



DEOMI

Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute
CENTER OF EXCELLENCE



DEOMI, Melbourne City Leaders Clean Up Local Community

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

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PATRICK SPACE FORCE BASE, Fla.— Nearly 30 Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) staff, family members, and students volunteered for DEOMI’s Adopt-A-Road (AAR) cleanup session, Oct. 14, 2023, marking the largest session held since the institute reinstated the program in 2021.

“I am so grateful to have such an amazing team here at DEOMI,” said DEOMI Commandant, U.S. Navy Capt. Delmy Robinson. “The support of our staff and our students really does make a difference in our community.”

The City of Melbourne Mayor Paul Alfrey made a special guest appearance, during which he expressed his gratitude for DEOMI’s support and volunteerism in giving back to the community.

“We love our local partners,” said Alfrey. “Volunteering is good for the community and builds community spirit.”

To date, DEOMI volunteers have collected nearly 600 pounds of debris from the institute’s adopted road, which in July was officially marked with an AAR road sign bearing DEOMI’s new seal.



“We proudly support our community, and it is my hope that this sign – our seal – will inspire others to volunteer their time and energy. Together we can make a difference,” said Robinson.

“In the fiscal year 2023, 26 groups utilizing almost 400 volunteers participated in AAR clean ups. Those clean ups collected 435 bags equaling 8700 pounds of garbage,” said City of Melbourne Sanitation Monitor Adam Klapproth.

Klapproth, who has nearly 14 years with the City of Melbourne, stated that the AAR program and the organizations that support it provide direct positive impact to the local community.

“The obvious visible benefit of AAR is a cleaner community. The benefit that isn’t necessarily as easy to see is the positive effect AAR has on the health of the [Indian River Lagoon (IRL)]. This happens by preventing thousands of pounds of litter from reaching storm drains, which ultimately all lead to the IRL,” said Klapproth.

“Approximately 25 organizations participate in the AAR program. More volunteers are always needed. There are almost a dozen eligible roads that are still awaiting adoption,” added Klapproth.

Adopting a road is just one of several ways to show support to local communities. Just one hour spent picking up trash could prevent thousands of pieces of debris from entering and negatively impacting local ecosystems.



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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