



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



May 2, 2011

Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month

"I grew up in an environment where it didn't matter what your ethnic group was, what your gender was, what your socio-economic background was or what country you or your parents were from. I am an example of a world that will allow you to work without obstruction to achieve your personal and professional goals."

– Rear Adm. Eleanor Valentin, commander, Navy Medicine Support Command and director, Navy Medical Service Corps

[Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month](#) originated in June 1977 when President Jimmy Carter signed a joint resolution designating the first 10 days of May as Asian and Pacific Heritage Week. In 1992, the month of May was officially designated as Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month. With a theme of “Diversity, Leadership, Empowerment and Beyond,” this month celebrates the heritage of the more than 13 million Asian and Pacific Americans in the United States and the contributions of Asian Pacific Americans throughout our nation’s history.

Recognizing Diversity

The strength of the Navy lies in the breadth of human experience of its people. There are more than 35,000 uniformed personnel combined in the active and Reserve component and more than 29,000 civilians of Asian and Pacific American heritage who serve in the Navy’s total force. Some notable Asian and Pacific Americans in our Navy include:

- [Rear Adm. Eleanor Valentin](#), the first female director of the Navy Medical Service Corps and recipient of the 2010 [National Women of Color Technologist of the Year award](#).
- [Cmdr. Michael V. Misiewicz](#), commanding officer of USS Mustin (DDG 89), who in December 2010 arrived in Sihanoukville, Cambodia, for training with the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, his first visit to his native country since he immigrated to the United States in 1973.
- Dr. Ying Xia of Naval Undersea Warfare Center and Capt. Jon Hill of Naval Sea Systems Command, recipients of the 2011 [Asian American Engineer of the Year](#) awards.

Engaging in Diversity Outreach – Highlighting Achievements

Each year, the Navy’s [sustained outreach efforts](#) connect with a variety of populations. Events highlighting the achievements of Asian and Pacific Americans this year include:

- [Federal Asian Pacific American Council](#) National Training Conference, May 9-13, Bellevue, Wash.
- [Asian American Government Executives Network](#) Leadership Conference, June 9, Arlington, Va.
- [Japanese American Citizens League](#) National Convention, July 7-11, Los Angeles
- [National Association of Asian American Professionals](#) Convention, Aug. 11-13, Boston
- [Asian Heritage Awards](#), Aug. 20, San Diego
- [Who’s Who in Asian American Communities](#) Alliance Conference, Oct. 21, Atlanta

Key Messages

- To be an effective fighting force, relevant to the nation’s population and credible to the people it serves, the Navy must reflect the nation at all levels, including top leadership.
- The Navy employs top-performing Sailors and civilians whose diverse backgrounds, experiences and skills are necessary to meet today’s challenges.
- The Navy supports the [Naval Officer Mentorship Association](#), an affinity group that fosters the mentorship of Asian and Pacific American officers in the sea services.

Facts & Figures

- Nine admirals, 11 members of the senior executive service and 187 master chief petty officers of Asian and Pacific American heritage are currently leading the Navy.
- More than 340,000 veterans of Asian and Pacific American heritage make up approximately 1.5 percent of the 23 million American veterans.
- A history of notable Asian and Pacific Americans in the Navy’s history can be found at the Navy History and Heritage Command website at <http://www.history.navy.mil/special%20highlights/Asian/Asian-index.htm>