Commemorate
Black History Month

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) joins the Nation in observing Black History Month this February. As established by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), "The 2018 theme, 'African Americans in Times of War,' commemorates the centennial of the end of the First World War in 1918, and explores the complex meanings and implications of this international struggle and its aftermath. The First World War was initially termed by many as 'The Great War,' 'The War to End All Wars,' and the war 'to make the world safe for democracy.' Those very concepts provide a broad, useful framework for focusing on the roles of African Americans in every American war, from the Revolutionary War Era to...the present 'War against Terrorism.' Times of War inevitably provide the framework for many stories related to African American soldiers and sailors, veterans, and civilians. This is a theme filled with paradoxes of valor and defeat, of civil rights opportunities and setbacks, of struggles abroad and at home, of artistic creativity and repression, and of catastrophic loss of life and the righteous hope for peace." ([https://asalh.org/african-americans-in-times-of-war](https://asalh.org/african-americans-in-times-of-war))

The VA Central Office Blacks In Government (BIG) Chapter organized the Black History Month commemoration for Thursday, February 15, 2018, in the G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Veterans Conference Center, room 230, at noon (ET). For more information, contact Dwayne Mitchell, President, BIG VA Headquarters Chapter, at Dwayne.Mitchell@va.gov; Renaee Allen, Program and Planning Chair, BIG VA Headquarters Chapter, at Renaee.Allen@va.gov; or Tynnetta Lee, VA's National Black Employment Program Manager, at Tynnetta.Lee@va.gov.

For more information on VA's African American Employment Program, visit the ODI Web page.

ORM
Steps Toward Conflict Resolution

Callers can REACH to the Office of Resolution Management (ORM) using the new number, 1-888-566-3982, and speak with a specialist regarding Equal Employment Opportunity Complaint Processing, Alternative Dispute Resolution, and the Harassment Prevention Program.

REACH to ORM is available from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. in all time zones.

To file a discrimination or harassment complaint, you must contact ORM within 45 calendar days of the date of the alleged discriminatory incident.
Pathways Professional Development Series
For Pathways Interns and Recent Graduates

The Office of Personnel Management’s Recruitment Policy and Outreach office is offering no-cost quarterly in-person and web-based briefings for Pathways Intern and Recent Graduates participants. The briefings focus on specific topics of interest to entry-level employees. This is an in-person and/or web-based series. Note that audio will be through your computer/laptop speakers and no conference line will be available for virtual workshops. If you need a reasonable accommodation, such as closed captioning, please contact the event organizer (pathways@opm.gov) no later than seven calendar days prior to the event date for each specific briefing.

Series Schedule and Registration Link:
Let’s Get Social: How to Use Social Media to Leverage Your Career
Thursday, February 8, 2018, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET
Registration: https://pds2q.eventbrite.com

Aspiring Leaders Program
Application Window Now Open

VA’s Virtual Aspiring Leaders Program (vALP) application window opens February 8 and closes March 9! vALP is a VA enterprise-wide leadership development program that prepares employees for leadership roles within VA. Candidates must have at least one year of tenure at VA; Grade GS-09 thru GS-13 and Title 38 and Wage Grade equivalents (including Title 38 Hybrids); commit to a five-month, cohort-based online program; be endorsed by their VA supervisor; and devote three to five hours per week on vALP learning activities and coursework. Contact Mitchell Scott, National Program Manager, or Robert Calabrisi, Program Manager, at vacovalp@va.gov for questions.

REACH to ORM
New Personalized Service for EEO

As part of VA’s modernization plan, the Office of Resolution Management (ORM) is introducing a simple and more efficient way to access all of ORM’s services. Callers can REACH to ORM using the new number, 1-888-566-3982, and speak with a specialist regarding the equal employment opportunity (EEO) complaint process, alternative dispute resolution (ADR), and the Harassment Prevention Program (HPP).

REACH to ORM is available from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. in all time zones. ORM’s mission is to provide the Department of Veterans Affairs with timely and high-quality complaint processing while fostering a discrimination-free work environment through preventative methods and early resolution.

2018 FAPAC Civilian & Military Award Nominations Open
Apply by February 28

During the Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC) Annual National Leadership Training Program in May, to coincide with the Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, FAPAC presents three separate awards. The FAPAC Civilian Awards recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the advancement of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) and the promotion of diversity and inclusion among the Federal and District of Columbia Government workforce and the AAPI communities. The FAPAC Military Meritorious Service Awards honor military members, men and women, who have supported the DOD mission, overseas contingency operations, or whose attributes best epitomized the qualities and core values of their respective Military Service or other DOD Component. Finally, the FAPAC Endowment Fund awards the Distinguished Public Service Scholarship to AAPI college students who exhibit excellent academic achievement as well as demonstrated a continuous effort to foster diversity and community service to the AAPI community. The awardee will receive a stipend of $5,000 towards his or her education during the annual FAPAC National Leadership Training Program.

This year’s submission deadline for all awards is February 28, 2018. For more information, email awards@fapac.org.