





**Asian Pacific American Heritage Month:
Building Leadership: Embracing Cultural Values and Inclusion
1-31 May 2013**

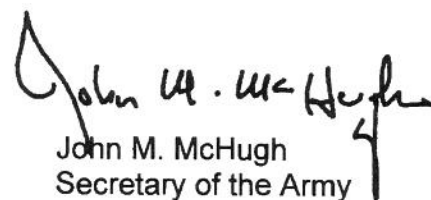
Every May, we celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month to acknowledge all that our great Nation has gained from our Asian and Pacific American communities. From those early days of labor on our railroads and farms, through the many wars of the past two centuries, to the entrepreneurial spirit of today's leaders in every sector of American life, Asian and Pacific Americans have contributed rich chapters of struggle and success to our collective story.

As Army Soldiers, Civilians and Families, we know personally the significant contributions of our brothers and sisters in arms who have helped to build and defend this country. We share a long history with Asian and Pacific Americans who have served valiantly and led at every level of America's Army – from the Civil War here to subsequent wars in lands across the globe. Our Nation has been strengthened and enriched by embracing the cultural diversity of these communities. And, we have benefitted from the leadership of great Soldiers like General (Retired) Eric Shinseki, our first Asian American four-star general and 34th Chief of Staff of the Army, and Lieutenant General Thomas Bostick, who serves today as the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These great Americans, and so many other Asian and Pacific American Soldiers and Civilians, clearly show that leadership excellence combined with our value of inclusiveness are what make us "Army Strong."

We are truly grateful for the lasting contributions and many sacrifices of our Asian and Pacific American Soldiers, Civilians and Family members. As we celebrate this month, we encourage our entire Army Family to honor them through commemorative activities that celebrate the many wonderful and diverse cultures of the Asian continent and the Pacific Islands and the people who brought them to the United States and our Army.


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Sergeant Major of the Army


Raymond T. Odierno
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