

## Department of Defense 2024 Black History Month Posters

**Poster Description:** The Department of Defense’s 2024 Black History Month release consists of a three-poster series commemorating African Americans and the Arts. Each poster highlights a different, prominent African American artist.

The backgrounds for all three posters are similar and consist of an off-white background. A grey textured layer overlays the top third of the poster. Centered at the top of the poster is the observance theme in capitalized, black font, AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE ARTS.

Centered at each poster’s bottom in capitalized white font is the observance month and title spread across two lines. The first line reads, FEBRUARY IS. The second line begins and ends with a dash and reads, - BLACK HISTORY MONTH -. Beneath the observance month and title is a line of text highlighting the depicted artist. On the first poster the text reads, “featuring composer James Reese Europe.” On the second poster the text reads, “featuring band director Leonora Hull Brown.” On the third poster the text reads, “featuring artist Horace Pippin.”

At the poster’s bottom left corner are the seals for the Department of Defense and the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI). To the right of the seals is a symbol depicting a microphone. To the right of the microphone are two quick response codes (QR). When scanned with a mobile device the first QR will open an audio narration with this poster description. The second QR will direct an individual to DEOMI’s website, [www.deomi.mil](http://www.deomi.mil).

The first poster highlights composer First Lieutenant James Reese Europe from the 369th U.S. Infantry “Harlem Hellfighters.” At the poster’s center a tan, upper body silhouette of a “doughboy” wearing a Brodie steel helmet faces the viewer. Placed within the silhouette is the partial title cover of James Reese Europe’s sheet music held within the Library of Congress collection. Elements of this cover embellish the silhouette. Blue highlights of musical instruments decorate the uniform shoulders on the doughboy’s silhouette. A set of drums decorates the soldier’s right shoulder. Two brass horns and a clarinet decorate the soldier’s left shoulder. Partial capitalized blue text from an event program is spread across the doughboys steel helmet. The partial top text reads, “OD NIGHT ANGELIN” a representation of “Good Night Angeline.” Beneath, several lines of blue text read, “ADDISION AMUSEMENTS Inc. Presents, Lieut. JAMES REESE EUROPE and His Famous 369th U.S. INFANTRY “HELL FIGHTERS.” Beneath the steel helmet and across the silhouette’s face is a World War I photograph of Europe standing in front of his seated regimental band. All the members are in military uniform. An individual black and white photograph of First Lieutenant James Reese Europe in his military uniform is situated on the silhouette’s chin.

The second poster highlights Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) band director Private First Class Lenora Hull Brown. Brown was the teacher and leader of WAAC Band #2, an all-black female military band, later designated the 404th Armed Service Forces (ASF) WAAC band, the only all-black female band in U.S. military history. At the poster’s center is an upper body silhouette of Lenora Brown. Placed within the silhouette’s head is a black and white photograph of Brown conducting her all-black female band during a performance. Embedded within the silhouette’s shoulders is a second black and white photograph of the 404th ASF Band members standing in formation with their instruments. Overlaying

the silhouette on the right side is a third black and white photograph of PFC Lenora Hull Brown in military uniform.

The third poster highlights artist Horace Pippin who served as a private in K Company, 369th U.S. Infantry "Harlem Hellfighters" in World War I. At the poster's center is a side profile silhouette of a black man looking to the viewers left. Within the profile is a partial depiction of the artist's 1944 oil on canvass painting titled, "Harmonizing." The painting depicts four black men in an a cappella quartet standing and singing on a sidewalk in front of a tall wooden board fence. Blue sky is seen above the fence top.