



PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

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

**JAN - 2 2018**

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: 2018 Department of Defense Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observance

The Department of Defense (DoD) joins the Nation in celebration of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday (MLK Day), on Monday, January 15, 2018. On this day we celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was critical to the advancement of equality and civil rights in America. His vision for our Nation's future – of a brighter, more equal land of opportunity for all – and commitment to the principles of justice and equality propelled forward the American civil rights movement and led to lasting change in our great Nation.

Dr. King famously declared, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?" In the spirit of Dr. King, MLK Day is recognized as a day of service. This day is a call to Americans to transform Dr. King's legacy into action through service – to work together to strengthen communities across the country and our Nation as a whole. We continue to carry forward the theme of MLK Day: "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A day on, not a day off!"

The Department remains committed to honoring Dr. King's legacy. I have no doubt that Dr. King would be proud of the Department's role in blazing a path on equal opportunity and service for America to follow.

As a Department deeply rooted in service, we commend all members of the Total Force for your dedicated commitment to the service and protection of the United States.

As we commemorate MLK Day, DoD personnel are encouraged to honor the lessons and teachings of Dr. King by action through service to our communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert L. Wilkie".

Robert L. Wilkie

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