

Department of Defense 2020 Black History Month Poster

Poster Description: The Department of Defense Black History Month poster is the first in a series of posters commemorating the 75th Anniversary of World War II. Each commemoration poster will highlight the significant contributions of special observance groups towards achieving total victory in this watershed event. Each poster is reminiscent of the colors and styles found in the 1940's Recruitment and Victory posters from the World War II era.

The Black History poster has an aged, buff-colored edge. The center background of the poster is an aged, multi-shaded color of blue, depicting a night's sky. A small ribbon of this background is separated from the rest of the top of the poster by a broad red header with black aged highlights. Centered across the header in black bordered capitalized letters and white font is the month's title spread across two lines. The first line reads, "BLACK HISTORY." The second line reads, "MONTH."

Immediately below the red header and to the left side of the poster is a colorized photographic image of a black soldier in olive-drab and tan World War II combat attire and holding an M1 rifle at the position of port arms. The top of his helmet partly overlays the bottom edge of the red banner on the left side. The soldier is from A Company, 452nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery, one of the United States Army's black-only combat units. He is standing at a 45 degree oblique to the viewer and is looking towards the viewer's right towards an open battlefield.

At the top and upper right of the poster and flying from the right of the poster towards the soldier are two German fighter escort formations with four olive-drab aircraft each. The wings from two of the lead planes in the first formation partly overlay the bottom right edge of the red header. The second formation lags behind and below the first formation.

The middle center of the poster depicts a twilight blue sky permeated by lighter blue beams from spotlights searching for the German aircraft. In the forefront is the silhouette of an anti-aircraft artillery piece in firing position reinforced by sandbags. The gun is manned by three soldiers and is firing upwards into the night sky. The yellow gun blast from a recently fired round exits the gun's muzzle. In the background behind the gun emplacement are two silhouetted ridge lines. Further behind the gun position is the explosion of a recently dropped bomb. Yellow smoke rises from the ground and into a dark mushroom-shaped cloud in the night sky. At the bottom right of the night-blue field are yellow flames from a small fire set by a previous bomb and a pillar of dark smoke rises above it.

At the bottom of the poster is a dark blue footer with black highlights. Centered across the blue footer in black bordered capitalized letters and white font is the observance theme spread across two lines. The first line reads, "HONORING THE PAST," the second line reads, "SECURING THE FUTURE!"

To the right of the theme and at the bottom right corner of the poster is the Department of Defense 75th Anniversary Commemoration seal. The seal is multi-colored with the center consisting of a portion of the American flag. Superimposed over the flag is a dark blue letter

Department of Defense 2020 Black History Month Poster

capital "V" outlined in gold. Across the letter V is a blue banner with the word "REMEMBER" in capitalized letters and gold font. The center of the seal is surrounded by a narrow white ring and then a wide red ring containing 12 white stars. Surrounding the wide red ring is a wide dark blue ring. Superimposed on the top of the blue ring are the words, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA in capitalized letters and gold font. Superimposed on the bottom of the ring are the words, WORLD WAR II 75TH COMMEMORATION in capitalized letters and gold font. Outside the wide blue ring are 4 smaller consecutive rings of white and blue.

At the bottom right corner in small black text are the words "DEOMI's World War II Series".