



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

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

AUG 16 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: 2017 Department of Defense Hispanic Heritage Month Observance

The Department of Defense (DoD) is pleased to announce the observance of Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 – October 15, 2017. Together we recognize the diversity of cultures and contributions of Americans with ancestry from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

The theme of this year's observance is "Shaping the Bright Future of America." Let us take this opportunity to celebrate the legacy of Hispanic Americans, along with their contributions – which are deeply woven in our Nation's fabric.

Hispanic Americans have enriched our Nation with traditions, innovation, and leadership. These Americans have, and continue to, courageously serve as members of our Armed Forces and DoD civilians. From the Revolutionary War to present-day missions around the world, Hispanics have been integral to the fortitude of the Total Force.

DoD is committed to honoring and recognizing Hispanic Americans for their contributions to the strength of our Nation, and for their dedicated service and protection of the United States. During this time, I encourage DoD personnel to recognize the achievements and contributions of Hispanic Americans and to celebrate the diversity of the DoD Total Force.

Mr. Norvel Dillard is the DoD point of contact for this observance and can be reached by telephone at (703) 614-3397, or at norvel.l.dillard.civ@mail.mil.

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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