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DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE



NEWS RELEASE

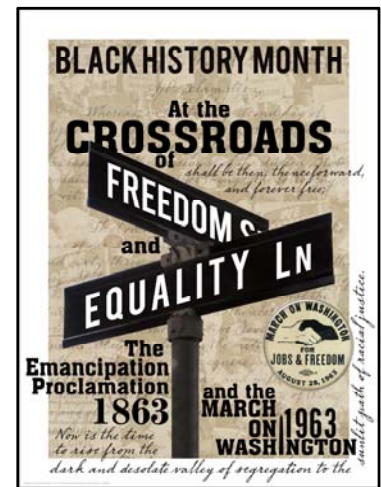
DEOMI RELEASES 2013 NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN/ BLACK HISTORY MONTH OBSERVANCE POSTER

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PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – In observance of African American/Black History Month, celebrated each year during the month of February, the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) proudly announces the availability of original artwork (please see accompanying image.) A PowerPoint presentation and Facts of the Day document for use during observance programs will also soon be available.

“In thinking about this year’s theme of ‘*At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington*’ I combined a photo from the march, President Abraham Lincoln's words of the Emancipation Proclamation and several words from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s “*I Have a Dream*” speech together to create the image. Incorporating the crossroads sign into the actual theme text helped me visualize the theme,” said Mr. Peter Hemmer, DEOMI Illustrator.

Please note that you may take the hi-resolution poster image file accompanying this news release to your preferred printing facility for display in your organization or use during your special observance programs. All DEOMI special observance poster images are high-resolution and may be used to print posters up to 30 X 40 inches. DEOMI does not have the capability to print posters and mail them out to customers upon request. All DEOMI observance month poster files are in the public domain unless otherwise indicated.



Ten Facts About the Emancipation Proclamation:

Source: <http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/emancipation-150/10-facts.html>

Fact # 1: Lincoln actually issued the Emancipation Proclamation twice.

- Abraham Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862. It stipulated that if the Southern states did not cease their rebellion by January 1, 1863, then the Proclamation would go into effect. When the Confederacy did not yield, Lincoln issued the final Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863.

Fact # 2: The Emancipation Proclamation only applied to the states in rebellion.

- President Lincoln justified the Emancipation Proclamation as a war measure intended to cripple the Confederacy. Being careful to respect the limits of his authority, Lincoln applied the Emancipation Proclamation only to the Southern states in rebellion.

Fact # 3: President Lincoln’s advisors did not initially support the Emancipation Proclamation.

- When President Lincoln first proposed the Emancipation Proclamation to his cabinet in the summer of 1862, many of the cabinet secretaries were apathetic, or worse, worried that the Proclamation was too radical. It was only Lincoln’s firm commitment to the necessity and justice of the Proclamation, along with the victory at Antietam, which finally persuaded his cabinet members to support him.

Fact # 4: The Battle of Antietam (also known as Sharpsburg) provided the necessary Union victory to issue the Emancipation Proclamation.

- President Lincoln first proposed the Emancipation Proclamation to his Cabinet in July 1862, but Secretary of State William Seward suggested waiting for a Union victory so that the government could prove that it could enforce the Proclamation. Although the Battle of Antietam resulted in a draw, the Union army was able to drive the Confederates out of Maryland – enough of a “victory,” that Lincoln felt comfortable issuing the Emancipation just five days later.

Fact # 5: The Emancipation Proclamation was a firm demonstration of the President’s executive war powers.

- The Southern states used slaves to support their armies on the field and to manage the home front so more men could go off to fight. In a display of his political genius, President Lincoln shrewdly justified the Emancipation Proclamation as a “fit and necessary war measure” in order to cripple the Confederacy’s use of slaves in the war effort. Lincoln also declared that the Proclamation would be enforced under his power as Commander-in-Chief, and that the freedom of the slaves would be maintained by the “Executive government of the United States.”

Fact # 6: The Emancipation Proclamation changed the focus of the war.

- Until September 1862, the main focus of the war had been to preserve the Union. With the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation freedom for slaves now became a legitimate war aim.

Fact # 7: The Emancipation Proclamation helped prevent the involvement of foreign nations in the Civil War.

- Britain and France had considered supporting the Confederacy in order to expand their influence in the Western Hemisphere. However, many Europeans were against slavery. Although some in the United Kingdom saw the Emancipation Proclamation as overly limited and reckless, Lincoln’s directive reinforced the shift of the international political mood against intervention while the Union victory at Antietam further disturbed those who didn’t want to intervene on the side of a lost cause.

Fact # 8: The Emancipation Proclamation paved the way for African-Americans to fight for their freedom.

- Lincoln declared in the Proclamation that African-American’s of “suitable condition, would be received into the armed service of the United States.” Five months after the Proclamation took effect; the War Department of the United States issued General Order No. 143, establishing the United States Colored Troops (USCT). By the end of the war, over 200,000 African-Americans would serve in the Union army and navy.

Fact # 9: The Emancipation Proclamation led the way to total abolition of slavery in the United States.

- With the Emancipation Proclamation, the aim of the war changed to include the freeing of slaves in addition to preserving the Union. Although the Proclamation initially freed only the slaves in the rebellious states, by the end of the war the Proclamation had influenced and prepared citizens to advocate and accept abolition for all slaves in both the North and South. The 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in the United States, was passed on December 6, 1865.

Fact # 10: Lincoln considered the Emancipation Proclamation the crowning achievement of his presidency.

- Heralded as the savior of the Union, President Lincoln actually considered the Emancipation Proclamation to be the most important aspect of his legacy. “I never, in my life, felt more certain that I was doing right, than I do in signing this paper,” he declared. “If my name ever goes into history it will be for this act, and my whole soul is in it.”

Ten Facts About the 1963 March on Washington:

Sources: <http://www.history.com/topics/march-on-washington>
and <http://www.buzzle.com/articles/march-on-washington-1963.html>

Fact # 1: On August 28, 1963, more than 200,000 Americans gathered in Washington, D.C., for a political rally known as the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

- Organized by a number of civil rights and religious groups, the event was designed to shed light on the political and social challenges African Americans continued to face across the country. The march, which became a key moment in the growing struggle for civil rights in the United States, culminated in Martin Luther King Jr.'s "*I Have a Dream*" speech, a spirited call for racial justice and equality.

Fact # 2: Twice in American history, more than 20 years apart, a March on Washington was planned, each intended to dramatize the right of black Americans to political and economic equality.

- The first march was proposed in 1941 by A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. Blacks had benefited less than other groups from New Deal programs during the Great Depression, and continuing racial discrimination excluded them from defense jobs in the early 1940s. When President Franklin D. Roosevelt showed little inclination to take action on the problem, Randolph called for a March on Washington by fifty thousand people. After repeated efforts to persuade Randolph and his fellow leaders that the march would be inadvisable, Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802 in June 1941, forbidding discrimination by any defense contractors and establishing the Fair Employment Practices Committee (FEPC) to investigate charges of racial discrimination. The March on Washington was then canceled. Nearly 2 million blacks were employed in defense work by the end of 1944. Order 8802 represented a limited victory, however; the FEPC went out of existence in 1946.

Fact # 3: As blacks faced continuing discrimination in the postwar years, the March on Washington group met annually to reiterate blacks' demands for economic equality.

- The civil rights movement of the 1960s transformed the political climate, and in 1963, black leaders began to plan a new March on Washington, designed specifically to advocate passage of the Civil Rights Act then stalled in Congress.

Fact # 4: Chaired again by A. Philip Randolph and organized by his longtime associate, Bayard Rustin, this new March for Jobs and Freedom was expected to attract 100,000 participants.

- President John F. Kennedy showed as little enthusiasm for the march as had Roosevelt, but this time the black leaders would not be dissuaded. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference put aside their long-standing rivalry, black and white groups across the country were urged to attend, and elaborate arrangements were made to ensure a harmonious event.

Fact # 5: The march was an unprecedented success. More than 200,000 black and white Americans shared a joyous day of speeches, songs, and prayers led by a celebrated array of clergymen, civil rights leaders, politicians, and entertainers.

- The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King's soaring address climaxed the day; through his eloquence, the phrase "I Have a Dream" became an expression of the highest aspirations of the civil rights movement.

Fact # 6: Like its predecessor, the March on Washington of 1963 was followed by years of disillusion and racial strife.

- Nevertheless, both marches represented an affirmation of hope, of belief in the democratic process, and of faith in the capacity of blacks and whites to work together for racial equality.

Fact # 7: In addition to Martin Luther King Jr., the March on Washington featured speeches and performances from John Lewis, Josephine Baker, Mahalia Jackson, Joan Baez and Bob Dylan.

Fact # 8: The 1963 March on Washington was the first protest march to be telecast exclusively on national television.

- Although heave numbers of police personnel were deployed, citing chances of the march turning violent, it actually ended in a peaceful manner contradictory to the expectations of many.

Fact # 9: Various civil right groups, labor organizations, and religious bodies came together to organize the March.

- 'Jobs and Freedom' was chosen as the theme, which was also an important component of the Civil Rights Movement that was taking shape in the backdrop.

Fact # 10: The march ended with Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech at 4:20 p.m., after which the leaders of the march met President Kennedy.

- The 1963 March on Washington was a huge success, and it played an important role in the constitution of Civil Rights Act of 1964, which banned racial discrimination in public facilities as well as voting. It was a demonstration of power in a peaceful manner. In fact many historians even went on to describe the march as 'a high tide phase of the Civil Rights Movement'.

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