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Hispanic Heritage Month Special Edition
15 September – 15 October 2007

Association of Naval Services Officers
P.O. Box 150652, Alexandria, VA 22315
www.ansomil.org

Message from the National President

CAPT Kathelene Contres, USN

Hola mis compadres,
Happy Cinco de Mayo. Oops, I'm a little early for that one.... I hope most of you have had the opportunity to participate in the Hispanic American Heritage events over the past month. These are terrific opportunities to educate our non-Hispanic friends and co-workers about our cultures—and we Hispanics have quite a few different cultures that we can celebrate!! Have you ever wondered what you should say when you're asked to speak at an event? When I go out on the speaking circuit, I like to keep the events as informative as possible. If the forum allows for it, I try to give others in the audience an opportunity to share their lives and their stories as well. Another thing I like to do is give a little history quiz to see how much we know about our heritage. I also challenge the leaders in the audience to continue the dialogue when they go back to their spaces. You never know what hidden talents and experiences your co-workers might bring to the table unless you ask. If you get the opportunity to go out and speak at the Hispanic Heritage events, try to involve your audience as much as possible. Keep it lively and upbeat. You'll find that they'll come back for more information if you engage them from the beginning. By the way, did you know that www.DEOMI.org has valuable presentations and posters available for your use—free of charge?

National Hispanic Heritage Month

This year's national theme is: "Hispanic Americans: Making a Positive Impact on American Society."

From September 15 to October 15 of each year, America honors the many contributions Hispanic Americans have made and continue to make to our nation by observing National Hispanic Heritage Month. The Hispanic people were among the earliest settlers in the New World. Many Hispanic Americans trace their roots back 400 years to the cultures of the indigenous peoples of the Americas, including the Arawaks (Puerto Rico), the Aztecs (Mexico), the Incas (South America), the Mayas (Central America), and the Tainos (Cuba).

Today about ten percent or 26 million people in the United States are of Hispanic origin.

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ANSO National Board of Directors Strategic Planning Meeting

ANSO Mission

To assist officer recruitment and retention efforts in the Hispanic Community; support and nurture our junior enlisted personnel desiring to apply for Officer programs; and foster the professional growth and development of Hispanic Sea Services personnel through mentoring, networking, training, and educational programs.

The Association of Naval Services Officers National Board of Directors met in Little Creek, VA from September 12-14, 2007 for the Annual Strategic Planning Meeting. During the meeting, Board members accomplished the following activities:

- Reaffirmed the Association's mission, vision, and guiding principles
- Conducted SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) and created SMART objectives (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time) for our six national strategies: Membership, Community Outreach, Education, Diversity, Resources, and Communication
- Updated the 1-year plan and initiated development of a 3-year plan
- The ANSO Chapter of Norfolk briefed their progress on the 2008 National Symposium

The planning meeting culminated with a Hispanic Heritage Month luncheon which was hosted by the ANSO Chapter of Norfolk. The luncheon's keynote speaker was RDML Janice Hamby, Director of Global Operations for Naval Network Warfare Command. RDML Hamby spoke about the importance of diversity in the Sea Services and the significant contributions Hispanics have made not only to the Sea Services, but to the rest of the world. After RDML Hamby's keynote address, ANSO signed a Partnership Agreement with the American GI Forum and bestowed its prestigious Honorary Membership on Ms. Alma Riojas, President and CEO of MANA. [Full article on ANSO Chapter of Norfolk's Hispanic Heritage Celebration.](#)

2008 ANSO Symposium

The 28th Annual Association of Naval Services Officers professional Development & Training Symposium will take place from April 28, 2008 - May 3, 2008. The 28th Annual Symposium's theme is Hispanic Americans: Making a Positive impact on American Society. The Symposium will be held at the Drexler Conference Center onboard the Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek in Virginia Beach, VA.

For more information about the Symposium please contact LCDR Mark Venzor, 2008 Symposium Chairman, at usna1997@sbcglobal.net or www.ansomil.org.

Hispanic Heritage Month Activities

2007 Hispanic Heritage Month has been a very busy time for members of ANSO. Almost every member of ANSO in one way or another participated in Hispanic Heritage Month activities to include; celebrations, forums, and conferences. Some highlights of these activities follow...



The [Latin American Studies Club \(LASC\)](#) was formed to cultivate the appreciation of diversity at the Naval Academy. LASC provides the brigade with opportunities to learn about the political and cultural differences of the various Latino communities attending the Naval Academy. They not only act as a support group and mentor to Hispanic Midshipmen, but also provide a source of information where all Midshipmen can learn about Hispanic culture and the Spanish language.

LASC coordinated a number of Hispanic Heritage activities on the yard: Hispanic Heritage month themed poster in the Nimitz Library-Coffee Mess, Brigade Hispanic Heritage Month Luncheon in King Hall, Hispanic Military Contribution Forum, and their Annual Hispanic Heritage Month dinner.



NCCM Jose Velazquez, Fleet Career Counselor for US Fleet Forces and ANSO's Navy Senior Enlisted Advisor, served as a keynote speaker for the following Hispanic Heritage celebrations: USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN 75), CNATTU Norfolk, FMC Norfolk, TSC Hampton Roads, Second Fleet, and HSC-4. He expressed the same message in all his speeches; celebrating Hispanic Heritage, and our diversity, allows the USA to remain the most powerful nation in the world.

ANSO Vision

We are a professional organization, the acknowledged leader in recruiting, developing, and retaining high-quality Hispanics in the Sea Services, continuously harnessing the strength of a diverse workforce to optimize readiness in defense of our nation, and to positively influence the Hispanic Community.

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Congratulations / Felicitaciones

2007 HENAAC Awards



CAPT Jose "Pepe" Castillo (r), ANSO National Executive Vice President, was selected for promotion to Rear Admiral Lower Half.

CAPT Kathlene Contres (c), ANSO National President, received the Santiago Rodriguez Diversity Award from HENAAC on October 12, 2007.

MIDN 2/C Jennifer Velasquez (np) received HENAAC's Service Academy Cadet Role Model award from for her outstanding contributions to Hispanic heritage at the Naval Academy.

2007 Navy College Bowl Team



Navy College Bowl Team, coached by **LT Paul Rojas** and **ENS Nancy Tran**, finished second amongst a group of 28 other highly competitive teams. The second place finish was the highest finish by any military sponsored team in the College Bowl's eight year history. **CDR Dan Garcia** and **LT Michael Files** served as the College Bowl judges. Full article on page 6.

Greater Cleveland Chapter Members



Congratulations to the following chapter presidents and chapters who have received authorizations to establish chapters...

SKC David Alvarez and *the Greater Cleveland ANSO Chapter*
LT Monica Guy and *the Seaman Apprentice William R. Flores ANSO Chapter (Los Angeles/Long Beach, CA)*

Professional Development

A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower

"Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower" was presented by the Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandants of the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Coast Guard at the International Seapower Symposium in Newport, R.I. on Oct 17, 2007.

The result of over a year's work, this new enduring strategy will apply maritime power to the crucial responsibility of protecting U.S. vital interests in an increasingly interconnected and uncertain world.

Signed for the first time by the service chiefs of all three sea services, the strategy draws the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard even closer together in working to protect and sustain the American Way of Life.

"The strategy focuses on opportunities - not threats; on optimism - not fear; and on confidence - not doubt. It recognizes the challenges imposed by the uncertain conditions in a time of rapid change and makes the case for the necessity of U.S. seapower in the 21st Century."

For more information on "A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower" please log onto the following website www.navy.mil/maritime/MaritimeStrategy.pdf.

Coast Guard Academy's Hispanic Employee Program



The United States Coast Guard Academy held its annual Hispanic Heritage Month celebration on Friday October 19th, 2007 in the Leamy Hall Ballroom. This year's program was sponsored by the Coast Guard Academy's Hispanic Employee Program led by the CGA HEP Manager and ANSO National MAA, CWO Jorge Cortes. The luncheon included a delicious buffet menu of authentic Hispanic American cuisine followed by entertainment and a guest speaker. 3/c Cadet Christopher Salinas sang a song from Los Lonely Boys. MU1 Megan Sesma, Principal Harpist, and other Coast Guard Band members, Lisa Williamson, soprano, Robert McEwan, percussion and Elizabeth Jackson, flute, and guest violinist Lisa Gray, performed Alberto Ginastera's Cantos del Tucumán. The guest speaker was the Coast Guard Academy's Chief of the English Composition & Literature Section, Professor Jose B. Gonzalez who discussed the Role of Poetry in Latino History. Prof Gonzalez has been the recipient of such honors as Connecticut's Higher Education Multicultural Faculty of the Year Award and has published poetry in various journals and anthologies including Latino Boom: An Anthology of U.S. Latino Literature, which he also co-edited.

Navy Team Finishes Second in HENAAC College Bowl



The Navy team placed second during the annual HENAAC College Bowl held at the Town and Country Hotel October 11th - 13th. The Navy team beat out twenty six other teams to finish behind Northrop Grumman Alpha in the eighth annual event.

The competition involved students from colleges and universities throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. Prestigious companies such as Boeing, IBM, Northrop Grumman, and Chevron were present, as well as representatives from different branches of the military. Students were recruited by the companies present to join their respective teams during an interview portion Thursday night before the competition officially began. The selection process was similar to a sports draft where companies were ranked to determine what order they got their selections. After two rounds, all teams were determined and the first event began.

The competition consisted of five different activities including resume writing, skits, and trivia. The goal was to have the students work together as a team after just meeting, similar to situations in the real world, and come up with ideas and be able to present them effectively. Coaches were present to help the students brainstorm and come up with different ideas, but the presentations were given only by the students.

This year's team consisted of Jose Cervantes, Juan Perez, and Miguel Medina from California State University, Los Angeles; Adriana Melendez and Marta Rosa-Ramos from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez; Jesus Alvarez from San Jose State; Mangai Prabakar from the University of Miami; Matthew Sonstegard from California State University, Fresno; and Joe Ortiz from the University of California, Merced. The team was coached by LT Raul Rojas and ENS Nancy Tran of Navy Recruiting District San Diego.

From the National Membership Chair

LT Delmy Cordon, USN

If you are interested in becoming a member, renewing your membership, or your contact information needs to be updated please contact me at delmy.cordon@patrick.af.mil.