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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEOMI Releases 2023 Black History Month Poster

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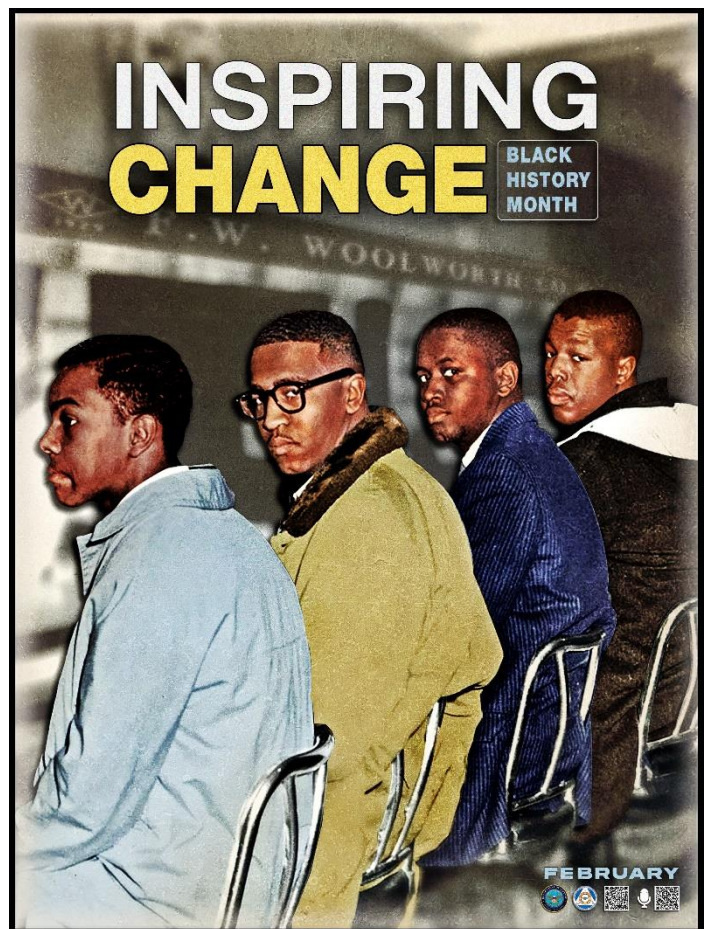
PATRICK SPACE FORCE BASE, Fla. — In observance of the 2023 Black History Month, the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute proudly announces the availability of original artwork available for download from DEOMI’s public website, www.defenseculture.mil.

This year’s theme, *“Inspiring Change,”* epitomizes the contributions of African Americans to challenging racial inequities and promoting opportunities for equal advancement within the African American community.

The 2023 Department of Defense Black History Month poster depicts (from left) Joseph McNeil, Franklin McCain, Ezell A. Blair, Jr., and David Richmond, on the second day of a peaceful sit-down protest they organized at a Woolworth in Greensboro, North Carolina. The Greensboro Sit-Ins were the first prominent non-violent sit-in protests of the civil rights movement and lasted from February 1 to July 25, 1960. The protests led to the Woolworth Department Store chain ending its policy of racial segregation in its stores.

The protest began when McNeil, McCain, Blair and Richmond, African American students at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro, sat down at a lunch counter inside Woolworth and politely asked for service. Their request was refused, and they were asked to leave. In response, they chose to remain in their seats. This passive resistance and peaceful sit-down protest helped ignite a youth-led movement to challenge racial inequality throughout the South.

McNeil went on to become a Maj. Gen. in the U.S. Air Force.



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