



PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

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

JAN 10 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE  
DIRECTOR, COST ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM  
EVALUATION  
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE  
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT  
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES  
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES


SUBJECT: 2012 National African American History Month

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) joins the Nation in celebrating National African American History Month during 1 – 29 February 2012. This year's theme, "Black Women in American Culture and History," honors the valuable contributions and the important legacy of women of African descent. It urges all Americans to study the hardships endured by these women and to reflect on their courageous accomplishments.

Throughout the history of the United States, our diverse nation has benefitted from the service of African American women. From the American Revolution to the present, these great pioneers have played a myriad of critical roles in the development of our country and the sustainment of the DoD mission. Their labor and leadership, their motherhood and patriotism, and their creativity and artistic expression have enriched our communities and nation as a whole.

We are immensely inspired by and pay great honor to their countless sacrifices made to uphold the promise of freedom, equality and justice for all citizens and future generations.

All DoD Components are encouraged to conduct appropriate activities in recognition of African American History Month. Ms. Charmane Collins, Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity, is the DoD point of contact. She may be reached at (703) 571-9332, or [Charmane.Collins@osd.mil](mailto:Charmane.Collins@osd.mil).

  
Jo Ann Rooney  
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