

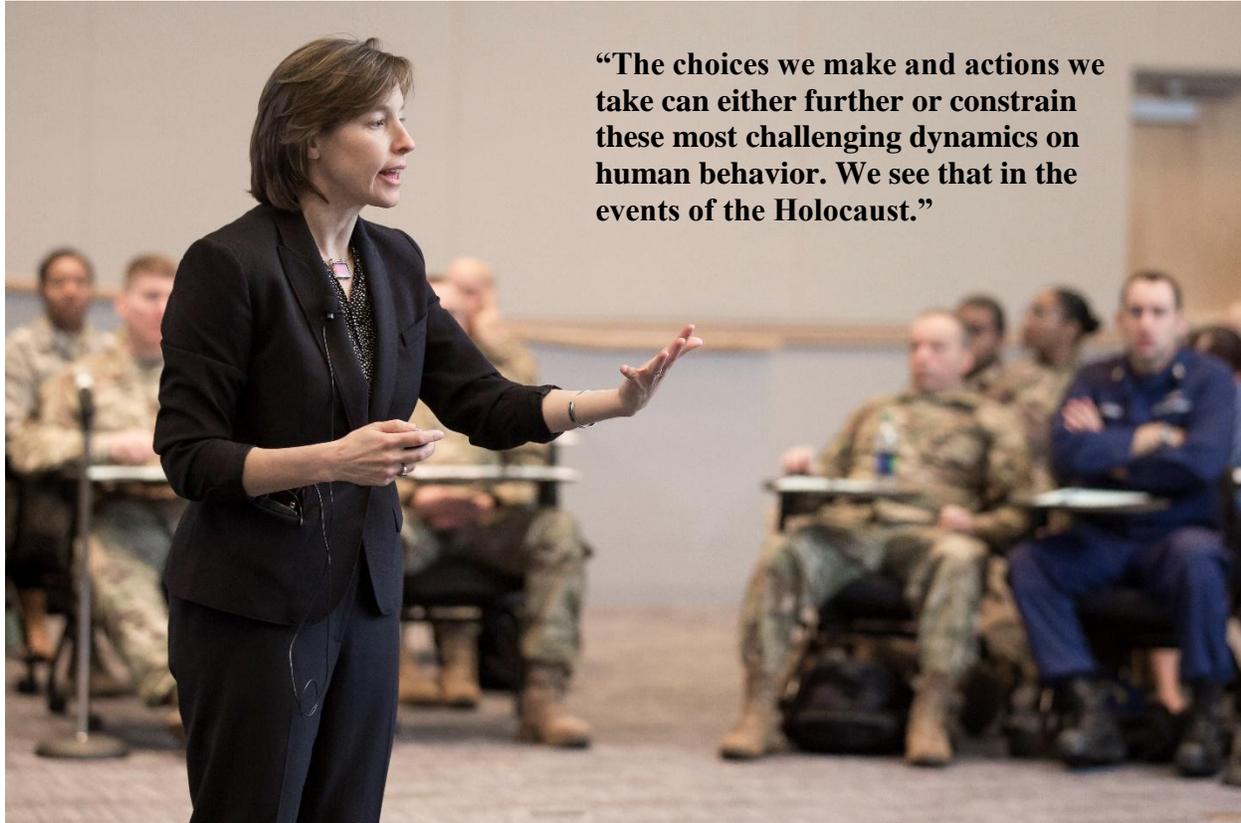


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DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE



NEWS RELEASE



“The choices we make and actions we take can either further or constrain these most challenging dynamics on human behavior. We see that in the events of the Holocaust.”

Photos by Michael Marks

WHY WE REMEMBER!

Holocaust Memorial Museum Director delivers vital messages to EOAC Class 19-1

By Christopher Calkins

DEOMI Public Affairs

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PATRICK AFB, Fla. -- Ms. Jennifer A. Ciardelli, Director, Leadership Programs, Levine Institute for Holocaust Education, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, recently served as a guest lecturer for students of Equal Opportunity Advisor Course 19-1.

The Vermont native long knew she was in the right place, with the right audience, at the right time.

“One of the great things about coming to DEOMI and working with their Joint-Service professionals, is that they are already here in an environment where they are now thinking about promoting human dignity, about being respectful, about creating an environment where professionals are treated with dignity ... and all these traits really mirror the goals of the (Holocaust) museum,” Ciardelli said in an early morning studio interview.



During her nearly two-hour presentation, entitled “*WHY WE REMEMBER: THE HOLOCAUST, DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE & RESPONSIBILITY*,” Ciardelli used several videos and a wide array of topics and direct questions for these future Equal Opportunity Advisors and Command Climate Specialists.



“When we talk about this most challenging era in human history – The Holocaust – we are reminded of our vulnerabilities ... we are reminded of what happens when people basically disregard basic human dignity and we’re reminded that we’re always making choices.

“The choices we make and actions we take can either further or constrain these most challenging dynamics on human behavior. We see that in the events of the Holocaust,” Ciardelli said with emphasis.

Students of 19-1 later commented on Ms. Ciardelli’s presentation and the give and take conversational style of the program.

One such student was Air Force Staff Sgt. Charnita Walker, currently stationed at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., and someone who knew a little bit about the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.



“I have actually toured the National Museum before,” said the Philadelphia, Pa., native.

“But going through it then, I didn’t take nearly as much with me back then as I did during this particular presentation because this one here at DEOMI was a lot more in depth and I got a much better idea of what really happened during the Holocaust from the very beginning.”

Staff Sgt. Walker also said she had one major take-away from this learning experience and is hopeful others in her class picked up the same message.

“My major take-away was to find the courage and don’t be afraid to speak out against someone or something you think is just plain wrong and you don’t necessarily agree with.

“Be the change agent!” she said.

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Editor’s Note: Prior to her speaking engagement, Jennifer Ciardelli and her co-worker, Kristin Levere, a program coordinator for the Museum’s Civic and Defense Initiative, asked to meet with some members of DEOMI’s Special Observance Team.

Pictured here are Kristin Levere, Jennifer Ciardelli, contractors Misty Wroblinski, Ryan Henkel and Dawn Smith.

“The varied products the DEOMI Observance Team produces is nothing short of phenomenal,” said Ciardelli. “Their research efforts are always accurate, and their compassion, creativity, and consistency in excellence are much appreciated. The DoD is fortunate to have such a conscientious and talented team creating DEOMI’s Observance products. The materials are a valuable resource for those interested in promoting diversity, inclusion and respect for all,” she said.



-30-

DEOMI PUBLIC AFFAIRS · MR. CHRISTOPHER CALKINS (321) 494-6208
366 TUSKEGEE AIRMEN DRIVE · PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA 32925
READINESS...IS DEOMI'S GUIDING PRINCIPLE
BECOME A FRIEND OF DEOMI ON FACEBOOK AT
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/DEOMI.DOD
DEOMIPA@US.AF.MIL