



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEPENDENTS SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, EUROPE
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February 5, 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL EMPLOYEES

SUBJECT: African-American History Month - February 2007

The month of February is designated African-American History Month, and this year's theme is "From Slavery to Freedom: Africans in the Americas." It recalls African-Americans' long journey to justice and commemorates the courage and persistence of the heroes who called on our Nation to live up to its founding promise.

Consistent with President Bush's proclamation, DoDEA joins other activities across DoD in celebrating the contributions and achievements of African Americans throughout our history. The presidential proclamation cites African American notables as follows: "Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Rosa Parks, and Martin Luther King, Jr., advanced the cause of civil rights for all Americans and helped change the course of American history. Educators Booker T. Washington and Carter G. Woodson helped break down racial barriers in education to provide opportunity for all people. Americans have benefited from the achievements of scientists like George Washington Carver. Artists such as Pearl Bailey, Ella Fitzgerald, and Louis Armstrong inspired Americans and created some of the most celebrated music this Nation has ever produced."

More recently, during Super Bowl XLI two African American NFL coaches, Tony Dungy and Lovie Smith faced off in the ultimate football event. Tony Dungy, coach for the Indiana Colts, became the first African American coach to lead his team to Super Bowl victory

To test your ability in matching quotes to great African American individuals or obtain more information about African American History Month, visit:

<http://www.biography.com/blackhistory/quoting-greatness-quiz.jsp>;
<http://www.defenselink.mil/home/features/2006/africanamericanmonth/>;
<http://www.historychannel.com/blackhistory/>; <http://www.blackhistory.com/>;
<http://www.ed.gov/free/bhm.html>;
http://www.army.mil/africanamericans/main_content.html

I am committed to achieving DoDEA's goal to having a motivated and diverse workforce, and to continuous professional growth and development resulting in exemplary performance and optimum student achievement. This annual commemorative event gives all Americans a chance to recognize and commemorate the global history of

people of African descent. I encourage our schools to educate our students about contributions and achievement made by African-Americans, and I urge our administrators and managers to recognize all our personnel for doing an excellent job.

This month we re-commit ourselves to the cause of a fair and just society, one where all people have an equal opportunity to realize their full potential. This month and every month, we reaffirm our personal commitment to treat others with dignity and respect.

Please join me in celebrating National African American History Month by participating in planned events that are taking place in your area, and celebrating the rich diversity of our workforce – our Nation’s greatest strength.

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Diana J. Ohman
Director, DoDDS-E