



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

JAN 10 2024

**MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOD FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS**

SUBJECT: 2024 Department of Defense Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Observance

The Department recognizes January 15, 2024 as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. On this day, we commemorate and celebrate the legacy of Dr. King's lifetime commitment to equality, justice, and civil rights for all people and carry forward the enduring theme: "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not A Day Off!"

During the March for Integrated Schools on April 18, 1959, Dr. King stated, "Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make yourself a better person, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in." Dr. King's vision resonates with our commitment to promote equality and opportunity for all and aligns with the Department's core values.

In keeping with his memory, I encourage all of us, military and civilian alike, on this day, to perform acts of service and reflect on our Nation's principles—that all people are created equal, regardless of color, gender, or creed—we are equal members of the human family. Let us remain steadfast in cultivating and fostering a culture of inclusivity to advance our Nation's goal toward creating a more perfect union.

As we remember Dr. King's remarkable legacy, recommit yourselves to his ideals, the principles for which he stood, and to addressing the remaining challenges. For resources and help with leading and organizing observances, visit: <https://www.deomi.mil/Special-Observances/#martin-luther-king-jr-birthday>.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashish S. Vazirani".

Ashish S. Vazirani
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