This insightful study chronicles the progress made over the last 50 years with the desegregation of the U.S. military. The executive order issued by President Truman in 1948 that mandated this sweeping change marked the beginning of a slow march toward implementation that saw intense political conflict and strenuous opposition to racial integration throughout all branches of the military. Authors Mershon and Schlossman divide their study of military integration into three phases: 1940 to the end of World War II; 1943-1954; and the mid-1950s to the mid-1960s. The military chain of command did bring about changes in behavior despite entrenched racist attitudes. However, interservice differences and the basic conservatism of the military slowed and complicated desegregation efforts. The recollection of a U.S. military that came to full racial equality swiftly and easily — a shining example of the effectiveness of America's military command — is challenged here. The authors conclude that successful future reforms will be achieved not only through strong civilian and military leadership but also by building on traditions within the military's organizational culture that promote rather than prohibit social change.
Foxholes & Color Lines: Desegregating the U.S. Armed Forces. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998. xiii + 393 pp. $34.95 (cloth), ISBN 978-0-8018-5690-7. Reviewed by Marvin Fletcher (Department of History, Ohio University) Published on H-Pol (June, 2000). Desegregation Reviewed Again. The story of the desegregation of the United States armed forces is recounted in this book by Sherie Mershon and Steven Schlossman. Based upon secondary sources, the authors provide an interesting and detailed account of the process. The authors stress leadership, the relationship between Before we begin, an important quote from Matt, The Foxhole Dev in charge of Lore: Full credits to Africandave’s Steam guide http://steamcommunity.com/sharedfiles/filedetails/?id=1100198378. This guide aims to document the canonical lore of the Foxhole with as little conjecture as possible. Any information that has been identified as non-canon will not be included with the exception that it can be used to illustrate a point or idea that has been identified as canon. I hope to keep this updated as we Foxholes and Color Lines challenges this view, revealing both the intense political conflict at the time and the strenuous opposition to racial integration within all branches of the armed forces. Foxholes and Color Lines. Desegregating the U.S. Armed Forces. Sherie Mershon and Steven Schlossman. QTY: $33.00. Paperback.