

STORM:

‘I’m Honored and Blessed to be here’

Story by Christopher Calkins
DEOMI Public Affairs Officer



Air National Guard Colonel Aimee Storm assumes DEOMI Leadership during Assumption of Leadership Ceremony

Mr. William Booth, Director, Defense Human Resources Activity, Chief Master Sgt Gloria Weatherspoon and in coming DEOMI Commandant Col Aimee Storm prepare to pass the Guidon during the Oct. 7 Assumption of Leadership Ceremony. (Photos by Michael Marks)





Air Force Col. Aimee Storm accepted the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute Guidon, signifying her status as the Commandant of DEOMI in an Assumption of Leadership ceremony held here October 7.

Doing so, she became DEOMI's 17th military Commandant, and the first Air National Guard Commandant in the 48-year history of the Institute.

Mr. Clarence Johnson, above, Senior Executive Director, Diversity Management Operations Center, was the first to speak after the presentation of colors.

"DEOMI always has been and will continue to be a force multiplier," he said.

"We play a key role in the lethality and effectiveness of our Department of Defense," he said.

He also took the opportunity to recognize – and thank – the person who served as the "acting commandant" for about two months.

"Much thanks to Chris Brown, who was serving as the Deputy Director of the Diversity Management Operations Center (DMOC), a newly established Component at the time under the Defense Human Resources Activity," said Mr. Johnson.

"He displayed his selfless service once again for a two-month interim, where he had a very positive impact," he said.

Mr. William Booth, below, the ceremony presiding officer, and Director, Defense Human Resource Activity, was next to speak.

"It's a bright new beginning," he said emphatically.

"What's the next step forward?" he asked.

"I'm not sure, but I look forward to seeing it," he said with a smile. "I know she will take this organization to an even higher level," Booth said.

"Here's the bottom line," he said. "There is value added only if you add value. Make no mistake about it, Col Storm does just that."

Standing before several of her friends and family, and a packed DEOMI Auditorium, Col Storm began and ended her speech with the exact same words.

"I'm honored and blessed to be here," she said with emotion, as she thanked her parents, friends, staff members, students of Equal Opportunity Advisor Course 19-3, and especially her family.





“I started my career as a high school biology teacher,” she said. “It wasn’t about teaching the subject of science, but teaching kids to think critically,” she said.

“Think about it ... we have the chance here to change the culture of the military. The staff we have here is absolutely amazing.”

“Similarly, DEOMI teaches more than a subject. You teach a new way of thinking and work to change the culture within the services,” she said. “I am inspired by what you do here. I am honored, and I am blessed,” she said at the close of the event.

Editor’s Note: Since its inception in 1971, when it was known as the Defense Race Relations Institute (DRRI) The Defense Equal

Opportunity Management Institute has enhanced combat readiness by fostering positive human relations throughout diverse Armed Services.

That mandate has been carried to the field and fleet by the nearly 52,000 DEOMI military and civilian graduates from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and the Coast Guard.

