The Armed forces had been segregated since it had begun to accept blacks. There were separate conditions, training areas, bunkers etc.

Who: President Harry Truman

When: 1948

Where: n/a

What happened: Truman expanded on Executive Order 8802 with the following statement made: It is hereby declared to be the policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, colour, religion or national origin. This policy shall be put into effect as rapidly as possible, having due regard to the time required to effectuate any necessary changes without impairing efficiency or morale. A committee was established to investigate and made recommendations to civilian leadership of the military to realise the policy.

What was the outcome:
The armed forces desegregation showed that it was possible for further desegregation other than the Brown vs. Board of Education etc: Only applied to the National Guard- Federal Army etc was still segregated and white. Montford Point boot camp was eliminated and the last all-black unit was abolished in 1954.

Significance: Not much- not all of the army was desegregated, and the end didn’t happen properly until September 1954. Also, this helped blacks in the army but not in everyday life, and cannot be seen as being influential or inspiring to many blacks.

Quotes:
Truman, EO 9981: “It is essential that there be maintained…equality of treatment and opportunity for all those who serve in our country’s defence.”