



DEOMI

DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE



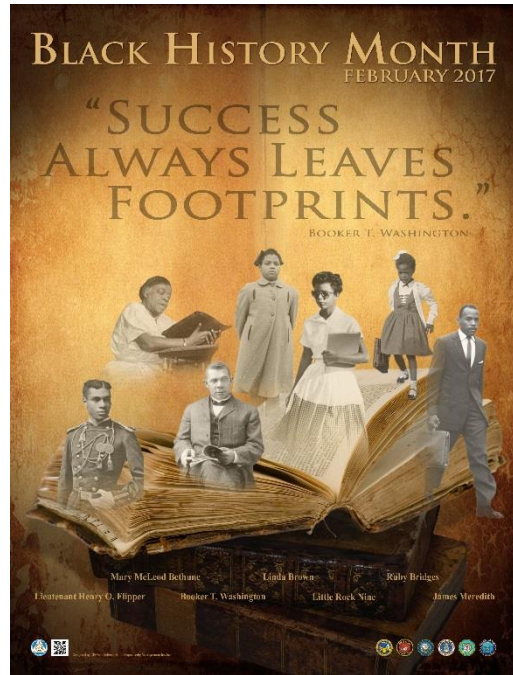
NEWS RELEASE

DEOMI RELEASES 2017 NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN/ BLACK HISTORY MONTH OBSERVANCE POSTER

Jan. 12, 2017

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – In observance of African American/Black History Month, celebrated each year during the month of February, the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) proudly announces the availability of original artwork available for download from DEOMI's public website, www.deomi.org

Click the “download” link below the thumbnail image of the poster on our website and download it to your computer. You may then take it to your preferred printing facility for display in your organization or use during your special observance programs. All DEOMI special observance poster images are high resolution and may be used to print posters up to 30 X 40 inches. DEOMI does not maintain a capability to print posters and mail them out to customers.



The graphics team wanted to capture some of the challenges and milestones in our nation's history. Each step of the way, the military supported the movement towards equality. A book was chosen as the centerpiece to represent these chapters in history, along with a quote from Booker T. Washington stating, “*Success Always Leaves Footprints.*” Featured on this poster are individuals who challenged the barriers and whose footprints we still see today.

From left to right:

2nd Lt. Henry O. Flipper: Born into slavery, Flipper was West Point's first African-American graduate and the first African-American commissioned officer in the regular U.S. Army.

Mary McLeod Bethune: Bethune was a child of former slaves. She graduated from the Scotia Seminary for Girls in 1893. Believing that education provided the key to racial advancement, Bethune founded the Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute in 1904, which later became Bethune-Cookman College. She also founded the National Council of Negro Women in 1935, promoting the “unharnessed power among African-American women.”

Booker T. Washington: Born a slave on a Virginia farm, Washington rose to become one of the most influential African-American intellectuals of the late 19th century. In 1881, he founded the Tuskegee Institute, a Black school in Alabama devoted to training teachers. He is recognized for his educational advancements and attempts to promote economic self-reliance among African-Americans.

Linda Brown: Brown was the child associated with the lead name in the landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education*, which led to the outlawing of U.S. school segregation in 1954.

Little Rock Nine: The Little Rock Nine were black students who sought to attend Little Rock Central High School in the fall of 1957. Due to racial tensions, school officials, fearing for the students' safety, dismissed the Little Rock Nine. President Dwight Eisenhower ordered paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division to the school, escorting students to the building and singling out troublemakers bent on disrupting the federal mandate. Over the following days, these troops and members of the Arkansas National Guard — Eisenhower had federalized 10,000 guardsmen, effectively keeping the situation in hand, their (armed) presence serving to pacify the more belligerent and strident elements in town. (Photo: Elizabeth Eckford, age 15, pursued by a mob at Little Rock Central High School on the first day of the school year, September 4, 1957.)

Ruby Bridges: Bridges was 6-years-old when she became the first African-American child to integrate a white Southern elementary school, having to be escorted to class by her mother and U.S. Marshals due to violent mobs. Bridges' bravery paved the way for continued Civil Rights action and she's shared her story with future generations in educational forums.

James Meredith: Meredith spent nine years in the United States Air Force before enrolling in Jackson State College—an all-black school—in Mississippi. In 1961, he applied to the all-white University of Mississippi. He was initially accepted, but his admission was later withdrawn when the registrar discovered his race. Since all public educational institutions had been ordered to desegregate by this time (following 1954's *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling), he filed a suit alleging discrimination. Although the state courts ruled against him, the case made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled in his favor.

When Meredith arrived at the university to register for classes on Sept. 20, 1962, he found the entrance blocked. Rioting soon erupted, and Attorney General Robert Kennedy sent 500 U.S. Marshals to the scene. Additionally, President John F. Kennedy sent military police, troops from the Mississippi National Guard and officials from the U.S. Border Patrol to keep the peace. On Oct. 1, 1962, Meredith became the first black student to enroll at the University of Mississippi.

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