JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (Feb. 20, 2018) Fleet Readiness Center Southeast Deputy for Logistics and Industrial Operations Don Dunlap, left, and Command Master Chief Donald Henderson, right, present retired Rear Adm. Annie Andrews with an FRCSE plaque in appreciation for her speaking at Naval Air Systems Command's Black History Month event.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Fleet Readiness Center Southeast was the site of Naval Air Systems Command's Black History Month Event on February 20.

Retired Rear Adm. Annie Andrews spoke at the event titled, “African Americans in Times of War,” at the officer’s club aboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville.

“Did you know African Americans were in uniform from the very beginning?” she said. “This included the American Revolution, the War of 1812 and the American Civil War.”

Andrews recounted acts of valor by individual service members, integrated units and all-black units throughout the history of the United States. She also spoke of her great uncle who was killed in Europe during World War II.

Andrews herself was the third African American female to become a flag officer in the United States Navy.

“I'm proud of African Americans’ – as well as all Americans’ – role in our military history, of
their selflessness, sacrifice and valor, and how far we’ve come as a nation,” she said.