

MAINTAINING TOTAL FORCE READINESS



NEWSLETTER
August 2021





BLESSED AND HONORED TO SERVE

BY: AIR FORCE COL STORM
DEOMI COMMANDANT

Team DoD,

As I depart the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, I am pleased to get the opportunity to provide a parting message. I was absolutely thrilled to get the opportunity as Commandant and at my assumption ceremony, spoke of being blessed and honored to serve. I leave with the same feelings.

The professionals at DEOMI are the finest in the Department. They have weathered these challenging and uncertain times with dedication, trust, and willingness to adapt and overcome. It has been an exciting, challenging assignment. Within this newsletter, you'll see highlights from our most recent adventures including the 50th Anniversary celebration and hosting a delegation from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The team continues to impress me every day.

Now, the institute is on the precipice of incredible transformation in transitioning to the Defense Culture Institute and increasing the scope of this Center of Excellence. I am immensely impressed by the new Commandant, US Navy Captain Delmy Robinson. She is absolutely the right person to carry the mission forward. I will definitely be watching to see the exciting new developments... Standing by and looking forward to it!

All my best,

A. Storm





BE THE LEADER YOU DESERVE

BY: CMSGT GLORIA L. WEATHERSPOON

As a member of the worlds greatest Air Force it is not uncommon to move forward when it's time and step aside to allow, new ideas, new experiences and new adventures. I am hopeful for the future of this organization, I believe in its mission and look forward to watching all of you continue to push the needle forward on all fronts.

Remember, everyone here plays a vital role in mission success. From the silent warriors in the support directorate to the execution of the curriculum through the instructors. Working together to ensure this organization continues to be the tip of the spear for eliminating those behaviors in our military that cause discrimination, extremism, toxicity and could ultimately cause mission failure is an honor.

Teamwork is not just a tag line, it isn't something you say at a town hall, it is an action word. It isn't just important, it is crucial. The process of collaboration of a diverse multi-talented group of people in order to achieve a specific goal is critical in this business. Teamwork means that people need to cooperate with each other utilizing their individual skills, providing constructive feedback, and resolving any personal conflict between individuals in a professional manner.

Be the leader you deserve, Be the follower that supports, advocates and uses their voice. Be the team mate all of you deserve. You are the culture. Wishing you all the success and goodness your heart can handle.

Take Care





DEOMI CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

Story by: U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Raul Pacheco

Photos: Michael Marks

PATRICK SPACE FORCE BASE, Florida – Commandant, Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI), Colonel Aimee L. Storm, along with the Senior Enlisted Advisor, Chief Master Sergeant, Gloria Weatherspoon, hosted DEOMI's 50th Anniversary celebration on June 24, 2021.

The theme of the 50th Anniversary was "Celebrating 50 Years: Past, Present, and Future." The theme reflected on DEOMI's contribution across the Department of Defense. On this occasion, the celebration was held online via ZOOM out of an abundance of caution and as a response to the threat of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). In addition, the event was also made available by simultaneous broadcast via Facebook Live. Senior leaders, mission partners, DEOMI staff & alumni and guests, took time to join in virtually for the celebration.



DEOMI's multimedia team collaborated with other departments at the institute to develop a 40 page booklet which commemorates 50 years of Equal Opportunity training and research and celebrated the great accomplishments of the DEOMI family. The booklet contained detailed timelines of events broken down by decade and also includes encouraging messages from previous DEOMI Commandants as well as messages for the future from many of the same leaders.

During the virtual event, former DRRI and DEOMI leadership participated in the legacy panel where they had the opportunity to share their emotions and thoughts regarding the history of the institute and discuss ideas for the future. The one common theme they all shared, was the need for change. The one common theme they all shared, was the need for change. Former DEOMI Commandant, United States Army, Col. Ronald M. Joe Sr. (Ret.), shared that the racial strife he experienced while serving in Vietnam "can only be categorized as discrimination while at combat." He witnessed fights among Soldiers of different races and colors and acknowledged that "it decreased the readiness of our Armed Forces." Given that these kinds of event were common throughout the DoD during that time it is quite apparent why DRRI was needed. Today DEOMI has brought much-needed education and training and has increased the overall readiness of U.S. military forces, however the need for equal opportunity has never waned.

The civil unrest in our country in the 60's and 70's highlighted the need for change, and ultimately was a contributing factor in the establishment of this institute. Half a century later we celebrate this significant milestone, but also recognize there is still much work to be done to create a more diverse and inclusive DoD. The 50th Anniversary event allowed the institute to reflect on where we've been and where we're going. Congratulations to DEOMI for five decades of innovative and effective Equal Opportunity Training



Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



PATRICK SPACE FORCE BASE, Florida – The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), His Excellency Abdulrahman Abdulaziz Alhussaini, Director of the General Administration of Religious Affairs, along with His Excellency Fahad Muhimid Alotabi, Chairman of the Advisory Committee and His Excellency Abdullah Abdulaziz Alhusayni, Member of the Advisory Committee met with members of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, on 2 August 2021. They spoke with numerous senior civilian and military personnel about their interest in establishing policy related to combatting extremism in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The delegation also visited other military institutes of higher learning during their visit to the United States including the National Defense University, and Naval Post Graduate School.

Colonel Aimee Storm, Commandant, Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, welcomed the KSA delegation and gave them a tour of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, at Patrick Space Force Base, Florida. The tour showcased the institute's curriculum and capabilities as well as demonstrated how the instructors achieve their training goals by developing and delivering innovative education, training, research, and collaborative solutions to optimize total force readiness, hence challenging their students to become an inclusive force that values and develops all individuals and thrives on their contributions.



Following the Pensacola shooting, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been interested in modernizing their forces and establishing a program which aims to weed out extremism from within the ranks of their military. Years ago, DEOMI worked closely with other Nations with similar goals and has offered mobile training teams and seats in Equal Opportunity classes at the institute among other things.

During the visit, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia met with DEOMI senior leaders, directors, and department heads and asked detailed questions regarding the functions of the institute and the authorities under which it operates. Leaders from both parties exchanged ideas, asked thoughtful questions and discussed key topics related to equal opportunity issues. This initial meeting with the Saudi delegation as an initial step toward facilitating a partnership between the U.S. and The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

“DEOMI has a unique opportunity to assist the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with establishing a program to combat extremism within their ranks.” said, United States Marine Corps, Captain Kenneth Moonan, DEOMI Director of Operations. “This visit is hopefully the beginning of a great working relationship with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministry of Defense, General Administration of Religious Affairs” Captain Moonan added.

In the near future DEOMI hopes to provide the opportunity for KSA personnel to attend the Equal Opportunity Advisors Course. The program would primarily be for military personnel but would likely have civilian employees attend as well, giving them the same opportunity to engage in realistic and meaningful Equal Opportunity training. Our objective is to strengthen our interoperability by working together in the pursuit of increasing our capability and outreach with the aim of achieving mutual goals with partners.





DEOMI MEDAL RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Story by: U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Raul Pacheco
Photos: Michael Marks

PATRICK SPACE FORCE BASE, Florida – On July 20, 2021 eight former members of The Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute were presented with their military awards during a medal recognition ceremony held at DEOMI's auditorium on Patrick Space Force Base, Florida.

Until now restrictions imposed by COVID-19, prevented formal ceremonies taking place aboard the installation. Throughout the pandemic, personnel were only able to be presented with awards at virtual ceremonies. DEOMI senior leadership determined that an in-person ceremony would be possible and elected to have a virtual stream using Zoom in order to accommodate awardees and attendees who were unable to come to the building. The ceremony was an opportunity to recognize personnel who earned military awards during the pandemic, and offered Colonel Storm and Chief Weatherspoon the opportunity to personally thank them for their outstanding contributions.



Some awardees and their families were present at DEOMI and others had to attend virtually, because of this DEOMI modified the award ceremony to work in both the virtual and in-person environment. This required collaboration from Protocol, Student Support Services, Information Technology and Multimedia & Technology Development departments. The collaboration of departments facilitated a successful live stream of the event and allowed the broadcast of high quality audio and video.

DEOMI Commandant, Col. Aimee Storm, presided over the ceremony and thanked each awardee for their contributions to the institute. She then provided the opportunity for awardees to reflect and share their thoughts on their assignment on the institute. The awardees were:

- **United States Navy, CDR Aaron Sanchez, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (PCS.)**
- **United States Army, MSG Fikisha Maree, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (Retirement.)**
- **United States Army, MSG Nelida Wakefield, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (Retirement.)**
- **United States Army, MSG Wade Hunter, Joint Service Commendation Medal (Retirement.)**
- **United States Navy, SCPO George Wooten, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (Retirement.)**
- **United States Air Force, MSgt Jessica Blace, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (PCS.)**
- **United States Marine Corps, GySgt Kenneth Lewis, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (Retirement.)**
- **United States Air Force, MSgt Ruby Castaneda, Joint Service Commendation Medal (Retirement.)**

“Every virtual ceremony is conducted in a manner for recipients to feel the same sense of pride as if we were conducting them at the Institute and career milestones are shared with staff, faculty, family, and friends” said Jose Guzman, DEOMI Chief of Protocol. Congratulations to all of our awardees and thank you for your selfless service at DEOMI.



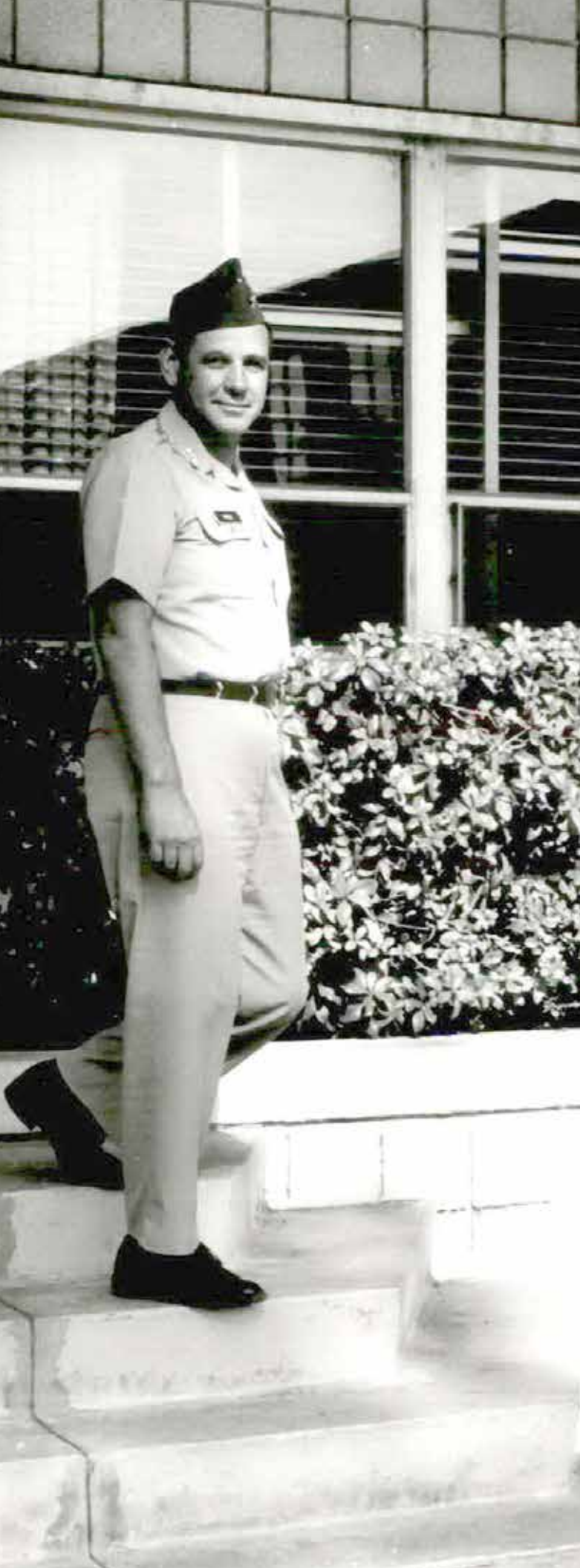


Photo above: 1970's DRRI Curriculum- Dr. Eugene Davis, Col Clarence Miller. Photo left: 1971 Col Krise.

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DEOMI Mission Statement:

Develop and deliver innovative education, training, research, and collaborative solutions to optimize total force readiness.