

Department of Defense 2023 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Poster

Poster Description: Just weeks before his assassination, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. visited the island of Bimini, Bahamas. It was here that he wrote his famous, *I've been to the Mountaintop* speech. During this period, observers mentioned Dr. King was very solemn and thoughtful, as if he had the foresight of things soon to come.

The 2023 Department of Defense's MLK poster has a white background. Superimposed upon the white background is a full-length color filled outline of Dr. King. Dr. King is facing to the viewer's left with his right arm raised as if waving to the crowd. The top third of the outline is colored light sky blue with white wisps replicating clouds. Several fine black lines outline the clouds and give them shape. Beneath the clouds another set of black lines give the appearance of the ocean with an island in the distance. The distant island and ocean are given a slightly darker blue color.

The middle third of Dr. King's outline contains a light green color. Light gray lines on the left side of the outline highlight the faint green leaves and roots of mangrove plants in the background. The mangrove tree is representative of the island culture. At the right side of Dr. King's outline is a prominent image of a mangrove tree in the forefront with multiple, clearly defined dark green leaves and dark gray roots. This plant extends down into the bottom third of Dr. King's outline. A single orange-brown leaf is on the mangrove.

The bottom third of the MLK outline is colored teal blue and gray and depicts the shallow tropical island water. Light and dark gray splotches give the appearance of stones and coral in the water. The stem and roots of the prominent mangrove tree extend down into the water.

Spreading across the bottom third of the poster are five dark curving and crossing lines giving the appearance of waves

On the left side of the poster and to the left of Dr. King's colored outlined image are three paragraphs in green font. Each paragraph has a header in capitalized green font.

The first header and paragraph read, REMEMBER! In Bimini, Bahamas, King wrote one of his most inspiring speeches, "I've Been to the Mountaintop." It was delivered a few weeks later in Memphis, Tennessee, one day before King was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

The second header and paragraph read, CELEBRATE! "And I've looked over, and I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land."

The third header and paragraph read, ACT! A Day On, Not a Day Off!

Beneath the three paragraphs is an image of a bronze statue of MLK's torso, which was placed in Bimini to commemorate his visit.

Beneath the bronze image is the observance title in black, capitalized font, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY. Below the title is the observance date in smaller, black, capitalized font, JANUARY 16, 2023.

At the poster's bottom left corner are the seals for the Department of Defense and the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI). To the right of the seals is a blue gray symbol depicting a microphone. To the right of the microphone is a quick response code (QRC) which when scanned with a mobile device will open an audio narration with this poster description. At the poster's right is a second QRC which directs an individual to DEOMI's website, www.defenseculture.mil.