

Celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

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CDR Jeremy Hyler, CDR Villanueva Blandino, Col. Daryl Devera-Waden, and Mr. Lennard Misajon

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May marked the end of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, a time to celebrate the impact AAPI's have made to our great country. They have contributed and distinguished themselves in all walks of life, including the U.S. Armed Services. Nearly 59,000 Soldiers who identify as Asian American/Pacific Islanders serve in the Total Force. The contributions and achievements of individuals of Asian/Pacific Islander descent illustrate the strength of a diverse Army.

Listen to CDR Jeremy Hyler, CDR Villanueva Blandino, Col. Daryl Devera-Waden, and Mr. Lennard Misajon as they talk about their respective military careers, heritage, family members currently serving and who have served in the armed services. Asian Americans' contributions during WWII and the Korean War. They also touched on the importance of coaching and mentoring young military personnel and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Please see the link of to the right.

Asian and Pacific Islander American warriors have served in America's Army since the Civil War. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the all Japanese-American unit from WWII, is still one of the most highly decorated units in military history. This distinguished unit earned 9,485 Purple Hearts, eight Presidential Unit Citations, and 21 of its members were awarded Medals of Honor. In October 2017, Congress awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to Filipino veterans of World War II in honor of 260,000 Filipinos who fought alongside American forces during the war.

May was chosen as the observance month to commemorate the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States on May 10, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the transcontinental railroad completion on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks of that nation-unifying railway were Chinese immigrants.