



UNIVERSAL SUCCESS!

Team DEOMI shines in Universal Orlando Resort's Veterans Day event

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For the fifth consecutive year, a group of Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute joint-service staff members took part in the annual Veterans Day event held at Universal Orlando Resort.

Their visit went just as a Universal Studio leader has come to expect.

"It is an honor to welcome the stellar DEOMI team once more to participate and celebrate Hometown Heroes as we recognize Veterans everywhere. The presence of the DEOMI service members helps to illustrate the message of leaders that embody active inclusion in all that they do," said Ms. Angela Lagos, Assistant Director, Diversity & Inclusion, Universal Parks & Resorts.

"We are committed to celebrating and fostering our culture of inclusion at Universal Orlando Resort. Our teams are made up of

committed Team Members that bring their talents and experience to work every day to create memorable experiences.

Many of those Team Members have served in the Military, are Retired or in the Reserves," she said.

"We know courage is universal and our Veterans Network, along with our seven Team Member Resource Groups, help to ensure our Diversity & Inclusion programming brings authentic experiences to life," she added.

"Our Veterans Network is focused on career, culture, community, commerce and cultural competence. In our Talent Acquisition practices our teams are proud to connect with great Military talent.

"In particular as parade participants, the DEOMI team shares their experience, energy, positive example of leadership and exemplifies the sacrifice of our Armed Forces and Military Families! They are the true super heroes!" said Lagos.



Air Force Col Aimee Storm (waving below) said her first visit to Universal as the DEOMI Commandant was everything she hoped it would be -- and exactly what she expected since her Assumption of Leadership ceremony held October 7.

“I’ve only been here a short time, but it’s been obvious from the first day we have a very professional, highly motivated team here,” said Col Aimee Storm, DEOMI Commandant.

Col Storm, who shared a convertible tour of the Park with Chief Master Sgt Gloria Weatherspoon, DEOMI Senior Enlisted Advisor, before the more formal part of the event, said she was incredibly proud of her team.

“Every detail was worked out in advance, we received transportation support from the 45th Space Wing and our group of DEOMI service members (and one “Coastie” from Coast Guard Station Port Canaveral), absolutely stole the show from start to finish,” she said.

“The number of compliments Chief Weatherspoon and I received from the teams, and just as importantly as those enjoying the parade that day, were a testament to that professionalism.”

She also said her “encouragement” of Navy Lt Lokelani A. Sarazen (top right) to share a positive message of commitment and service for the private luncheon guests was a “great idea.”

“She told me if she was given the opportunity to represent DEOMI she would hit it right out the park,” said Col Storm. “She did that and more. She absolutely hit a home run,” said the DEOMI Commandant with a smile.

For Chief Weatherspoon, this was just another example of the unique talents of DEOMI personnel in every directorate and corner of the Institute.

“We started here in 1971 as the Defense Race Relations Institute. The secret to our success – to our very survival, is the ability to be able to change with the times,” she said.

“Like the private sector, the U.S. military recognizes the need for a diverse civilian and military workforce that includes a greater range of individual competencies, including skills, education, and professional backgrounds,” she said.

One thing won’t change.

“We will continue to ensure that every Service member and DoD civilian has an equal chance of developing his or her talents to their fullest potential in an environment free of discrimination, preferential treatment,” or any manner of exclusion or intolerance,” said Chief Weatherspoon.

