

FOCUS FOR MEDIA INTERACTION Questions

**ROAD TO FREEDOM: A. PHILIP RANDOLPH**

1. How did A. Philip Randolph win popularity with working-class Blacks?
2. What was Executive Order 9981?
3. Why was desegregation of the armed forces a necessary E.O. rather than a Congressional law?
4. Why was E.O. 9981 seen as a “beacon of light”?
5. What is the difference between desegregated and integrated?
6. Was the fight to desegregate the military a unified struggle between the races? What evidence is there to support your claim?
7. What is the “tactical bluff”?

**COLIN POWELL SPEECH: 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF E.O. #9981**

[50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of E.O. 9981—Colin Powell \(1998\),  
http://www.npr.org/ramfiles/980731.news.01.ram](http://www.npr.org/ramfiles/980731.news.01.ram)

1. “Do the right thing” –A. Philip Randolph had political power, what was his role in influencing Truman toward action?
2. “Principle, pressure and pragmatism all came to bear”—provide an example of each from the standpoint of Truman
3. Why were African-Americans motivated to join the armed forces?
4. Gen. Powell quotes the words of Frederick Douglass—no power on earth could deny him the full rights of citizenship—what dynamic event, according to the words of Frederick Douglass, would lead to this statement?  
Compare this statement to that made in the video about the role of the soldier in American society.
5. How were programs like equal opportunity and affirmative action products of war?
6. “A level playing field doesn’t come by declaring it, it comes from building it”, explain this statement.
7. Colin Powell and others faced resistance after returning from war; explain what he means by “Exec Order 9981 was the sign of the 2<sup>nd</sup> period of reconstruction” in American history.

**POW-MIA FLAG HISTORY WEBSITE**

<http://www.campvishus.org/POWMIAFlagHistory.htm>

1. What do POW and MIA stand for?
2. The POW-MIA Flag has come to represent four principles. What are they?
3. When did the U.S. government, as an important symbol of commitment, officially adopt the flag?

What symbols may be found on the POW-MIA flag? Offer an explanation for their significance.