

COMMAND TOPICS

May 2024 - "Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage"

Join us as we continue to enjoy and educate ourselves through a diverse assortment of literature, media, art, film, music and more. The intent of the Command Topics is to help further develop an awareness and understanding of diverse and inclusive topics within our unique community.

Each month the Command topics features a new theme or focus that highlights a particular group, topic or perspective, so make sure to check out previous Command Topics by visiting <https://cascom.army.mil/diversity/>

WHAT ARE WE ...

ISLAND SOLDIER follows members of the Nena family from one of the most remote islands in the world to the training grounds of Texas and the battlefields in Afghanistan. The death of Sapuro "Sapp" Nena in Afghanistan makes waves through his tiny home island of Kosrae - where nearly everyone is connected to the U.S. Military directly or through family members. In an attempt to heal from his own deep wounds, Sapuro's best friend in the Army, Mario Robles, heads to Kosrae with his family to meet Sapp's parents for the first time and pay his respects on Veteran's Day. It is an emotional gathering of two families, from opposite sides of the world, brought together by loss, love and honor. A remote archipelago of hundreds of tiny volcanic islands in the western Pacific, The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is an independent nation of 100,000 citizens, and a protectorate of the United States. In recent years, the country has become a "recruiter's paradise" for the U.S. military, especially since 9/11. Yet they have lost five times more soldiers, per capita, than any U.S. state. The film captures a tightly knit island community — a microcosm of economic, social and political change, as the high price for military service in a foreign nation's wars cuts deep. Through an intricate weave of the personal journeys undertaken by Pacific Islander soldiers, the film illustrates a larger story of a remote region whose interests are caught in the ever-changing tides of international politics. ISLAND SOLDIER asks challenging questions while offering viewers a unique perspective on a globalized world. Who are these virtually unknown foreign soldiers fighting America's wars? What does it mean for the United States to use, and practically discard, foreign citizens from their military? What happens to Micronesian veterans, and their families, when they return home and cannot access their benefits (healthcare, treatment for PTSD, loans, etc)? What is the future of these islands that exist at the mercy of foreign superpowers and strategic military interests?

WATCHING



READING



Asians and Pacific Islanders and the Civil War

In the last several decades, a small group of historians, researchers, writers, and Civil War enthusiasts have begun to recover the stories of these forgotten warriors – the Asians and Pacific Islanders who fought in the Civil War. How many others have slipped into obscurity without acknowledgment of their contribution to this nation's history? Lack of documentation makes it difficult to find these men, but researchers have identified several hundred soldiers and sailors who served from Asia and the Pacific Islands. Some fought for the Union and some for the Confederacy. There are, perhaps, many more. Take a journey to learn more about these brave souls!

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Podcast

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvHGkSlffsA>

Listen to CDR Jeremy Hyler, CDR Villanueva Blandino, Col. Daryl Devera-Waden, and Mr. Lennard Misajon as they talk about their respective military careers, heritage, family members currently serving and who have served in the armed services. Asian Americans' contributions during WWII and the Korean War. They also touched on the importance of coaching and mentoring young military personnel and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

LISTENING

