



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

MAY - 4 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Department of Defense 2018 Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
Observance

The Department of Defense (DoD) joins the Nation in observance of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month during the month of May. Asian American ancestry spans all of Asia, including the Indian Subcontinent. Pacific Islanders' origins range from Hawaii, Guam, and Samoa, to other Pacific Islands. Together with the Nation, DoD celebrates and honors the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the strength and defense of the United States.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have supported the U.S. military throughout our Nation's history. Over the course of this time, more than 30 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have earned the Medal of Honor.

Today, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders remain integral to the fortitude of the DoD. Serving both in the military and civilian sector, these patriotic Americans represent more than 160,000 members of DoD's Total Force.

During this commemorative month, DoD personnel are encouraged to celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage and the many contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the strength, security, and progress of the United States. Mr. Norvel Dillard is the DoD point of contact for this observance and can be reached by telephone at (703) 614-3397, or by email at norvel.l.dillard.civ@mail.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Barna".

Stephanie Barna
Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of
Defense for Personnel and Readiness

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