



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
CAMP JOSEPH T. ROBINSON
NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72199-9600



ASA HUTCHINSON
GOVERNOR

KENDALL W. PENN
MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

NGAR-HRO-EEM

16 April 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR All Arkansas National Guard Personnel

SUBJECT: 2021 Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

1. May is designated as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. This year's theme is **"Advancing Leaders Through Purpose-Driven Service."** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, The Arkansas National Guard will not be conducting any speaking events, but we do encourage you to take this opportunity to educate yourselves individually on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders' contributions and influence to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States.
2. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders encompass more than 50 ethnic groups, including native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders. Since the War of 1812, they have served honorably in every American conflict; twenty-one of the twenty-four Medal of Honor recipients during WWII were Japanese Americans. The service and dedication that they continue to give today is invaluable, and we will continue to honor it by remaining an organization dedicated to diversity and inclusion for all.
3. Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month was introduced in the House of Representatives in June 1978. This joint resolution was passed by the House and Senate, and was later signed by the President on October 5, 1978. This law directed the President to declare a seven-day period, beginning May 4, 1979, as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week." It wasn't until 1992 that Congress designated May as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month." Let's all take the time to truly appreciate the diversity we have here in America, and I strongly encourage everyone to research and celebrate the contributions made by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to our country.
4. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact CW2 Patrick Jacob at 501-212-4222 or DSN 962-4222.

KENDALL W. PENN
Major General
The Adjutant General

**ADVANCING
LEADERS
THROUGH
PURPOSE-DRIVEN
SERVICE**



**ASIAN AMERICAN
PACIFIC ISLANDER
HERITAGE MONTH
MAY**

