



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

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

JAN 31 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: 2017 Department of Defense National African American History Month Observance

The Department of Defense (DoD) joins the Nation in celebrating National African American History Month, February 1-28, 2017. African American History Month has its origins in Chicago, Illinois when the historian Carter G. Woodson first organized "Negro History Week" in 1926. In 1976, there was an effort to expand the observance to a month, and to change the name to National Black History Month. In 1986, Congress designated February as National Black History Month. Since 1996, Presidents have issued Presidential Proclamations for National African American History Month.

African Americans have served valiantly in every war fought by the United States since arrival as slaves in America. Their legacy in the DoD is vast, and their significant contributions have made our military a stronger, more diverse force. As we celebrate their countless achievements to our honored military history, we encourage all to recognize the bravery and exceptional service of military and civilian African Americans by commemorating National African American History Month.

Mr. Norvel Dillard is the Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity point of contact and can be reached at norvel.l.dillard.civ@mail.mil, or (703) 614-3397.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. M. Kurta".

A. M. Kurta

Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of
Defense for Personnel and Readiness

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