

Celebrate American diversity: Asian-American & Pacific Island Heritage, Bliss Hall event, Wed @ 5:30

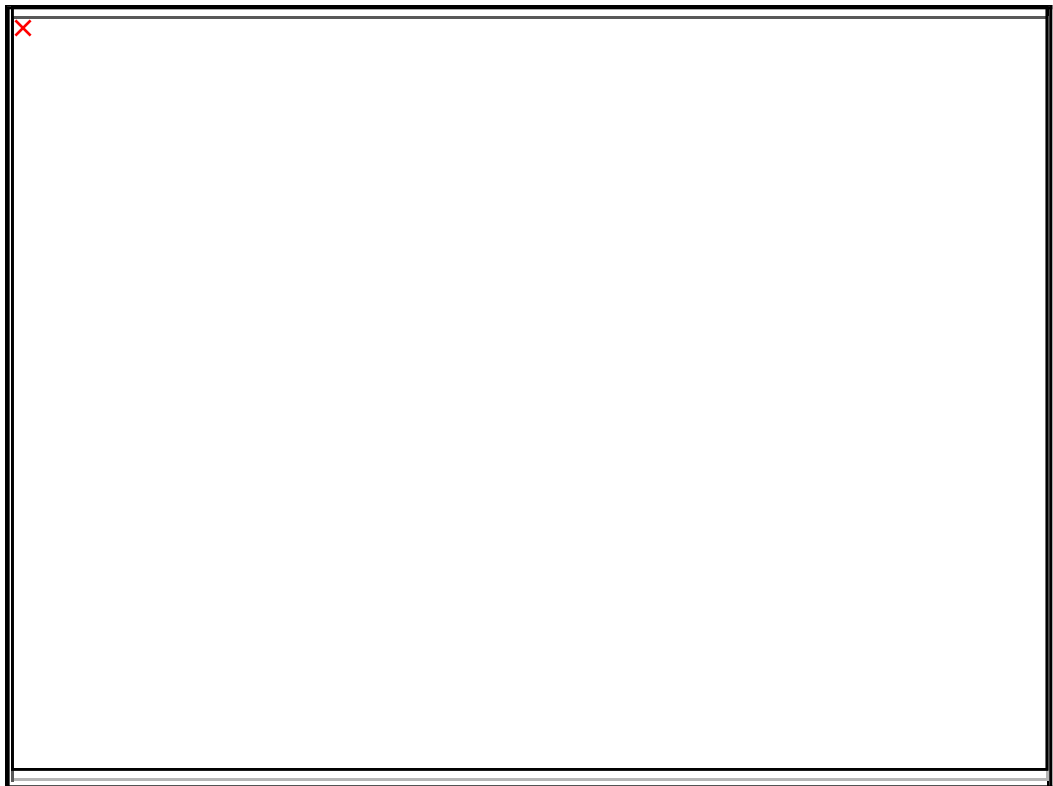
Celebrate American diversity: Asian-American & Pacific Island Heritage, Bliss Hall, Wed @ 5:30 p.m.

“Many cultures, One voice” The War College community partners with speaker, grade school artists, a dance troupe and cultural institute to explore the richness of heritage, promote equality and inclusion. The Sunshine Dance Club and the Chinese Culture and Art Institute will be featured elements of this year’s Asian American Pacific Islander

Heritage celebration on Carlisle Barracks, Bliss Hall, Wednesday, May 20 at 5:30 p.m.

Listen to Chinese folk songs characterized by refreshing and poetic tune of the southern China. This graceful and elegant dance shows off the beauty of southern China through their movements, according to the

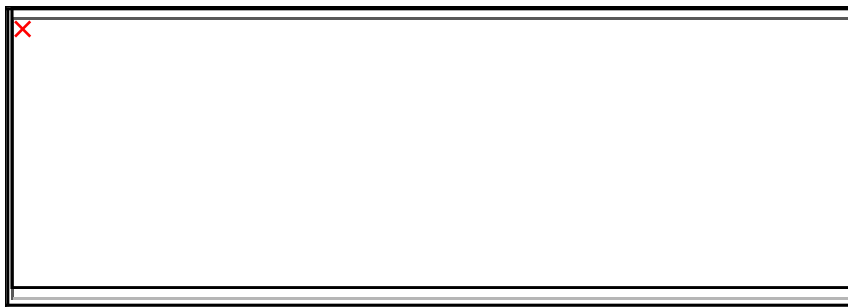
Sunshine Dance Club web site.



Army student Lt. Col. Joe DiNonno will welcome the community with a short introduction to the value and contributions of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders, before introducing a cross-section of art, culture, and words in a 90-min program that includes food sampling.

Keynote speaker for this year is retired Brig. Gen. James Hirai, Army War College Class of 1995. Now Deputy Director of The Daniel K. Inouye Asian Pacific Center for Security Studies, Hirai joined APCSS in April 2006 after retiring from active duty in the U.S. Army. His experience in the Asia-Pacific region includes serving as commander of U.S. Army Alaska; chief of staff U.S. Army Pacific; commander of the U. S. Army Garrison, Hawaii. He holds a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Hawaii and a master's degree in education from Troy State University.

Award-winning artists from area grade schools will be honored for their depictions of Asian-American/ Pacific Islander heritage. Carlisle Barracks and the Strategic Studies Institute sponsored an art contest for pre-school to 5th Grade students from Carlisle Area School District and for participants in the Carlisle Barracks Child and Youth Services Program. Children were invited to create a painting or drawing using any medium that depicts an aspect of Asian-Pacific Heritage from four categories: History, Sports, Nature, and Culture. As part of the entry, artists submitted a 50-75 word description of their project that explains what it is and why it is significant to



Asian Pacific Heritage.

The theme for the May 2015 Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is "Many Cultures, One Voice: Promote Equality and Inclusion."

Congress passed a joint Congressional Resolution in 1978 to commemorate APAHW during the first week of May. This date was chosen because two important anniversaries occurred during this time: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants in America in 1843 and the completion of the transcontinental railroad.