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Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute  
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## DEOMI EOA Adjunct Instructor Receives Top USAR Honors

Story by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Lance Pounds, DEOMI Public Affairs

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**PATRICK SPACE FORCE BASE, Fla.**— Master Sgt. Sheree Dillon, an Equal Opportunity Advisor (EOA) with the 84th Training Command at Fort Knox, Kentucky, was recognized as the U.S. Army Reserve’s EOA of the Year award, Aug. 31, 2023, in a ceremony during the annual Army Reserve’s Equal Opportunity Symposium held at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI).

Dillon is a former DEOMI student and recently served as an adjunct instructor of an EOA course designed specifically for Reserve-component members. She stated that her time as a student and as an instructor definitely contributed to her achievement.

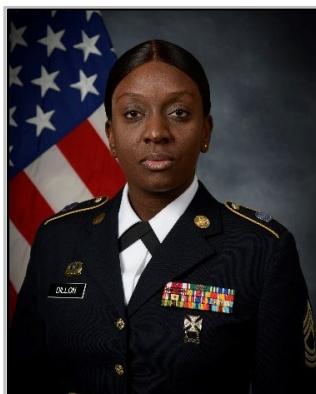
“As a student, my facilitators, [U.S. Air Force] Master Sgt. Melissa Dixon and [U.S. Army] Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas Race, provided realistic examples of situations we could expect in the field and ways of responding,” said Dillon.

“They both encouraged me to allow others to share their perspective, be aware of my biases, and not allow them to impact my decision-making process. But most importantly, they emphasized the importance of communication, which shaped the type of EO professional I became,” she added.

As an adjunct instructor, Dillon said being selected by the U.S. Army Reserve Command to represent the Reserve Forces was an honor and truly set her apart from her peers.

Dillon took what she learned during her time at DEOMI and applied it within her assigned organization.

“Receiving the award provided recognition of my skills and hard work to service members inside and outside my command/organization. This award will motivate me to continuously improve my capabilities to share the Equal Opportunity Program's influence on mission accomplishment and readiness. Most importantly, I am more committed to making a positive impact and pushing the boundaries of what I thought was possible,” said Dillon.



Dillon stated that even though she was not expecting the award, it reaffirmed her commitment to promoting fairness, inclusivity, and equal opportunity for all Soldiers and Department of the Army Civilians within the force, regardless of their background.

She stated the award is a reminder of the impact she and her team has amongst senior, peer, and subordinate communities within her organization.

“[EO] is truly a team effort. I would not have received this award without the unwavering support of my leaders at the 84th Training Command (TC) and the 84th TC EO office, and for believing in and supporting my various initiatives,” added Dillon.

“We achieved something remarkable, and this recognition belongs to all of us,” she continued.

Outlined in the citation of her award, she is referred to as a “dynamic NCO committed to mission accomplishment and Soldier welfare,” an “influential advocate for promoting a culture of inclusiveness, respect, and diversity,” and “the face and voice of the EO program.” She is credited for creating a database that delivers modernized EO information accessibility, managing and allocating EO funds to four Divisions, and identifying risk factors impacting the readiness of 5,160 Soldiers.

Dillon’s achievement is a shining example of what can be accomplished when motivated leaders are equipped with a worldclass education that has been backed by decades of fact-based research and offers reach-back capabilities to ensure leaders remain experts in the field.

*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 more than 53,000 DEOMI military and civilian graduates.*

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