



Army Heritage Month



593D ESC will conduct Army Heritage Month activities during the month of June. Participation in scheduled activities will be allowed to the maximum extent possible by all Soldiers, Family Members, and DA Civilians within I Corps and the JBLM community.

I AW AR 600-20 Army Heritage Month activities are conducted to recognize diversity, promote cohesion, teamwork, and Esprit de Corps with in the total Army force. These activities foster a culture of equity and inclusion, and enhance heritage awareness and understanding. These activities should also promote understanding, teamwork, harmony, pride, and esprit.

593D ESC celebrate Army Heritage Month by sharing information, stories and facts highlighting the diverse history and culture of the Soldiers who make up our formation today.

Please use this time as a group to share some information, stories and facts highlighting the diverse history and culture of Army Heritage and Special Observances?

To generate conversation regarding Army Heritage Month, here are a few facts about the Special Observances and significant events that have made an impact on the Army:

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

The observance of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. was established by Public Law 98-144. This national day of service is celebrated on the third Monday in January. The theme for this event does not change each year.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN/BLACK HISTORY

The observance of African American / Black History Month was established by Public Law 99-244. This observance runs through the month of February and celebrates the contributions of African Americans to our nation.

WOMEN'S HISTORY

The observance recognizing women's contributions was established by Public Law 100-9. This observance runs through the month of March and celebrates the struggles and achievements of women throughout the history of the United States.

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE & HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

The U.S. Congress established Days of Remembrance as the nation's annual commemoration of the Holocaust. Public Law 96-388 established the United States Holocaust Memorial Council and authorizes the actions of the council. Each year the President of the United States also issues a Presidential Proclamation for the observance. The dates for Days of Remembrance and Holocaust Remembrance Day vary each year according to the Hebrew calendar.

ASIAN-AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER

The observance recognizing Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month was established by Title 36, U.S. Code, section 102. This observance runs through the month of May and celebrates the service and sacrifices of Asian/Pacific Islanders throughout the United States.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY

The observance recognizing Women's Equality Day was established by Joint Resolution of Congress in 1971. Women's Equality Day is observed on the 26th day of August and commemorates the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which gave women the right to vote. The observance has grown to include focusing attention on women's continued efforts toward gaining full equality.

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE

The observance recognizing National Hispanic Heritage Month was established by Title 36, U.S. Code, Section 126 and Public Law 100-402. Hispanic Heritage Month is observed from 15 September - 15 October of each year. The observance is celebrated during this time frame due to many significant events for various Hispanic



Army Heritage Month



communities which fall within the observance period. The President issues a Proclamation each year calling on the people of the United States, especially the educational community, to observe National Hispanic Heritage Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities. Hispanics have had a profound and positive influence on our country through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service. They have enhanced and shaped our national character with centuries-old traditions that reflect the multi-ethnic and multicultural customs of their community.

AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE

The observation of National American Indian Heritage Month has its roots in Public Law 99-471. Over several years the observation was moved to different months but in 1990 Public Law 101-343 set the month long observance in November. Each year the President issues a Proclamation in recognition of the observance. National American Indian Heritage Month is observed from 1 - 30 November of each year. The observance month recognizes American Indians for their respect for natural resources and the Earth, having served with valor in our nation's conflicts and for their many distinct and important contributions to the United States.

LGBT

On Dec. 22, 2010, the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT) Repeal Act became law. Certification occurred in July 2011, and full implementation of the act occurred in September 2011. LGB military members can now serve openly, with honor and integrity. H.R.2965 - 111th Congress (2009-2010): Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010. (2010, December 22). <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-bill/2965>

On January 25, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order (EO) 14004 “Enabling All Qualified Americans to Serve Their Country in Uniform.” This EO rescinds previous policy and directs that all transgender individuals who wish to serve in the United States military and can meet the appropriate standards, shall be able to do so openly and free from discrimination. Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 1300.28, “In-Service Transition for Transgender Service Members,” released on March 31, 2021 with an effective date of April 30, 2021 implements the DoD Transgender policy consistent with EO 14004. Concurrently, DoDI 6130.03, Volume 1, Change 2, “Medical Standards for Military Service: Appointment, Enlistment, or Induction.” which outlines medical accession standards for Military Services was released on March 31, 2021 with an effective date of April 30, 2021. The department’s equal opportunity program is codified by DoDI 1350.02, “DoD Military Equal Opportunity (MEO) Program”, which governs the Department’s policy that ensures that Service members are treated with dignity and respect and are afforded equal opportunity in an environment free from prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), gender identity, or sexual orientation.

Additional References

1. Army Regulation, 600-20 Army Command Policy, 24 July 2020. Appendix D Retrieved from: https://armypubs.army.mil/epubs/DR_pubs/DR_a/ARN31651-AR_600-20-003-WEB-4.pdf
2. Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI). Dated: May 2021. Retrieved from: <https://www.defenseculture.mil/Human-Relations-Toolkit/Special-Observances/#general-observance-support>