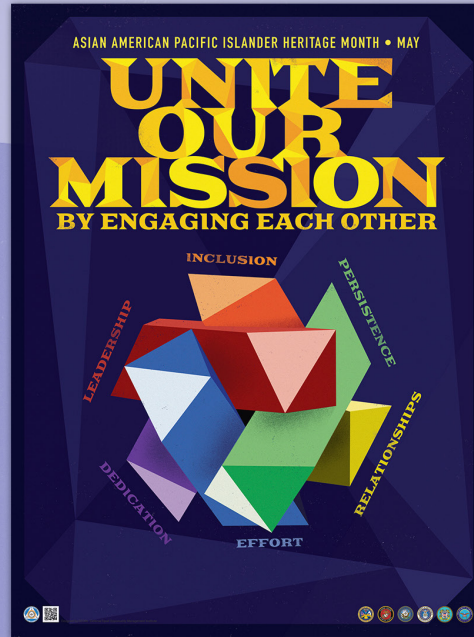


CULTURAL  
AWARENESS



# OBSERVANCE

ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH • MAY



## FACTS

The theme for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) month is, “Unite our Mission by Engaging Each Other.” It focuses on leadership, engagement, and other essential skills for advancing the AAPI community.

The month of May is designated to recognize the achievements and valuable contributions by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States in 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869, by primarily Chinese immigrants.

Those of Asian American and Pacific Islander descent make up over 5 percent of the total uniformed military force.

A rather broad term, Asian-Pacific encompasses all the Asian continent and the Pacific Islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji, and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, and the Federal States of Micronesia), and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Island, and Easter Island).

AAPI's represent over 30 countries and ethnic groups that speak over 100 different languages.

### For additional reading:

Lee, E. (2015). *The making of Asian America: A history*.  
New York : Simon & Schuster.