

# Martin Luther King Jr. Day

*Remember! Celebrate! Act!*

---

A DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF

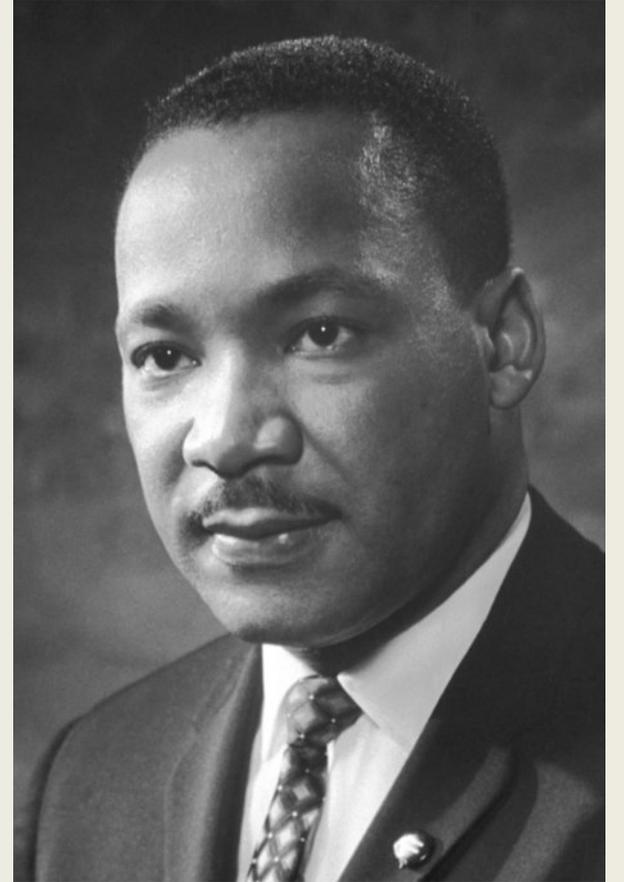
JANUARY 18, 2021

# Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

---

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is remembered as America's preeminent advocate of nonviolence and a leader of the Civil Rights Movement.

In sermons and speeches, Dr. King's voice rang out with a call for us to work toward a better tomorrow. He challenged us to live up to the ideals enshrined in our founding documents — that we are all created equal, endowed with unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.



# Corporation for National and Community Service

---



In 1995, Congress designated Martin Luther King Jr. Day as the first and only federal holiday observed as a national day of service. Congress charged the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) with leading this national effort.

The MLK Day of Service is a way to channel King's life and teaching into community action.

# A Day On, Not A Day Off

---

Each year, on the third Monday in January, the Department of Defense (DoD) joins the nation in honoring the life and legacy of Dr. King by making the holiday a day of community service—“A Day On, Not A Day Off.”

Americans answer the call to action by serving their neighborhoods and volunteering their time to make a positive difference in their communities.

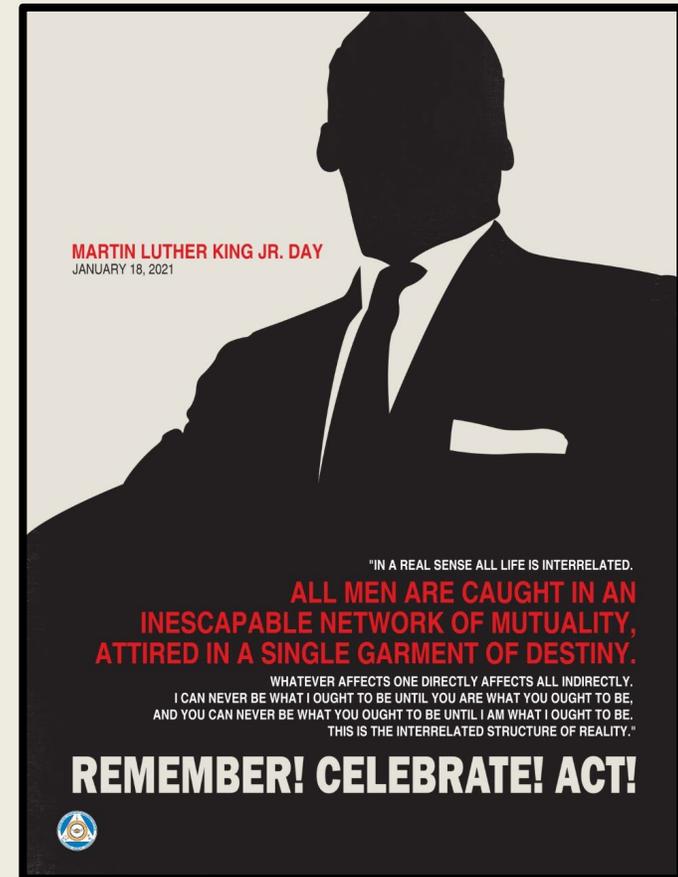


# Poster/Presentation

---

On military installations around the world, DoD members share Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s values and ideals.

The following slides highlight a few events throughout the DoD celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



# Marine Corps Installations Pacific - Japan

---

Local and U.S. community members took part in the double elimination competition during the 2020 MLK Basketball Tournament, held in the Camp Foster Field House, at Okinawa, Japan.

The tournament brought people together to display their talents, participate in some friendly competition, and commemorate the life and achievements of Dr. King.



# Naval Support Activity (NSA) - Bahrain



Service members and civilians marched together in observance of MLK Day at NSA Bahrain. The march was hosted by the base's diversity and multicultural committee.

NSA Bahrain enables the forward operations and responsiveness of U.S. and allied forces in support of Navy Region Europe, Africa, Central's mission to provide services to the fleet, warfighter, and family.

# Naval Medical Center Portsmouth (NMCP) - Virginia

---



Ensign Rose Johnson, assigned to NMCP, Earlita “Sunshine” White, a civilian volunteer, and Religious Program Specialist 3rd Class Aricky Greene, assist in the thrift store at Oasis Social Ministry.

Ensign Rose Johnson, left, Earlita “Sunshine” White, center, and Religious Program Specialist 3rd Class Aricky Greene, right.

# Travis Air Force Base – California

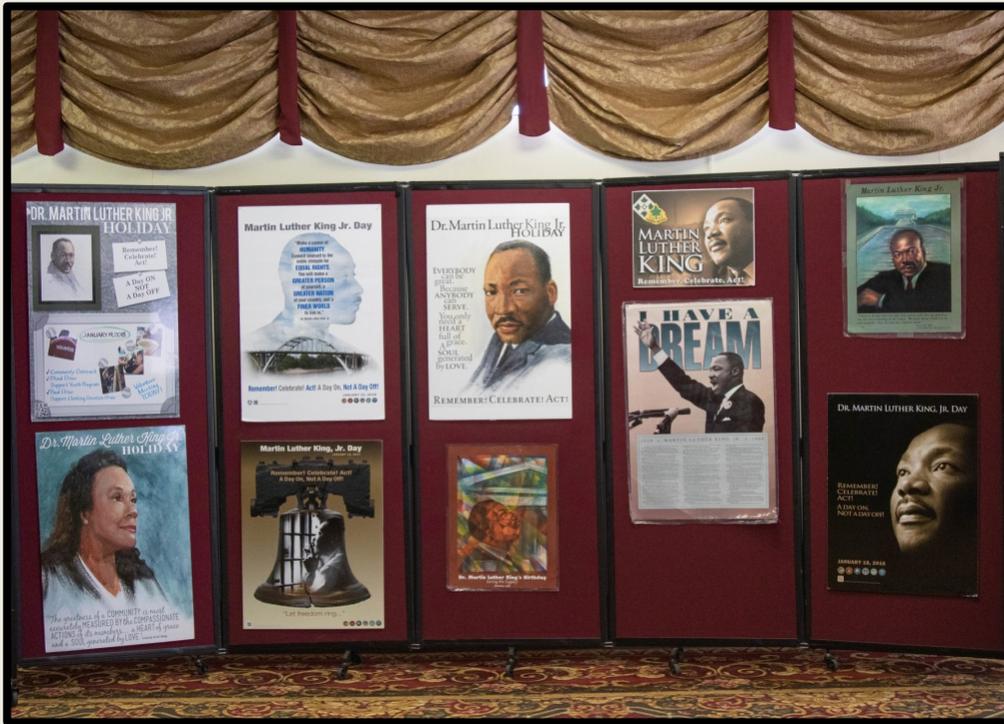
---

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Luis Ortiz, 660th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron guidance and control specialist, and Tech. Sgt. Ashlie Steele, 60th Aerospace Medical Squadron bioenvironmental engineering, carry a bookshelf at Fairfield High School, Fairfield, California.

More than 300 workers, including Travis Airmen, volunteered to make their community a better and safer place.



# Fort Carson - Colorado



The 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, celebrated the life and legacy of Dr. King and welcomed guest speaker Michael Sawyer, Ph.D. in Africana studies and a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy.



# U.S. Army Garrison – Camp Zama, Japan

---



Soldiers and Airmen honored Dr. King by completing a 54-mile march—the same distance of the protest march King led from Montgomery to Selma, Alabama, in 1965.

More than 120 participants, divided among 10 teams, began the march which continued through the night, finishing on MLK Day.

One member on each team carried a 35-pound “ruck sack” on his or her back to symbolize the struggles King and his demonstrators went through during the Civil Rights movement.

# Conclusion

---

The Defense Department recognizes that freedom, equality, and inclusion are true force multipliers and imperative to the national defense and the strength of our nation.

Dr. King recognized the power of service. He once said, “*Everyone can be great because everybody can serve.*” Observing MLK Day through service continues the DoD’s mission of fostering change and building communities.

The men and women of the DoD honor Dr. King by living up to the standard he set. Together they ensure his legacy lives on, and as one DoD family, rise up to meet today’s challenges.

# End

---

Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute,

Patrick Air Force Base, Florida

December 2020

All photographs are public domain and from various sources, as cited.

The information in this document is not to be construed as an official DEOMI, U.S. Military Services, or Department of Defense position.