MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Department of Defense 2018 Holocaust Days of Remembrance

The Department of Defense (DoD) joins the Nation in observance of the Holocaust Days of Remembrance (April 8–15, 2018), the national annual commemoration of the Holocaust.

Between the years of 1933 and 1945, the Nazi regime and its collaborators carried out genocide of six million Jews and millions of other people deemed by the regime as racially or socially unfit. This systematic, state-sponsored atrocity continued until German Armed Forces surrendered to Allied Forces on May 7, 1945. The genocide came to be known as the Holocaust, meaning “sacrifice by fire.”

During the Holocaust Days of Remembrance, we honor the millions of victims and survivors who underwent great suffering—and those who tragically lost their lives. In the face of horrific adversity, these individuals exhibited boundless courage and demonstrated to the world the strength and resiliency of the human spirit.

As we reflect on the atrocities of the Holocaust, we also recognize and remember those who chose to act against hatred and persecution. As we remember the rescuers, liberators, and courageous men and women of the Allied Forces who fought to end tyranny and oppression, we are reminded of the Department’s guiding principle that every individual is valued—that every individual has dignity and worth.

The Department reaffirms its commitment to strive to eliminate all forms of discrimination, prejudice, bigotry, and hatred. DoD personnel are encouraged to join in the commemoration of the Holocaust Days of Remembrance and take the opportunity to honor the legacy of the victims, survivors, rescuers, and liberators of the Holocaust.

Robert L. Wilkie
DISTRIBUTION:
Secretaries of the Military Departments
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
Under Secretaries of Defense
Chief Management Officer
Chief, National Guard Bureau
Commandant of the Coast Guard
Commanders of the Combatant Commands
General Counsel of the Department of Defense
Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation
Inspector General of the Department of Defense
Director of Operational Test and Evaluation
Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs
Director of Net Assessment
Directors of Defense Agencies
Directors of DoD Field Activities