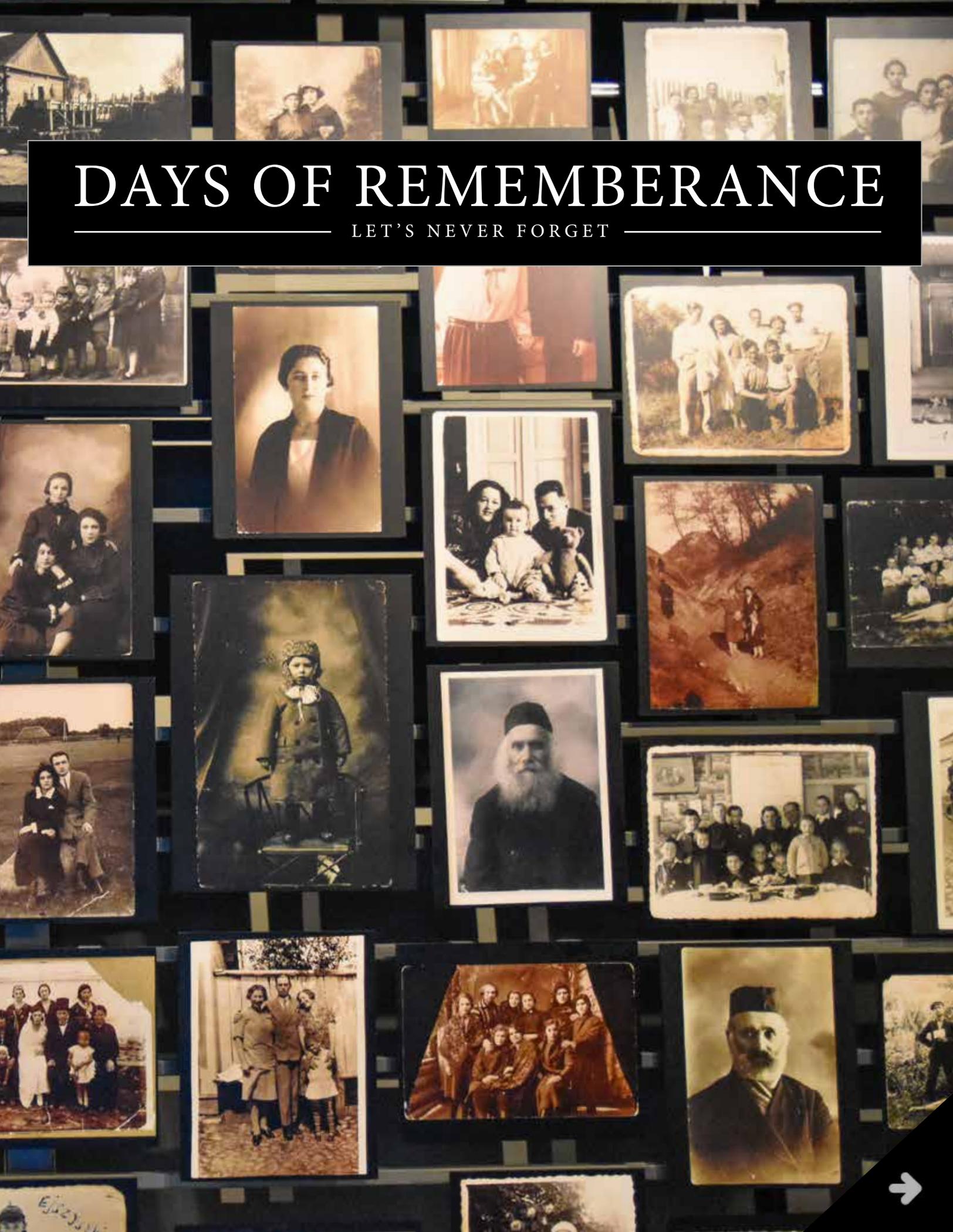
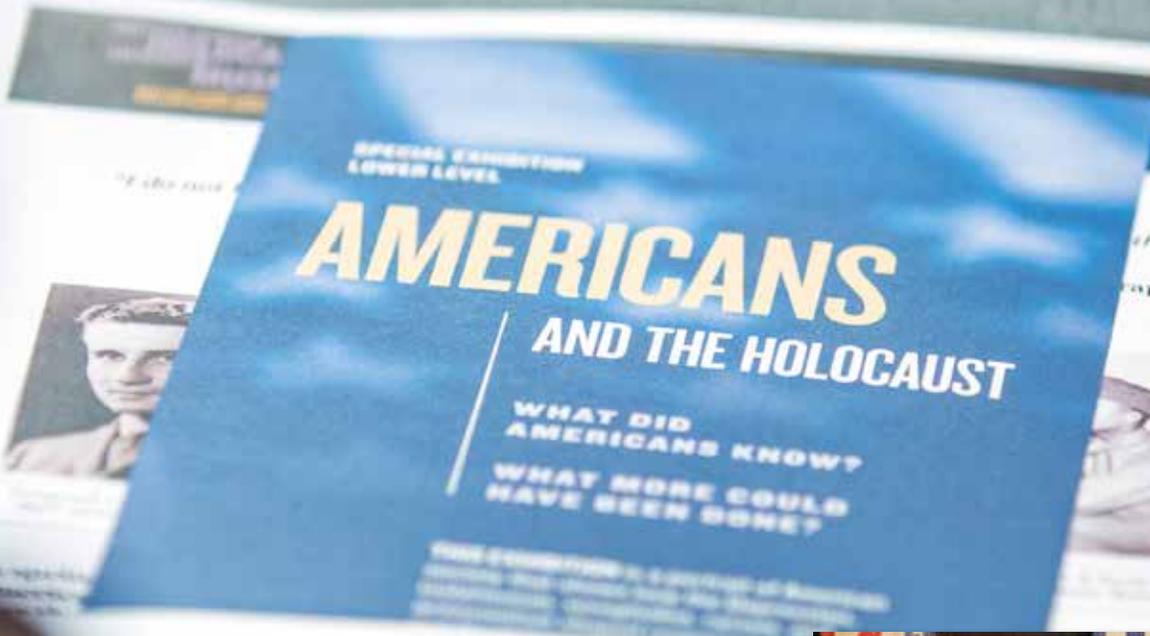


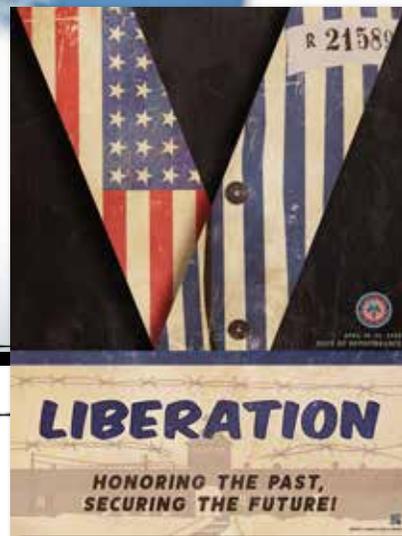
DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

LET'S NEVER FORGET





Story by Christopher Calkins
Photos by Michael Marks



Ms. Kristin Levere, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, recently spent a few hours interacting and enlightening approximately 125 joint-service students of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) EOAC Class 2020-1 about the horrors of the Holocaust during her visit here at Patrick Air Force Base.

“This year, marks the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz and the end of World War II,” she said.

“The Holocaust was the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and annihilation of 6 million Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945,” she said.

The Nazis, who came to power in Germany in January 1933, believed that Germans were “racially superior” and that the Jews, deemed “inferior,” were an alien threat to the so-called German racial community. She was then asked what we can do to learn from this time.

“This year, this anniversary, reminds us of how fragile our society can be,” she said. “I think taking the lessons of the Holocaust, thinking about our everyday choices we make, and, of course, remembering the survivors as well,” she said.

“And I think it that’s what they (the survivors) would say too,” she said. “It’s about remembering what happened, learning from what happened, how and why it happened and doing everything we can to ensure it never happens again,” she said.

It didn’t take long for her presentation to make an impact on the students and faculty in attendance.



"I had a phenomenal experience learning about what went on during that time," said Sergeant First Class (P) Robert A. Rhodes, (far right) 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky.

"Growing up I received very little knowledge on the build-up inside Nazi Germany. As an African American, I was extremely anxious to learn about the oppressions many black people before me had to endure," he said.

"In America and growing up in a predominantly African American culture, I've been socialized to only see the struggles of my own race. So learning about the horrors of this targeted group of people in Germany really hit me hard to know that my race/ethnic group was not the only one that faced so many hardships," he said.

Ms. Levere then shifted gears to thank DEOMI, and Col Aimee Storm, DEOMI Commandant, for what they do to keep these memories alive.

"The No. 1 thing I want to say to DEOMI and Col Storm is "Thanks."

"You do a wonderful job educating your students, educating your staff and preparing world-class monthly observance products, especially those about the "Days of Remembrance, for everyone to use. Your equal opportunity and graphics teams are just remarkably talented and passionate about what they do,"

"We consider you as our partners in this effort to keep these memories alive," she said.

The Commandant, here with Ms. Levere at an office call following her presentation) had this to say.

"The main thing I want students to take away from these twice-a-year Holocaust presentations is to remember that history is important," said Col Storm.

"It's through learning about history, and through education, and telling their story, we can help ensure this never happens again," she said.

"I'm reminded of a saying most of us have heard. Those who cannot learn and remember from history, are doomed to repeat it," she said.

"Let's learn and remember," said Col Storm.



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