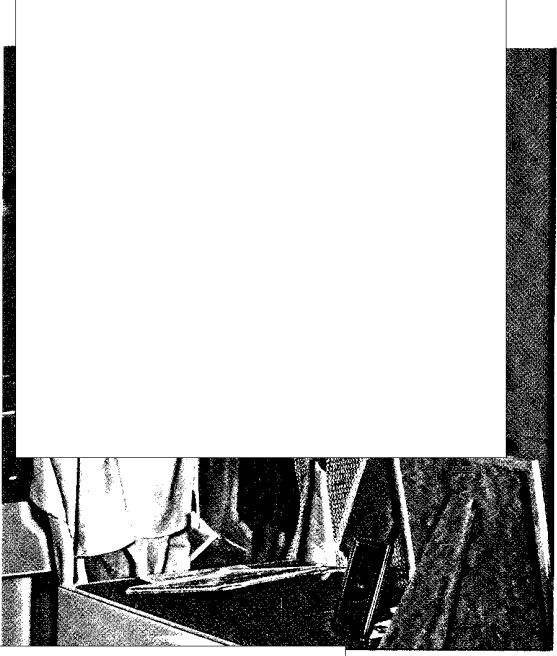


Special guests invited to the CIA Black History Month ceremony and display included (from left): June C. Turner and Henry C. Turner, Sr. (parents of one Naval Academy graduate and three Military Academy graduates), Bernard C. Nalty (author of *Strength for the Fight: A History of Black Americans in the Military*), Kenneth J. Myles (National President of the 369th Veterans' Association), and Melvin L. Jeter (Federal Bureau of Investigation Equal Employment Opportunity Officer).

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Mr. Myles, Mr. Jeter, and Mr. Nalty view the case honoring a member of the all-Black air unit trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field.



[redacted] of the Office of Logistics visit the display.

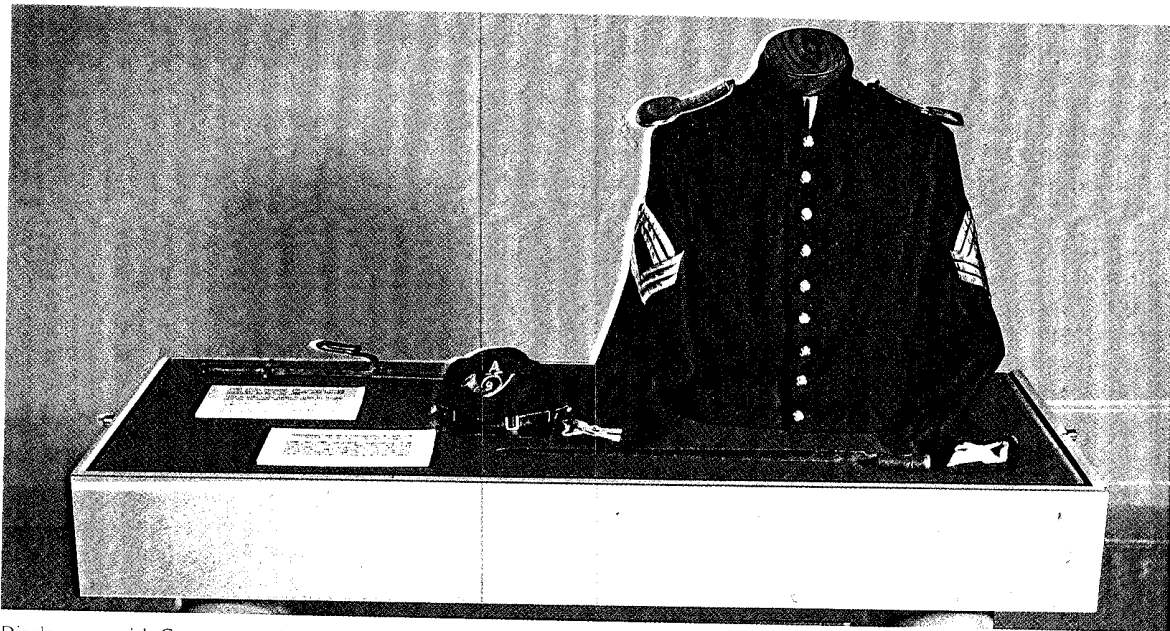
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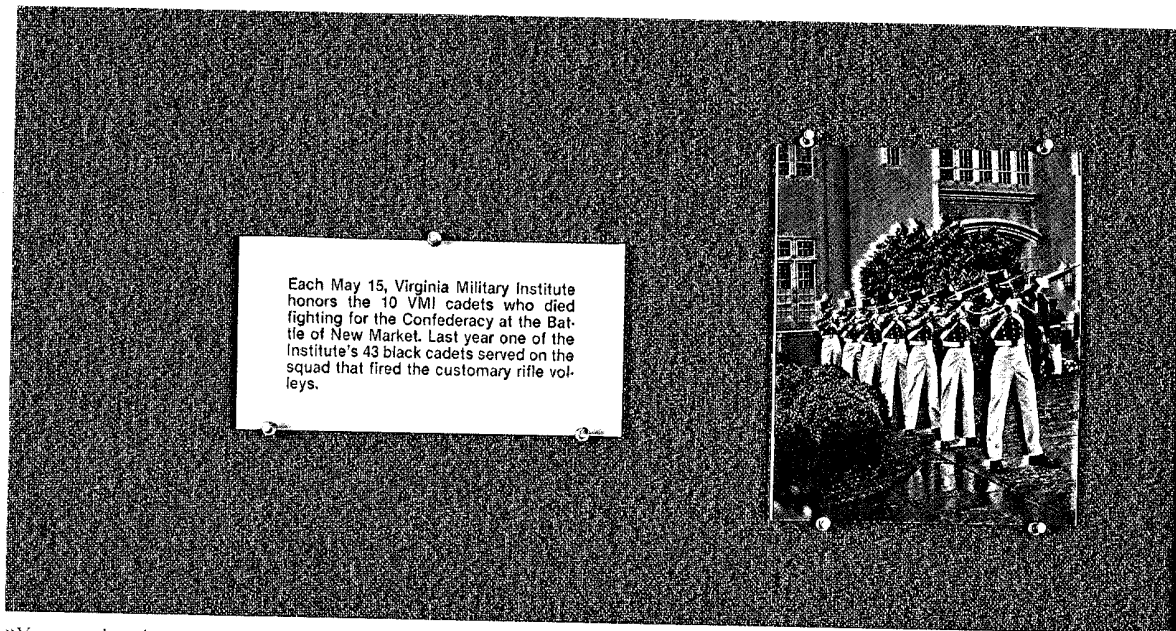
Shown here is a panel from the exhibit's "War of Independence" section featuring the replica of the "Bucks of America" standard. This full size flag was reconstructed with information on composition and design provided by the Massachusetts Historical Society.

History records little in the way of specifics, yet John Hancock, the patriot with the prominent autograph, thought so highly of the all-Black Boston unit called the "Bucks of America" that he presented its members with their own standard. It was, as the sketchy literature recalls, his "tribute to their courage and devotion throughout the struggle." Like the declaration he had so conspicuously endorsed, Hancock regarded this regiment to such an extent that he allowed his initials to be included on the banner's scroll. Also added were the first letters belonging to the name of another grateful revolutionary, George Washington.



Display case with Company A, 9th US Colored Infantry, tunic and kepi reproductions.

One of 160 all-Black regiments that fought in the Civil War, the 9th was organized at Camp Stanton, Md., on 11 November 1863. These men saw action at the battles of Deep Bottom, Chapin's Farm, Darbytown Road, and Fair Oaks.



Each May 15, Virginia Military Institute honors the 10 VMI cadets who died fighting for the Confederacy at the Battle of New Market. Last year one of the Institute's 43 black cadets served on the squad that fired the customary rifle volleys.

"You may be whatever you resolve to be."

*Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson
Virginia Military Institute Professor
1851-1861*

THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS

WILD HORSES AND HARDY MEN

The Buffalo name of them, Buffalo Soldiers, because of their dark skin and wavy, curly hair, this name was further cultivated when these troopers wrapped themselves against the savage western winter with buffalo hide. Not particularly welcome at eastern military posts, black cavalrymen were sent to the new frontier to help tame it. From their isolated posts they protected wagon and mail trains from marauding Indians and Mexican bandits. While patrolling the wild, they mapped it, allowing the westward migration to continue. All this the black troopers of the 9th and 10th Cavalries accomplished even as discrimination followed them into the frontiers and plains. As with the Civil War, there were problems finding white officers to command these regiments. George Crook partly refused a commission in a black unit, preferring, instead, to leave his mark on history as the Little Bighorn.

But the soldiers the Indians so feared, survived. They facilitated the western expansion, making America for the first time a truly continental nation. Additionally, these men and their successors fought valiantly in America's next generation of wars.

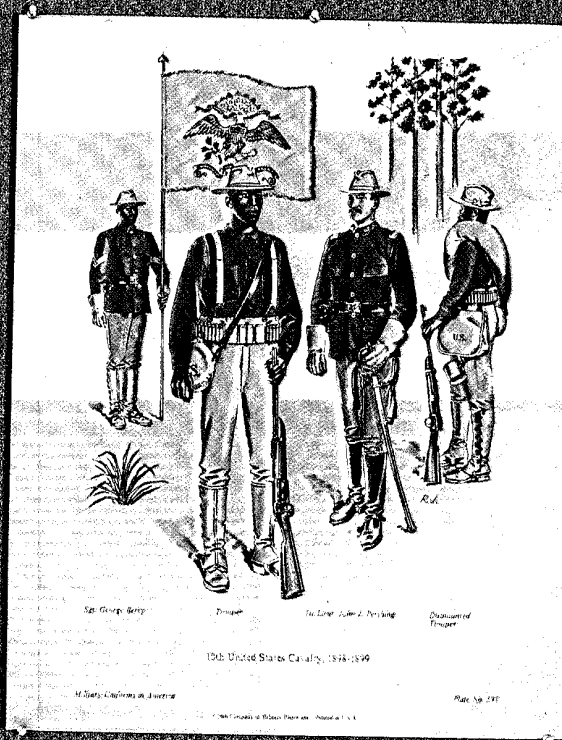
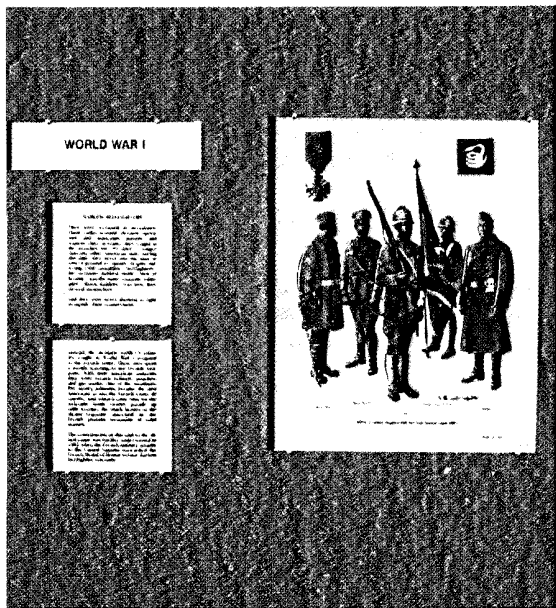


Exhibit section describing some of the history associated with the US Army's 9th and 10th Cavalries—the "Buffalo Soldiers."

During his speech, General Powell took note of the Black troopers who were instrumental in settling the American West. "These . . . regiments were [also] in Cuba," he said. "They went up San Juan Hill. I never knew that until I was an adult. It simply wasn't taught; it wasn't recognized."

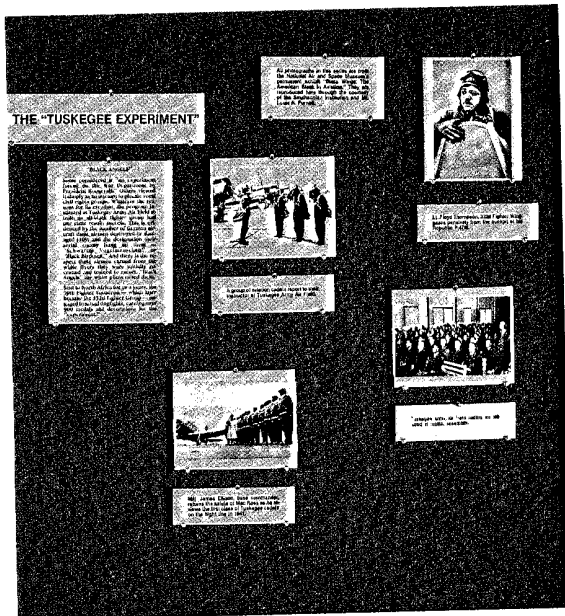


The story of the all-Black 369th Infantry Regiment—the "Men of Bronze"—as told by the display.

During World War I, these men were forced to serve with French units, because, said General Powell, "the French had a greater respect for the fighting ability of Black soldiers . . ." He added, "They never lost a foot of ground nor had a soldier captured" during the conflict.



Some of the artifacts loaned to the CIA exhibit by the 369th Veterans' Association included German, American, and French helmets, as well as the *Croix de Guerre* awarded to the entire regiment by the French Government.



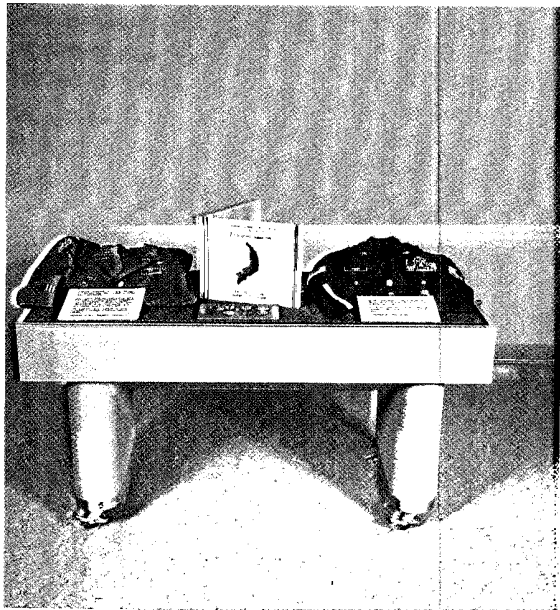
Many of the display's photographs depicting the Tuskegee airmen were from the National Air and Space Museum's permanent exhibition "Black Wings: The American Black in Aviation." They were reproduced through the courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution and Mr. Louis R. Purnell, one of the original Tuskegee pilots.

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Memorabilia from the Tuskegee era featured medals awarded to Capt. Earl R. Lane, pictured in the center of the case.

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To the left in this case is the uniform belonging to Lt. Col. Thurston E. Jamison, who saw combat in World War II and Korea.

[Redacted]

To the right are medals and uniform belonging to [Redacted]

[Redacted] served with the US Air Force in Korea and Vietnam.

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Shown here (from left) are the STS-8 Flight Cover orbited aboard Col. Guion S. Bluford's "Challenger" mission when he became the first Black American in space, US Naval and Military Academies head gear worn by members of the Turner family (see next page), and a collection of miniature medals awarded to retired Chief Master Sergeant [redacted] A 30-year veteran of the US Air Force,

[redacted]

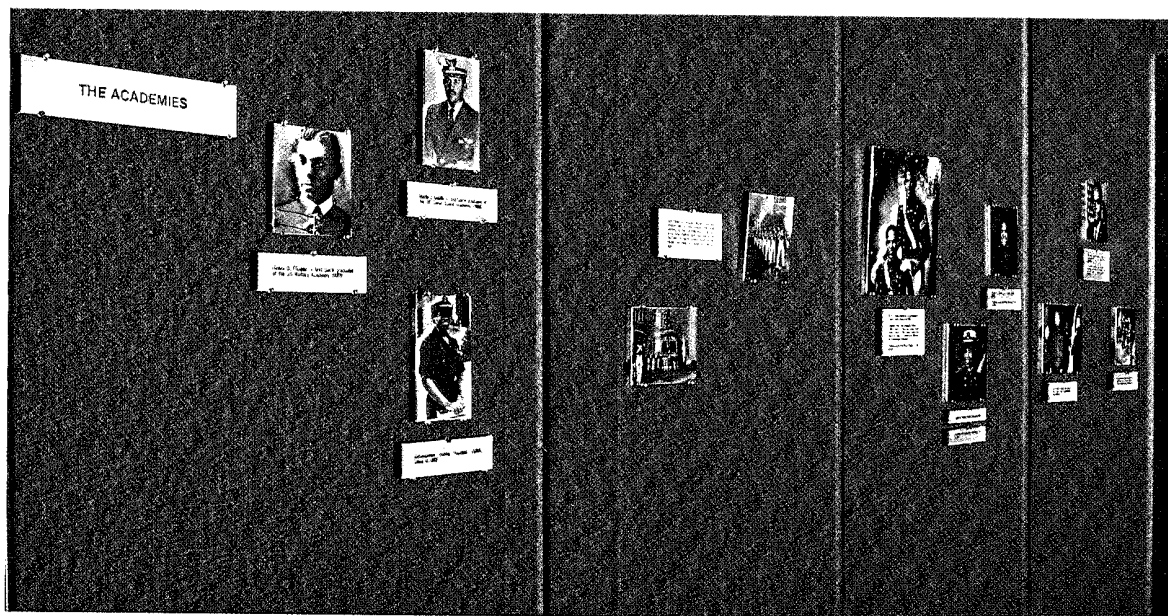
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Photographs and memorabilia relating to the Annapolis and West Point careers of these four family members were loaned through the courtesy of their parents, Dr. and Mrs. Henry C. Turner, Sr., of Bowie, Md.



The Turner family was one of several subjects covered by the exhibit's "Academies" section. Others included the first Black West Point graduate and the role of Black women in the service academies.



"MOSES WAS A SPY"

Harriet Tubman knew her way around the South. Prior to the Civil War, the "Moses of her People" helped supervise the "Underground Railroad." This former slave used that knowledge to scout and spy for the Union Army, making her "the first recorded black woman to serve in the military." Thirty years after service to the United States, she was awarded a monthly pension of \$20.

Black women's contributions to the military were highlighted by a panel honoring the "Moses of her People"—Harriet Tubman.



The Black experience in Vietnam as depicted by the CIA exhibit.

I do not ask that Thou shall front the fray,
And drive the warring foemen from my sight;
I only ask, O Lord, by night, by day,
Strength for the fight.

Paul Laurence Dunbar, "The Warrior's Prayer," as quoted by Bernard C. Nalty in *Strength for the Fight: A History of Black Americans in the Military* (1986).

This brochure is dedicated to the memory of those Black Americans, both men and women, who have given their lives in the service of their country.

*Thee, first in place and honours,—we demand
The grace and glory of thy martial band.
Fam'd for thy valour, for thy virtues more,
Hear every tongue thy guardian aid implore!*

Phillis Wheatley, the first Black and second woman to publish a book of poems in the United States (as excerpted from *The Pennsylvania Magazine*, April 1776).

