



Blacks in the Military

March 20, 2003

Black Enlisted Greater Proportion than Population

The military has long served as the one sector of the nation's economy that provided access for Black Americans. It continues to do so today. Among enlisted soldiers in all branches of the service, Blacks are represented disproportionate to their percentage of the population. The figures on this page provide a snapshot of Blacks presence in the United States military.

Blacks In Uniform

PERCENT ENLISTED

Army: 29.2%

Navy: 20.3%

Marine Corps: 16.4%

Air Force: 18.2%

DOD: 22.3%

PERCENT WOMEN ENLISTED*

Army: 48.7%

Navy: 26.8%

Marine Corps: 28.5%

Air Force: 23.7%

DOD: 33.3%

PERCENT OFFICERS

Army: 12%

Navy: 6.7%

Marine Corps: 7.5%

Air Force: 6.3%

DOD: 8.5%

PERCENT WOMEN OFFICERS

Army: 19.1%

Navy: 7.1%

Marine Corp: 8.4%

Air Force: 11.3%

DOD: 13.2%

Sources: U.S. Department of Defense; Center for Defense Information; *U.S. Department of Defense Figures for FY 1992