

SS236 Unit 3 Discussion | Sample

During WWII African American soldiers faced significant discrimination within the Armed Forces. After WWII President Truman appointed the President's Commission on Civil Rights. The committee concluded that a "more adequate means and procedures for the protection of the civil rights of the people of the United States are needed." Acting upon these recommendations Truman requested Congress pass legislation to protect the civil liberties of African Americans after WWII. Influential, Southern legislators refused to consider any civil right legislation. As a result in 1948 President Harry Truman signed executive order 9811 which desegregated the Armed Forces of the United States. You can review the full account of [Executive Order 9811](#). As a result, any and all military facilities (domestic or foreign, Northern or Southern) had to fully integrate African Americans.

Presidential power has grown over time as a result of executive privilege. Executive privilege is, "The right of the president of the United States to withhold information from Congress or the courts," (O'Connor, Sabato, & Yanus, 2014) The first time a type of executive privilege was used was in 1796 by President George Washington. Washington would not give the House of Representatives Jay Treaty negotiation documents because he argued that ratification of treaties was the job of the Senate in which he did provide documentation. Other presidents who have invoked executive privilege are Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, Theodore Roosevelt, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Ronald Reagan, Richard Nixon, George H.W. Bush, William (Bill) Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama. In particular President George Bush invoked executive privilege to avoid detailing FBI mob investigations and the death of Army Ranger Pat Tillman. President Barack Obama invoked executive privilege to avoid handing over sensitive document regarding Operation Fast and Furious. (PBS, 2012)

Childress, S. (2012, June 20). When Presidents Invoke Executive Privilege.

American Government: Roots and Reform, 2014 Edition, Eleventh Edition, by Karen O'Connor, Larry J. Sabato, and Alixandra B. Yanus.