



READINESS AND FORCE
MANAGEMENT

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

JAN 29 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Department of Defense (DoD) National African American History Month
Observance

The Department of Defense (DoD) joins the nation in celebration of National African American History Month, observed during February. The theme of this year's observance, "A Century of Black Life, History, and Culture," honors the many accomplishments and legacy of African Americans and encourages all to reflect on their courageous journey for freedom, equality, and justice, particularly over the last century.

African Americans have made monumental contributions to the Department of Defense. From African American bravery in the Revolutionary War to the first African American woman to reach the rank of four-star admiral, African Americans – both military and civilian – have strengthened the Department and our nation. Their leadership, intellect, and labor continue to enrich both the African American community and our nation as a whole, and are forever ingrained into the fabric of America.

All can draw strength and inspiration from African American bravery and steadfast commitment to the nation. We continue to be inspired by and pay great homage to African Americans' countless sacrifices made and burdens carried to uphold the promise of freedom, equality, and justice for all citizens.

All DoD Components are encouraged to conduct appropriate activities in recognition of African American History Month. Mr. Norvel "Rock" Dillard, Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity, is the DoD point of contact. He may be reached at (703) 614-3397, or norvel.l.dillard.civ@mail.mil.


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