

Constitution Day and Citizenship Day Questions and Answers

Question: What is Constitution Day and Citizenship Day?

Answer:

Constitution Day and Citizenship Day commemorates the signing of the Constitution of the United States on September 17, 1787, in Philadelphia. The 17th of September each year has been designated Constitution Day and Citizenship Day.

Citizenship Day is about assuming social responsibility by contributing to the prosperity of America and by holding elected officials accountable on the tough challenges of the day. It is about realizing the promise of change.

Question: Why do we commemorate Constitution Day and Citizenship Day?

Answer:

Since 2005, all Federal agencies have been required by Public Law 108-447 to commemorate Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, by providing education and training to both newly hired employees and currently employed personnel.

Like the fourth of July, September 17 has been designated by Congress as a patriotic day where flying the flag is encouraged. In United States Code 36 on Patriotic and National Observances and Ceremonies, codified in [36 USC 106](#), Constitution Day and Citizenship Day is listed as a patriotic day.

Question: How does DoD Commemorate Constitution Day and Citizenship Day?

Answer:

The Department of Defense (DoD) observes Constitution Day and Citizenship Day (CDCD) on September 17, 2014. Since 2005, all Federal agencies have been required by Public Law 108-447 to commemorate CDCD, by providing education and training to both newly hired employees and the agencies' currently employed personnel. Consistent with mission accomplishment, the DoD Components make duty time available for this purpose.

The Department continues to host an online U.S. Constitution course and CDCD information at: <http://constitutionday.cpms.osd.mil>. This web site supports this statutory requirement and offers online training and informational videos. Each Component should publicize CDCD and share information about CDCD activities with their workforce.

The Department makes September 17th a special day where all DoD employees are proud of their special constitutional role of supporting and defending the U.S. Constitution and providing for the common defense of our Nation.

The Department of Defense, has specially designed a website containing enriching information about the U.S. Constitution and American history, is available at <http://constitutionday.cpms.osd.mil>. The website also includes an interactive, course about the Constitution. The course is designed to provide, educational information leading up to the creation of the Constitution by the Founding Fathers. Retired Supreme Court Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, is featured on the web site.

DoD Instruction states: Constitution Day and Citizenship Day Training. DoD Components will provide education and training material about the United States Constitution as part of orientation materials and, each year, make education and training material about the United States Constitution and citizenship available on and around September 17, in accordance with section 111 of Public Law 108-447 (Reference (ap)). Training and education resource materials are available at <http://constitutionday.cpms.osd.mil/>.

For example in the national capitol region, a commemoration of CDCD will be held Wednesday, September 17, 2014 in the Pentagon and Mark Center. The Defense Privacy and Civil Liberties Office is holding a special event in the Pentagon. The Defense Civilian Personnel Advisory Service (DCPAS), along with Washington Headquarters Services (WHS), Department of Defense Education Agency, (DoDEA) and Defense Privacy and Civil Liberties Office will discuss commemorative activities in the Mark Center.

Question: Who is DoDs Constitution and Citizenship Day commemoration available to?

Answer:

Commemoration includes both military and civilian employees. The Constitution Day and Citizenship Day resources and information are available to family members and the public.

Question: Will all Components take part in the commemoration?

Answer:

Each Component has planned to commemorate Constitution Day and Citizenship Day. All DoD employees, in the Components and Defense Agencies, have been notified through their Leave and Earning Statements and can use the DoD Constitution Day and Citizenship Day Website to support their commemorative activities.

Question: What is new in the DoD Constitution Day and Citizenship Day website?

Answer:

The website now includes a link to DoDEA and DPCLC resources. A link to a network of organizations dedicated to providing educational material on civics and the U.S. Constitution. iCivics is a member of this network. The website also announces publication of DoD Instruction 1400.25 Vol. 410 and the reference to Constitution Day and Citizenship Day training on page 21 of Enclosure.

The guidance on Constitution Day and Citizenship Day Training follows: “DoD Components will provide education and training material about the United States Constitution as part of orientation materials and, each year, make education and training material about the United States Constitution and citizenship available on and around September 17, in accordance with section 111 of Public Law 108-447 (Reference (ap)). Training and education resource materials are available at <http://constitutionday.cpms.osd.mil/>.”

Question: What are the best sources for training and educational material on the U.S. Constitution?

Answer:

They are many sources of training and educational material on the U.S. Constitution in the Department.

Library: One of my first suggestions is to ask your local library. For example, the Pentagon Library is an excellent source of material.

Educational Institutions: In the Department, training and educational material on the U.S. Constitution is integrate into many curriculum based on the objectives of each course or program. For example, in many leadership development courses, U.S. Constitution training and education material is a fundamental element in developing leaders.

DoD Constitution Day and Citizenship Day Website: The DoD Constitution Day and Citizenship Day Website supports the statutory requirement to commemorate Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, by providing education and training to both newly hired employees and currently employed personnel.