

Station hosts cultural celebration

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MCAS Yuma

The Asian/Pacific Islander Day ceremony was held on station in the Gonzalez Room at the Sonoran Pueblo here, May 8.

The ceremony brought government officials from across town together to celebrate these people.

“This year there were four major organizations from the Yuma area that participated,” said Cookie Pearson, co-chairman for this year’s celebration. “We had participants from (Marine Corps Air Station Yuma), Yuma Proving Grounds, Kofa National Wildlife Refuge and U.S. Customs and Border Patrol.”

The celebration started off with some opening remarks from Col. Ben D. Hancock, MCAS Yuma,

commanding officer.

After the opening remarks Hui’ O’ Hawaii, a social club for Hawaiians, performed a couple native Hawaiian dances for the gathered crowd.

“The dancers were great,” said Army Col. Johnny Bullington, commanding officer, Yuma Proving Grounds. “They really helped accentuate the feeling of the day.”

This year the celebration was a little different than in the past.

“This year we wanted to showcase some of the different clothing of the Asian and Pacific regions,” said Pearson. “We represented Japan, China, the Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand in the fashion show.”

“This year’s celebration was great,” said Bullington. “This year they held a fashion show which was great; it really showed the



Photo by Lance Cpl. Brian J. Holloran

Government officials at the Asian Pacific Islander ceremony grab some food from the buffet before the fashion show begins May 8 at the Gonzalez Room at the Sonoran Pueblo here. The ceremony honored both the culture and the people by highlighting their clothes and customs.

diversity of the region.”

Even with all these events to entertain, in the end the day was really about the people that are being celebrated, said Pearson.

“This day was all about celebrating the people,” said Bullington. “It’s kind of a way to let them know that we appreciate both the culture and the people.”