African-American/Black History Month is an annual celebration which recognizes the significant contributions of African-Americans throughout our nation’s history, through their contributions in arts, entertainment, law, politics, sciences, sports and so much more.

The history of African-American/Black History Month traces back to 1915, when the “Father of Black History Month,” Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which is currently known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). Through their diligence and commitment to African American citizens, Dr. Woodson and the ASALH introduced the first Negro History Week in February 1926.

In 1976, President Gerald Ford issued the first African-American History Month proclamation, calling upon the Americans to celebrate this observance each February. Since that time, U.S. presidents have issued proclamations to pay tribute to African Americans.
For information on diversity and inclusion, visit DoDEA's Diversity, Management, and Equal Opportunity, and the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI).

Shirley A. Jones Keynote Address, 2023

The Honorable Shirley A. Jones is the National President of Blacks In Government (BIG). She is a Senior Executive Service (SES) Member at the U. S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), and the first African American female in the agency's history to be appointed to the position of Managing Associate General Counsel, within GAO's Office of General Counsel (OGC).

DEOMI Products

![DID YOU KNOW?](image.png)

A small section of the Greensboro Woolworth's lunch counter is on display at the National Museum of American History in the Smithsonian.

![BLACK HISTORY MONTH OBSERVANCE](image.png)

The Greensboro Sit-Ins were a critical turning point in Black history and American history, bringing the fight for civil rights to the national stage. As one of nonviolent protests, the Freedom Rides, and others took up the cause of integration in the South, fostering the cause of equal rights in the United States.
The Greensboro Sit-In

On February 1, 1960, four Black college students from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, (left to right), Franklin McCain, David Richmond, Quentin Moore, and William Smith stood silently outside the Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina. The students were protesting the store's policy of refusing to serve Black people. They were later joined by four other students, bringing the total to ten. This peaceful demonstration marked the start of the civil rights movement in the United States.

The students had been planning this action for some time. They were inspired by the桩 Public School Sit-In Movement, which had begun in the early 1950s. The sit-ins were part of a broader strategy to challenge segregation and discrimination in schools.

The sit-in was met with resistance from the store's employees and customers. The managers asked the students to leave, but when they refused, the store's employees started to heckle them. The students remained calm and maintained their silent protest.

The sit-in was covered by local newspapers, and the story quickly spread across the country. Within weeks, sit-ins were being held at Woolworth's and other stores across the country. The movement eventually led to the desegregation of schools and other public facilities.

After about a year of protests, approximately 1,400 students and staff at the Greensboro Woolworth's began a campaign for desegregation. This campaign grew, with similar protests taking place in cities across the country. Soon, many employers were integrating their facilities across the South. The Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro opened to Black patrons in July 1960.

DoDEA Mission Champions
Proclamation and Memorandum
A Proclamation on National Black History Month, 2023

As we celebrate National Black History Month, let us all recommit ourselves to reach for that founding promise. Let us continue to fight for the equity, opportunity, and dignity to which every Black American is due in equal measure.

Resources

African American Booklist by NEA
Association for the Study of African American Life and History
National Archives - African American History
National Geographic Kids - Black History Month
National Museum of African American History and Culture
Slavery and the Making of America: K-12 Learning

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