



# DEOMI

DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE



## NEWS RELEASE

### DEOMI RELEASES 2017 WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH POSTER

March 1, 2017

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – In observance of National Women's History Month, celebrated each year during the month of March, the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) proudly announces the release of original artwork available for download from DEOMI's public website at [www.deomi.org](http://www.deomi.org).

National Women's History Month is an opportunity to honor and celebrate historic achievements of women.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8th as National Women's History Week. The U.S. Congress followed suit the next year, passing a resolution establishing a national celebration.

Six years later, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the event to the entire month of March.

Throughout history, women have broken barriers to serve in the military and defend our nation. However, women were not integrated into the military until 1948, when President Harry Truman signed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act.

This poster was created by a small group of talented DEOMI team members who visualize, research and produce all our Institute's Monthly Observance Products.

This year's Department of Defense theme, "*HONORING TRAILBLAZING WOMEN WHO HAVE PAVED THE WAY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS*," highlights women who have successfully broken down barriers and changed the role of women in not only the military, but the government sector as well.

This presentation features four women: **Dr. Sheila Widnall, Command Master Chief Evelyn Banks (Ret.), Ms. Tracey Pinson, and Major General Lori Reynolds.** Snapshots of all four (clockwise from upper left) are below.



- In 1993, Dr. Sheila E. Widnall became the 18th Secretary of the Air Force (SECAF) and the first female to hold that position.

As the SECAF, she was responsible for Air Force readiness to accomplish its missions. She oversaw the recruiting, training and equipping of the 380,000 men and women on active duty, 251,000 members of the Air National Guard and the Air Reserve, and 184,000 civilians of the Total Force.

She was responsible for planning, justifying and allocating the Service's annual budget. Her other responsibilities included logistical support, maintenance, research and development, and welfare of personnel.

- Retired Command Master Chief Evelyn "Vonn" Banks enlisted in the Navy in 1984 at the age of 29. During her 30 years of service, she earned an Associates of Arts in General Studies Management from the University of Phoenix. She also graduated from both the Air Force Senior Non-commissioned Officer Academy as well as the Navy Senior Enlisted Academy.

Her first Command Master Chief billet was at the Navy Support Facility, Diego Garcia. Following a tour at the Senior Enlisted Academy, she assumed duties as the Command Master Chief for Carrier Air Wing 14 in Lemoore, CA.

In 2003, she became the U.S. Navy Recruiting Command's first female Command Master Chief. Four years later, Banks went on to become the first female Command Master Chief of the U.S. Naval Academy in 2007.

- Ms. Tracey L. Pinson became the Director for the Office of Small Business Programs, Secretary of the Army in May 1995. Ms. Pinson advised the Secretary of the Army and the Army Staff on all small business procurement issues, and was responsible for the implementation of the Federal acquisition programs designed to assist small businesses.

Ms. Pinson provided management and oversight for the Army's Mentor-Protégé Program as well as the Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions (HBCU/MI) program, and developed policies and initiatives to enhance HBCU/MI participation in Army funded programs.

Until her retirement in June 2014, she was highest-ranking female civilian in the Army's acquisition career field. She won the Department of the Army Award for Meritorious Civilian Service in 2014.

Ms. Pinson died December 14, 2014. The Department of the Army Office of Small Business Programs issued this statement, "*The small business community has lost a tremendous advocate; we have lost a dear friend and mentor; the thousands of small businesses that have found success due to her tireless efforts are a testament to her legacy.*"

- In 2011, for the first time in its 96-year history, a woman, Brig. Gen. Lori Reynolds, took command of the famed Marine Corps training depot at South Carolina's Parris Island. Parris Island graduates about 20,000 Marines annually and is the only site where female enlisted Marines are trained to enter the Marine Corps.

She was also the first female Marine to ever hold a command position in a battle zone. While serving a yearlong tour of duty in Afghanistan, she oversaw five Marine battalions and military company from Bahrain. While there, she improved a base that "fed, housed and equipped more

than 10,000 Marines and expanded the base to handle an additional 10,000 Marines and sailors.”

In addition, women continue to challenge gender roles and pave the road for future generations (bottom of poster, left to right).

- **Lt. Col. Christine Mau:** In 2011, she was part of the first all-female combat sortie over Afghanistan. In 2015, she became the first female pilot of an F-35 jet.
- **Capt. Kristen Griest:** In 2015, she was one of the first three women to earn the Ranger tab. In 2016, she became the Army’s first female infantry officer.
- **Sgt. Cristina Fuentes Montenegro:** In 2013, she was one of the first three women to earn her USMC infantry qualifications.

Please note that you may take the high-resolution poster image file accompanying this news release to your preferred printing facility for display in your organization or use during your special observance program. All DEOMI special observance poster images are high-resolution and may be used to print posters up to 30 x 40 inches.

DEOMI does not have the capability to print posters and mail them out to customers upon request. All DEOMI observance month poster files are in the public domain unless otherwise indicated.

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