

NEWS RELEASE

DEOMI to celebrate 45th Birthday June 24

June 22, 2016

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. -- It was 1971.

The cost of a new home was under \$29,000. The median household income was less than \$10,000. A stamp was \$.06, and a gallon of gas was about \$0.35.

And on June 24 of that year, Deputy Secretary of Defense, David Packard, signed DoD Directive 1322.11 authorizing the immediate establishment of the Race Relations Education Board, composed of key DoD representatives under the chairmanship of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and the Defense Race Relations Institute (DRRI).



The very first DRRI Equal Opportunity Advisor Course, 1971. Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. (Courtesy Photo)

Since the first course, the Institute has expanded to meet the needs of field commanders and agency heads. As a result, the Institute now addresses an array of issues, to include sexual harassment, sexism, extremism, religious accommodations, and anti-Semitism. To reflect this new growth, the name was changed to the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute in July 1979.

Today, we are as focused as ever that our education and training programs in human relations and equal opportunity remain as the foundation in the “building of leadership.”

Several workshops and seminars have been added along with our core Equal Opportunity Advisor Course, to provide Service members in command or leadership positions with some level of equal opportunity and human relations awareness training.

In addition, we advise DoD and other organizations on equal opportunity matters, conduct an extensive and progressive equal opportunity and human relations research program and serve as a clearinghouse to monitor and disseminate research findings to interested agencies.

Since its inception in 1971, the Institute has enhanced combat readiness by fostering positive human relations throughout diverse Armed Services.

That mandate has been carried to the field by the nearly 46,000 DEOMI graduates from the Armed Forces (Active and Reserve) and the United States Coast Guard. These Forces maximize unit cohesion and maintain the highest degree of combat readiness while maintaining the DoD reputation as a place where all individuals have infinite dignity and worth.

Army Col. Mary Martin, who assumed command of DEOMI June 17, said she considers the training given at DEOMI is at the “very tip of the effective leadership spear,” and has DoD leaders at the highest levels agreeing with her.

Leaders, such as Secretary of Defense Ash Carter.

“It takes decades to grow our senior military leaders, and today, we can’t afford to close ourselves off to anyone. As we remind ourselves how diversity and inclusion help make us stronger, we must also remember another reason why they’re important: because they’re part of our national character,” said Secretary Carter.

Editor’s note: DEOMI will be hosting their 9th DEOMI EO/EEO Symposium and 45th Anniversary Celebration from December 7-9, 2016, at Patrick Air Force Base, FL. Visit www.deomi.org or email DEOMI.Symposium.Info@us.af.mil for more information!

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