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U.S. Army Soldiers Celebrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month at Fort Shafter

In celebration of heritage and community, soldiers under the U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) Headquarters Battalion (HHBn) and their families came together to honor Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month. The event, held at Fort Shafter, was marked by a deep sense of family, cultural pride, and connection to roots.

The gathering was led by Battalion Commander, LTC Rachel S. Rysaac and CSM Brian D. Seager, on behalf of Gen. Charles A. Flynn, Commanding General of USARPAC. Their warm and inclusive leadership set the tone for an event that felt like a family gathering, honoring the rich tapestry of AANHPI cultures.

Master Sergeant Solomua Tiliaia-Comstock, a native of American Samoa, served as the Master of Ceremonies. Her engaging presence and heartfelt commentary brought a personal touch to the event, reflecting the close-knit community spirit that defined the day.

The Honorable Lt. Governor La'apui Talauega E.V. Ale attended the celebration and emphasized the crucial role service members and their families play in both military and local communities.

The event featured traditional music, dance performances, and a variety of cultural displays that showcased the diverse richness of AANHPI cultures. Soldiers and their families were treated to dances from the Philippines, Hawaii, Tonga, Tahiti, Aotearoa, Fiji and Samoa. Each sharing was a testament to the traditions that continue to thrive within the AANHPI community.

Food also played a central role in the celebration, with a diverse array of dishes from across Asia and the Pacific. Soldiers and attendees enjoyed a variety of native cuisines which created a feast that was both a culinary and cultural journey.

This event was more than a tribute to heritage; it was a reaffirmation of the bonds that tie the U.S. Army community together, transcending cultural backgrounds and uniting everyone in a shared sense of purpose and respect for one another's histories.

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