



DEOMI Volunteers Clean Up Brevard County

Story by DEOMI Public Affairs

Photos courtesy of event volunteers

PATRICK SPACE FORCE BASE, Fla. – Volunteers from the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) came together to help clean up a Brevard County road Apr. 30, 2022, as part of a newly established partnership with the Keep Brevard Beautiful (KBB) Adopt-A-Highway program.

In a little more than an hour, 18 DEOMI staff and their family members collected approximately 215 pounds of litter and debris from Avocado Ave in Melbourne.

DEOMI participated in the KBB program in the past, but due to constraints imposed by the pandemic, the institute had not been able to support the program for more than two years. Now that things are looking up, the DEOMI Commandant, U.S. Navy Capt. Delmy Robinson, said she is looking forward to revitalizing the program.

“I am so excited have this program back at DEOMI. It provides our staff and their family members with an opportunity to give back to our community, while also building team comradery,” said Robinson.

Robinson, who took command of DEOMI in August 2021, is no stranger to the Adopt-A-Highway program. From 2006 to 2009, she participated in numerous cleanup events while assigned as a DEOMI Administrative Officer.



“What gets me so excited about reviving this program is that I know much it means to our volunteers and our community,” said Robinson. “Brevard County is a beautiful place, and removing litter from our section of road is our way of showing our gratitude to the community,” she added.



Many of the volunteers shared Robinson's enthusiasm.

"I volunteered because it's always nice to get together outside our installation and provide support to our local community," said U.S. Army Master Sgt. Pedro Campoverde, a DEOMI instructor.

Like Robinson, Campoverde has also participated in DEOMI's past cleanup events when he came there the institute as a student.

"Obviously, this [cleanup event] was very special since it was the first one our DEOMI team conducted since the COVID-19 Pandemic," said Campoverde.

According to the DEOMI Adopt-A-Highway program coordinator, U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Lance Pounds, the cleanup date was even more special because it coincided with National Military Brats Day.

"Choosing today for our cleanup gave our military brat-families the opportunity to spend the day doing something meaningful with their children," said Pounds.



Of the 18 volunteers, five of them were military children ranging in ages from eight to 16 years old.

"Having my daughter participate with me in this event was very special to me because it allowed her to see me and my co-workers do something relevant and significant for our community," said Campoverde.

"[She] has been his 'Battle Buddy' in a lot of activities," said Campoverde. "I'm proud to be her father," he added.

DEOMI volunteers and their military brats' collective efforts to remove litter and debris made Avocado Ave. a little safer and that much more aesthetically pleasing for those who call this section of road home.



The DEOMI team is an inclusive force that values and develops all individuals and thrives on their contributions. Since its inception in 1971, then known as the Defense Race Relations Institute, DEOMI has developed and delivered innovative education, training, research and collaborative solutions to approximately 52,000 DEOMI military and civilian graduates.

To learn more about DEOMI, please visit www.defenseculture.mil and www.facebook.com/DEOMI.DoD. DEOMI's website provides a variety of tools, training products, and information to support leaders across the DoD in improving their organizational culture.