



READINESS AND FORCE
MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

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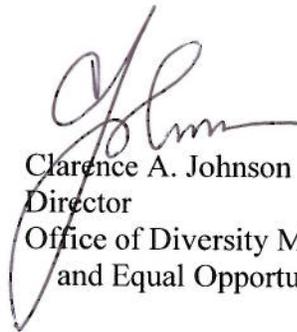
MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Department of Defense 2013 Native American Heritage Month Observance

The Department of Defense will join the nation in celebrating National Native American Heritage Month throughout the month of November and Native American Heritage Day on November 29, 2013 to honor the many contributions and accomplishments of Native Americans and Alaska Natives. This year's theme is "Guiding Our Destiny with Heritage and Traditions." Upon this occasion, we remember the legacy of the first Americans and celebrate their cultures and heritages as the original guardians of our land.

Many are unaware that Native Americans have the highest record of service per capita when compared to the rest of American society and have proudly served in the U.S. military with recognized distinction since the Revolutionary War. Native Americans have a deep love for their country, which is intertwined with their specific tribal heritages, and which have contributed to cultural diversity of our country. We are firmly committed to sustaining a force and defending a nation in which equality, dignity, and respect remain inviolate principles.

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Clarence A. Johnson
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