All That We Can Be: Black Leadership And Racial Integration The Army Way

John Sibley Butler and Charles C. Moskos (Authors)

Basic Books (1997)

The foremost authorities on race relations in the armed forces recount the previously untold success story of how the U.S. Army became the most integrated institution in America. Charles C. Moskos and John Sibley Butler observe that the Army is the only place in America where blacks routinely boss around whites, and in this book they lay out the path by which the Army has promoted excellence across racial lines, while also showing how this military model can be adapted to fit the needs of civilian society. The Army way offers hope for our nation in a troubled time, and by following its example, Americans of all races can truly be all that we can be.
Second, the authors suggest that the approach adopted by the army to close its racial divide provides a model for solving the seemingly intractable racial problems of the larger society. Overall, the second proposition is less convincing than the first. About the army's monumental achievement, Moskos and Butler are essentially correct. Black Americans accept the army's claim of zero tolerance of discrimination. Talented young African Americans see the army as an institution wherein effort correlates with reward, and black leadership is nurtured. So they enlist and re-enlist in large