

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Where will we fight?

A. You will be employed wherever your government and the Army of the United States thinks you should be sent. No other promise than that can be given to an American soldier. However, it is not the intention to use you against the Japanese.

2. Is the formation of a Japanese American combat team a type of segregation?

A. The organization of your men into a separate combat team is not segregation. It is the means of making the most effective use of your strength for the good of the national war effort and for the ultimate good of all Japanese Americans. There will be other Japanese Americans taken into the Army and they will be assigned in the same way as any other American soldier. The organization of a separate Japanese American combat team has the distinct and very definite advantage and value of bringing the Japanese American question to the attention of the American public and to establish their position as loyal American citizens.

3. What will happen to Japanese Americans already in the military service?

A. Some will be assigned as cadres for the combat team. The others will continue in their present duties or be reassigned as the circumstances warrant.

4. Will our candidates be sent to the regular Officers' Candidate Schools, or will they train separately?

A. They will go in the same way, and be given the same training, as any other candidate.

5. What about the Japanese Americans who already are reserve officers but have not been called into active service?

- A. As they are needed, they will be called, provided they are deemed to be qualified for the work at hand. (It needs to be remembered, however, that there are many reserve officers in all groups which have not been called into active service.)
6. Will all Japanese Americans in the Army be formed into the combat team?
- A. No, they will not. The combat team is an exceptional organization. Others may be taken into the Army and will be given assignments on the same basis as other American soldiers.
7. Will the combat team be officered by Americans of Japanese blood throughout?
- A. It is contemplated that at first, your regimental, battalion and company commanders will not be Japanese Americans because of the lack of men who have had training and experience with the higher commands, but that your other company officers will be Japanese Americans insofar as it is possible to supply those who have had the proper training. As Japanese American officers prove themselves qualified for higher command, they will be advanced in grade.
8. Have Japanese Americans already in the military service been discriminated against?
- A. It has certainly never been the policy of the Army of the United States to countenance discrimination against American soldiers of any race. Where discrimination has occurred, it has been due to ignorance or stupidity on the part of individuals. An Army, in a period of great expansion, cannot take account of all the separate acts of its many individuals. The best corrective is to develop a line of policy which will show the individual what is wanted by his government. That is what is being done in this case. The present course is a direct rebuff to any who have discriminated against the American soldier who happens to be of Japanese blood and will go far toward curbing discrimination against you both in and out of the Army.
9. How will we be treated by other Americans?

A. A partial answer already has been made to this question. There are many Americans who because of ignorance think of you as a Jap and nothing else. They are aroused against Japan, and they feel hostile toward you simply because you are of Japanese extraction. That is the kind of thing we are working against. No American is in a position to look with contempt or speak slightly of a man who is in the uniform of his country. Therefore, the steps now being taken are the surest way to counter discrimination not only now but after the war. Racial prejudices cannot be removed in a day but they can be reduced by goodwill and intelligent action over a period of time. The best antidote for prejudice against you will be your own conduct and bearing.

10. What will happen to those who volunteer for service but are turned down for physical reasons? Will they be returned to the Relocation Centers?

A. If the loyalty check shows that they have the interest of the United States at heart, they will be given the chance to work in the defense plants. The government cannot promise to find work for you. In some of the plants there is still prejudice against employing Americans of Japanese blood. But skilled workers are needed and the news of the formation of a combat team from among your number will do much to counteract the prejudice already referred to.

11. Besides service with infantry combat forces, can a Japanese American qualify to become an American flier?

A. It is contemplated that if your willing response and loyal action assures the success of the present undertaking, the other forms of military service may be opened to you. For the present we are seeking volunteers for the combat team only.

12. Can I enlist under an assumed name to protect relatives in Japan?

A. If this fear is uppermost in your mind, it would be better not to volunteer at all but to wait and take your chance on being inducted later.

13. What will happen to me if I am captured?

A. That question cannot be answered, but it is assumed that since you are an American, you will be treated as any other American prisoner.

14. What will happen to our property?

A. There will be no change as a result of your entry into the military service. The services of the War Relocation Authority will continue to be at your disposal.

15. Why were all the Japanese Americans classified as 4-C?

A. Because no clear-cut policy for utilizing your services in the Army had been adopted.

16. Why were some Japanese Americans discharged?

A. Because no clear-cut policy for utilizing your services in the Army had been adopted.

17. How soon will we be inducted after volunteering?

A. From 30 to 60 days.

18. What provisions will be made for my wife and children?

A. The regular allowances for dependents will be paid them, the same as paid for any other soldier.

19. Will my family be permitted to return to the West Coast?

A. Not for the time being.

20. What happens to my father who is not a citizen of the United States?

A. Like all other persons now in Relocation Centers, he may file an application for leave which will be acted upon by the War Relocation Authority. It is probably fair to say that his chances for favorable action will be better by reason of your going into the service.

21. Is my brother, who is not a citizen, eligible for induction in the Army?

A. No, only citizens are to be inducted under this present program.

22. Will our dependents, part dependents and immediate families be permitted to leave Relocation Centers to move near or to our quarters?

A. They will be permitted to leave the Relocation Centers if they are approved for indefinite leave. Local conditions such as housing facilities will determine whether it is practical for them to live near you.

23. May we marry and bring our wives to or near the training centers?

A. You may marry, of course, as may all soldiers, but local conditions such as housing facilities, will determine whether your wives can live near your training centers.

24. Where will we train?

A. At regular Army posts in the United States. Present plans call for the activation of the American Japanese combat team at Camp Shelby, Miss.

25. Will this program include American citizens of Japanese ancestry in Hawaii and outside Relocation Centers?

A. Yes, a portion of the combat team is being made up of men now in Hawaii and in the United States outside of the Relocation Centers.

26. Will more than one combat team be formed if the number of volunteers is more than sufficient?
- A. That question has not been finally answered but it is a reasonable presumption that if this effort is successful other teams may be formed. However, statistics indicate that there are not enough of your people to form more than one combat team.
27. What will be done by WRA to look after the families of soldiers?
- A. The War Relocation Authority will make all families of soldiers special cases of project interest to the project director and his staff. This will mean health and protection to the families while they remain at the center, and in the event they wish to leave, priorities of employment and every possible assistance in relocation, including cash drafts when necessary.
28. Will persons of Japanese ancestry be permitted to re-enter the evacuated areas?
- A. No, not for the present.
29. How about Japanese Americans outside Relocation Centers?
- A. They can volunteer in just the same manner.
30. If I am wanted not for military service but for civilian work, how long will it be before I am granted indefinite leave under this program?
- A. If your application is affirmed, as soon as you get a job. The War Relocation Authority and the United States Employment Service are developing job opportunities as quickly as possible.
31. If I am granted indefinite leave, may my wife, who is not a citizen, be granted leave?
- A. She may file an application for leave under present War Relocation

Authority regulations and the application is approved, she will be granted leave.

32. Will my movements be free and unrestricted after my indefinite leave from the War Relocation Center?

A. Yes, except for present requirements by the War Relocation Authority.

33. Will I be permitted to travel throughout the United States?

A. Yes, except that return to the evacuated area will not be permitted except on the authorization of the Western Defense Command. Permits for temporary visits will be granted automatically to Japanese American soldiers in uniform.

34. Will voluntary induction confer reinstatement privileges in employment held prior to evacuation?

A. An opinion of appropriate legal authorities is now being obtained to this question.

35. Is the Army program in substitution for War Relocation Authority's indefinite leave policy?

A. No, in addition.

36. Why is it intended not to use the combat team against the Japanese?

A. For general security reasons. Obviously, it would be hazardous to the team itself and to the Army as a whole to use the team against the Japanese since the danger of the enemy getting within or behind our lines in American uniforms would be a constant risk, hazardous not only to the operation but to every Japanese American in the area.

37. Are Japanese Americans to be permitted to join the Navy?

A. This is under consideration by the Navy at the present time.

38. Will Japanese-American women be considered for enrollment in the WAAC's?

A. Not at the present time. However this matter is under consideration and a decision will be rendered at a later date.

39. How educated do the Nisei have to be to be acceptable for voluntary induction?

A. The same educational requirements as exist for all other inducted into the Army, i.e., the equivalent of a 4th grade education.

40. Will the United States Employment Service assist Japanese Americans who have been granted indefinite leave to obtain jobs? Will any federal agency help to refinance businesses given up when the owners entered Relocation Centers?

A. Upon release from Relocation Centers, Japanese Americans will be entitled to take advantage of assistance of all federal agencies in the same manner as American citizens.

41. Will those who were in the Army in non-commissioned or commissioned class be permitted to have assurance that they will be placed in grade?

A. The extent and nature of previous military service will be carefully considered and insofar as possible they will be returned to their former status.

42. Will men who have completed ROTC in schools and colleges with commissions and ratings be accepted in this combat team in rank?

A. Same answer as to previous question.