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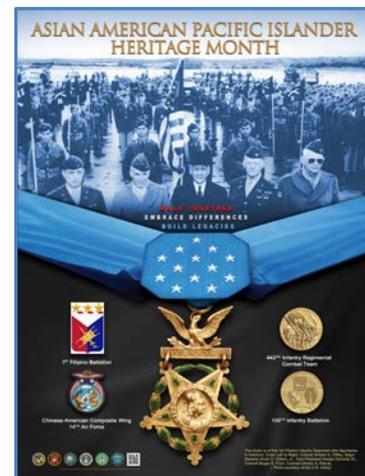
NEWS RELEASE

DEOMI RELEASES 2016 ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH POSTER:

March 17, 2016

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – In observance of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, celebrated each year during the month of May; the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) proudly announces the posting of original artwork available for download from DEOMI's public website, www.deomi.org. Each year, Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month recognizes the challenges faced by Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians and their vital impact to the American story.

To highlight the accomplishments of Asian American Pacific Islanders and their contributions to the DoD, the Medal of Honor (MOH) is the focal point for the poster. Recognizing the 33 Asian Americans who have been awarded the Medal of Honor: one from the Philippine-American War (Moro Resistance), one for the only MOH earned in peacetime, 24 from World War II, four from the Korean War, and three from the Vietnam War.



Despite segregation, discrimination, and even their incarceration during World War II, Asian American/Pacific Islanders have stepped forward and fought for their country against tyranny. Representing the largest contributing Asian American Pacific Islander groups includes: members of the famed 1st Filipino Infantry Regiment, 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT), 100th Infantry Battalion, and the Chinese-American Composite Wing (CACW) (Flying Tigers).

Depicted on the poster is a photo of the 1st Filipino Infantry Regiment with dignitaries in forefront. From Left to Right: Colonel Offley, Major General Alvan Cullom Gillem, Jr., Vice President Osmena, Colonel Fitch, Colonel Pierce. (Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army)

Surrounding the MOH in the design are a unit insignia, patch, and medallions from the aforementioned units having a demonstrated legacy of excellence in military service.

Brief history on units featured in the design: The 1st Filipino Infantry Regiment was a segregated United States Army Infantry Regiment made up of Filipino Americans from the continental United States and a few veterans of the Battle of the Philippines that saw combat during World War II. It was formed and activated at Camp San Luis Obispo, California, under the auspices of the California National Guard.

Originally created as a battalion, it was declared a regiment on 13 July 1942. Deployed initially to New Guinea in 1944, it became a source of manpower for Special Forces and units that would serve in occupied territories.

The 442 RCT was the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in the history of American warfare. The 4,000 men who initially made up the unit in April 1943 had to be replaced nearly 2.5 times. In total, about 14,000 men served, earning 9,486 Purple Hearts, eight Presidential Unit Citations (5 earned in one month), and 21 of its members were awarded MOHs. The Regimental motto was "Go for Broke."

The CACW members of the famed “Flying Tigers,” could claim the destruction of 190 Japanese aircraft in air-to-air combat, and 301 more on the ground. The fighters and bombers of the CACW destroyed at least 1,500 Japanese vehicles and sunk several hundred thousand tons of Japanese merchant and naval shipping.

In addition they took a heavy toll on Japanese ground troops, facilities, railroads and bridges. Not a single CACW bomber was lost to enemy fighters, a tribute to the abilities of the Wing's B-25 aircrews, and the quality of the escort protection provided by the Wing's fighter pilots.

This May, the Federal Asian Pacific American Council theme for Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month is “*Walk Together, Embrace Differences, Build Legacies.*”

Please note that you may download this hi-resolution image file by clicking the “download’ link below the thumbnail image to access this poster on our website and take it to your preferred printing facility for display in your organization or use during your special observance programs. All DEOMI special observance poster images are of a high enough quality to print posters up to 30 X 40 inches. DEOMI does not have the capability to print posters and mail them out to customers upon request.

In addition, please check out our website for a wide variety of new products we’ve prepared to help our EO/EEO professionals in the field with their support of the special observance and awareness months, in addition to the standard poster, PowerPoint, and Facts of the Day items previously used.

Here are just a few of the upgrades we are working on at the present time.

- Templates that are easily tailored by the user to meet their specific organizational needs.
- Themed Mini-poster with facts.
- Themed Mini-poster templates.
- Information Database (facts, quotes, photos, etc.) which can be used in a variety of ways.
- Themed Invitation/Thank You card template.
- Generic Thank You card template.
- Themed Activity Book.
- Themed Book Mark.

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