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# Motivational Speaker to Celebrate Black History Month With Troops in Europe

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**David Moyer**

Contributor

Dr. Nathaniel J. Williams picked an interesting occasion for his first trip overseas: Black History Month.

The African-American motivational speaker and author is 46 but has never left the United States. That will change Feb. 15 when Williams leaves for a three-week trip to military bases in Europe and the Mediterranean to meet with soldiers and give talks.

Williams' trip will take him to several undisclosed locations in England, Kosovo, the Netherlands, Spain, Portugal and Italy to conduct seminars, sign autographs, pose for photos and, most important, to extend his gratitude to America's troops.

Black History Month is one of the reasons he's visiting, because nearly a quarter of the troops are African-American. But Williams admits he's a little different from the usual rock bands or celebrities typically sponsored by [Armed Forces Entertainment](#).

Still, he believes being different can help him make a difference.

"It's not standard," Williams told AOL News. "It's good for people to have fun, but AFE is recognizing that it's important to offer something different for the troops that can help them adjust to life after the service."

Williams may be African-American and his trip is, in part, connected with Black History Month, but he is stressing information that is universally useful.

"My talks center on what I call the five Rs: respect, response, resilience, recognition and renewal," Williams said, adding that his experience as a foster child gave him plenty of experience in learning the importance of all these skills.



Courtesy Dave Moser

In honor of Black History Month, Dr. Nathaniel J. Williams, a motivational speaker and author, will hold seminars at various military bases in Europe and the Mediterranean.

"People in the military have external things that promote these -- such as saluting an officer, but I think it's important to know what you will do when no one's watching. That's what defines you. We all need to gain that internal structure."

On the surface, Williams' seminar may not be the let off some steam event that some soldiers are hoping for, but he thinks the benefits may be longer term than the joys of just rocking out.

"A concert can be fun for a night," he said. "My goal is to give them information and have faith they can pull it out when they need it."

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