



La Ola

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WINTER ISSUE

ANSO at the HACU National Conference

Lt. Cmdr. Rich Angelet (Coast Guard Diversity Directorate/HSI Liaison) and Lt. Cmdr. Rodney Rios attended the HACU Conference in October. In attendance were 500+ college students from HIS across the nation. We partnered with the local recruiting office to support recruitment efforts. I also facilitated a student breakout Session "How TO Sabotage Your Career without Knowing it". A very well attended breakout session, we addressed students on making lasting impressions, interview techniques, and performance, and professionalism in the workplace.



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NIP Navy Leadership Award

Congratulations to Cmdr. Albert Angel for receiving the Naval Intelligence Personnel Award for Exceptional Leadership in Providing Excellence in Operational Intelligence in Support to the Fleet! The Navy League presents the annual Sea Services Awards to officer and enlisted service members as well as civilian members of the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine for outstanding personal contributions that advance the logistic readiness and competence of the sea services. The awards are presented at the Navy League's annual National Convention.



Letter from the President

Hola mis Compadres y Comadres,

¡Feliz Navidad y Prospero Nuevo Año! Time sure flies by quickly! The 2014 Holiday Season is now upon us, and I hope and pray that everyone has kept the holiday spirit in his or her thoughts, words and deeds throughout this past year! Please keep praying for those who cannot be with their loved ones and those who are in harm's way during this blessed season. Thank you all for what you do on a daily basis to make this world a better place to live, and thank you all for your continuing service!

I am pleased to report that we have made great strides in making our ANSO a better organization that works for all concerned! Our Chapters and our Members were fully engaged during Hispanic Heritage Month, helping our Shipmates and our communities in many ways. Further, we have completed our first year of successful Mentoring and Career Management Symposiums. Doing our "main thing" in our symposiums and in our local community outreach is making ANSO the "organization of choice". Thank you!



Planning continues for our 2015 periodic one-day regional Mentoring and Career Management Symposiums with our next one scheduled for the February / March 2015 time frame at the NAS Pensacola, FL O'Club. If you are located in the Central Region, please start planning now to attend this symposium - you have my reassurance that you will not be disappointed! Our summer symposium is being planned for the June 2015 time frame for the Western Region in Alameda, CA, and our fall symposium is being planned for the 8th of September 2015 in Norfolk, VA. If you attended one of our past one-day symposiums, I am sure you will agree with me that they are well worth attending! We continue to focus on YOU, as well as our successes as Sea Service Hispanics. Please pass the word to our Shipmates!

Please do not forget that, as the National President of ANSO, I can recommend up to five NROTC Scholarship Immediate Scholarship Recommendations per year to the Commander of the Navy Recruiting Command. Applications are due to me by the end of January!

I invite you to visit our website. It continues to be improved, and we have incorporated a Webinar capability that is being used for our monthly BOD meetings and our seminars.

Once again, I am looking for nominations to elect a number of our National ANSO BOD Officers. Please consider giving back to your Hispanic Sea Service Shipmates by stepping up to one of these positions. Your tenure on the board will be rewarding and fulfilling! Further BOD position information and voting information will be posted on our website.

All the best! Keep charging ahead – ¡Adelante con ANSO! WE ARE The Premier Hispanic Organization of the Sea Services – "Building Today's Hispanics to be Tomorrow's Sea Service Leaders!"

Warm Regards,

Will Rodríguez, Rear Admiral, US Navy, Retired
El Presidente de ANSO

ANSO's Eastern Region Professional Development Symposium



To see photos of the symposium, click on [ANSO Eastern Symposium](#)

Marine Aircraft Group Returns from Afghanistan

By: Maj. Jennifer Ballard

Marine Aircraft Group-Afghanistan recently returned from a 10-month long deployment that marked the end of five years of unwavering Marine aviation support to coalition forces in Helmand Province. Many Marines and Sailors were part of those efforts, and their hard work and sacrifice were integral in stabilizing Helmand Province and in training and transitioning security of the region to our partners in the Afghan National Army. The below highlights just a few major milestones.

In November of 2001, Marine aviation was the driving force behind establishing the coalition's first strategic foothold in Afghanistan as Task Force 58 executed an unprecedented ship-to-objective movement to an austere, desert airfield, later to be known as FOB Rhino. It was a textbook example of operational maneuver from the sea as the assault force aboard CH-53s was escorted by Cobras and Hueys from the USS Peleliu to a FARP in Pakistan and then on to Afghanistan where the CH-53s received fuel from airborne KC-130s before landing at FOB Rhino on 25 November. With Harriers on alert to provide CAS if called, this operation epitomized the capabilities and combined arms team that the ACE brings to the fight every day. Securing FOB Rhino enabled the arrival of follow-on ground forces via fixed wing lift, and subsequently, forces from Task Force 58 pushed north to secure Kandahar International Airport in December.



Then again in 2008, the Marines were called again as ISAF requested assistance in securing southern Afghanistan, and the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade was tasked with combating the Taliban, specifically in Now Zad and Musa Qala. Task Force Leatherneck was formed, and we Marines moved from RC (South) to RC (Southwest), co-locating with our British partners at Camp Bastion and establishing Camp Leatherneck in 2009. Again, Marine aviation was at the forefront, enabling the Marines on the ground to take the fight to the Taliban, and in Now Zad, the MV-22s executed their first combat missions in Afghanistan, inserting Marines into the area in December of 2009.



In Helmand Province in 2010, with our coalition partners, we led the largest joint operation of the war up to that time as we wrested control from the Taliban insurgents concentrated in central Helmand. The Marines were tasked with Marjah, and the ACE led the way as a majority of the assault force was inserted via CH-53s and MV-22s with AH-1s and UH-1s overhead. At this point, UAVs became even more vital in the execution of our operations in support of ground forces. Moreover, as the Marines and our coalition partners established FOBs in the region and patrols continued in areas near

Lashkar Gah and south to FOB Dwyer, the guarantee of the golden hour for our forces became the hallmark of the ACE. Enabled by our KC-130s refueling our Harriers and with Cobras and Hueys on alert, our assault support assets were always maintained at the highest states of readiness, available at a moment's notice to react to troops in contact or a MEDEVAC.

Marine Aircraft Group Returns from Afghanistan cont.

In September of 2012 during the Bastion Attack, we were reminded of the enemy threats that still pervaded in Helmand Province as we lost two of our own – Lt. Col. Raible and Sgt. Atwell. We maintained our focus, redoubled our efforts, and continued to take the fight to the insurgency.

As the Afghan National Army continued to gain confidence and became a more effective fighting force in countering the insurgents in Sangin, it signaled to us that our time in Helmand was coming to an end, and we began to plan and prepare for the end of operations. Local governmental authorities were strengthening, and the 215th Corps and police had secured over 200 polling stations in an entirely Afghan-led and coordinated effort, leading to the first peaceful transfer of power in the history of Afghanistan.



On 27 October of 2014, we enabled that transition. After months of detailed planning, integration, and rehearsals, from the expert orchestration of myriad lift assets into and out of Bastion Airfield by the Marine Air Control Group-38 detachment to FARP and Crash/Fire/Rescue support provided by Marine Wing Support Squadron-274 right up to the last waves, we executed flawlessly. We had pre-positioned attack helicopters and MEDEVAC assets, ensuring we were ready for any contingency. In a 96-hour period, using KC-130Js, the KC-130J Harvest HAWK, CH-53Es, UH-1Ys, and AH-1Ws, we moved over 1,100 personnel and 476,000 pounds of cargo from Bastion Airfield to Kandahar Airfield, thus closing the chapter on 3d and 2d MAW's historic record of support in Helmand Province and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

2014 HENACC Great Minds in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Coast Guard Award Winner

Rear Adm. Ronald Rabago, is the 2014 HENAAC Executive Excellence Award Winner. Rear Adm. Rabago retired from the Coast Guard this summer after 36 years of exceptional military service and departed with a legacy of contributions. Rear Adm. Rabago became the first Coast Guard Hispanic officer to attain flag rank. Since his promotion to the executive ranks in 2006 Rear Adm. Rabago served in numerous demanding positions. As the Coast Guards Assistant Commandant for Acquisitions and Chief Acquisitions Officer he oversaw the largest acquisition and contracting operations in DHS with over 930 personnel and an annual budget in excess of 1.5 billion dollars. Rear Adm. Rabago led the most successful acquisition modernization in Coast Guard history that resulted in Coast Guard success in delivering capable, mission-ready assets, such as the National Security Cutter, Fast Response Cutter and Coastal Patrol Boat fleets, as well as the Response Boat-Medium and Rescue 21. Most recently, Rear Adm. Rabago served as the Assistant Commandant for Engineering and Logistics, held the title of Chief Engineer, and oversaw activities of 5,000 engineering professionals with a budget exceeding one billion dollars. Rear Adm. Rabago successfully directed the Coast Guard through highly complex and politically sensitive projects, including the 500 million dollar construction of the Coast Guard Headquarters campus, the single largest, most technologically advanced shore plant project in Coast Guard history. When not hard at work, Rear Adm. Rabago gave back to the community through selfless service. Of particular note, he played a critical role in the Engineering and Science Extravaganzas program at the University of Texas El Paso, College of Engineering. The program exposed economically disadvantaged high school students from diverse backgrounds to STEM disciplines. This program included the Robotics on the Water competition, where students were provided the opportunity to plan, practice, and test their skills in STEM.

Lt. Cmdr. Luis Carmona, is the 2014 HENAAC Luminary Honoree Award Winner. Lt. Cmdr. Carmona, a graduate of the Coast Guards College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative (CSPI) program, leveraged his extensive engineering expertise with significant international impact while currently assigned to Sector New Orleans. As a marine inspector, Lt. Cmdr. Carmona worked in the worlds most diverse port, where 20 billion dollars of various commodities move globally. During Hurricane Isaac, Lt. Cmdr. Carmona showcased his engineering knowledge and led the reopening of operations of the Mississippi River waterways after 39 large and small vessels were grounded, hampering vessel movement along the river. He played a critical and direct role in salvage operations oversight, facilitating waterway clearance in just three days after the hurricane hit the area. Just a few months later Lt. Cmdr. Carmona was handpicked by his command to travel with a team to a South America country and inspect a foreign vessel suspected of smuggling contraband. Upon arriving, Lt. Cmdr. Carmona immediately identified major safety conditions due to improper vessel loading.

After locating and reviewing the ships plans and using his bilingual Spanish speaking skills, he devised an unloading strategy plan that he articulated to local government officials who were able to stabilize the vessel, unload shipped contents, and expose hidden illegal weapons and aircraft. Because of his exceptional performance, he was recognized by the country US Ambassador and its President. His dedication to his community is just as impressive. The Coast Guard recognized Lt. Cmdr. Carmona as Diversity Champion of the Week for significant contributions in support of the Commandants Diversity Strategic Plan and OPTASK Diversity. As a Diversity Outreach Team member, he volunteered as a coach during three annual HENAAC GMIS College bowls, mentoring and leading college students. He also participated numerous times as a guest speaker at several Hispanic Association of College and Universities (HACU) events annually.

ANSO Cleveland Chapter Collaborates with HHC



ANSO Cleveland collaborated with the multi-federal agency Hispanic Heritage Committee (HHC), US Coast Guard, US Navy, and local community agencies (such as, Esperanza, Inc. & El Centro of Lorain) to provide outreach to local youth. The event involved presentations on recruitment and employment opportunities. ANSO members collaborated with local Coast Guard units (CG Station Cleveland Harbor and CGC Neah Bay) to provide a tour of the facilities and to engage in conversation with the students to spike their interest and awareness in the Naval services as well as Federal employment. There were over 30 students with representatives from local community agencies in attendance. The event was a huge success which was conveyed in

the amount and level of questions coming from the students.

ANSO Cleveland & the multi-agency HHC held a financial workshop in November to help individuals become more aware of their spending during the holidays as well as being more aware of the potential for identity theft. Additional topics were also discussed such as retirement planning and the necessity for savings in these current economic situations.



Cleveland ANSO Chapter Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month



To enhance opportunities for local youth, the Rear Adm. Joseph "Pepe" Castillo Cleveland ANSO Chapter awarded a \$250 scholarship to a well deserving Hispanic high school senior during the annual Hispanic Heritage Month event in September. ANSO members played a huge part in ensuring the success of the event by providing funds to the HHC, providing Hispanic dishes, participating in a "Guess Who Latino Game" and also in providing the Master of Ceremony for the event. The guest speaker was Angelica Campos a local Meteorologist who described her journey on becoming a bilingual weather broadcaster. The event had well over 200 local federal employees, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard members in attendance.

3rd MAW Marine accepts award on behalf of Association of Naval Services Officers

By: Cpl. Michael Thorn

The San Diego chapter of the Association of Naval Services Officers received the Padres Comunidad Award at Petco Park from the Padres' Hispanic Community Advisory Council, Aug. 25.

Maj. Kevin Cortes, ANSO national vice president and Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron (MWHs) 3 executive officer, and U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Edgar Guerrero, ANSO president for the San Diego chapter, accepted the award on behalf of their chapter. Cortes finds time outside of work as a Marine officer to help underprivileged children. He has worked in areas such as San Ysidro, Calif., where he encourages disadvantaged youth to pursue higher education.

The award presented to ANSO San Diego was for supporting law enforcement and military communities, or "SERVE".



Lt. Cmdr. Edgar Guerrero, right, the Association of Naval Services Officers San Diego chapter president and Maj. Kevin Cortes, ANSO national vice president, wait for the singing of the National Anthem at Petco Park, Aug. 25. Cortes and Guerrero accepted the Padres Comunidad Award for "SERVE" on behalf of ANSO San Diego for their work with Hispanic youths in the local community.

Photo By: Cpl. Michael Thorn

ANSO consists of officers from the Navy, Marine Corps and the U.S. Coast Guard. The San Diego chapter reached out to improve lives of Hispanic youth, earning them the award.

"We go out to different school districts where we can tutor and mentor these kids," said Cortes. "Some of the areas they grow up in aren't the best for their development. I'm humbled and honored that we were recognized for our work."

The Padres' Hispanic Community Advisory Council gives out four awards throughout the year representing different categories.

"This is the third year the award is being presented," said Alex Montoya, San Diego Padres Latino Affairs manager. "Tonight was a special night to honor the ANSO and what they do for our local youths."

All Hispanic Heritage Comunidad Award winners are slated to be honored together Sept. 16 as part of Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration.



Members of the Association of Naval Services Officers San Diego accept the Padres Comunidad Award for "SERVE" at Petco Park for improving the lives of Hispanic youth through military service and volunteerism, Aug. 25. The ANSO San Diego chapter helped children in local school districts through mentoring and tutoring.

Photo By: Cpl. Michael Thorn

Association of Naval Services Officers

ABOUT

Early in 1980 the United States Navy (USN) was concerned about the lack of Hispanic representation within their officer corps and Hispanic applicants for officer programs. Concerned with this situation, then Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Edward Hidalgo, convened the Hispanic Officer Recruitment Conference (HORC) in December 1980. The HORC was tasked to closely evaluate the problem, develop different initiatives and solve the USN's problem of attracting qualified Hispanics to apply to the USN's officer programs.

One of the reasons Mr. Hidalgo was especially concerned with the lack of Hispanics in the Navy's officer corps was because he was intimately familiar with the situation. Mr. Hidalgo was not only of Hispanic decent, but had served in the USN as an air combat intelligence officer aboard the USS Enterprise from 1943 to 1945. Among the HORC's recommendations was the establishment of an association composed of Hispanic officers that could reach out to Hispanic communities to attract qualified Hispanics to apply to the Sea Services' officer programs. The Sea Services are comprised of the USN, U.S. Marine Corps (USMC), and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). Shortly after the HORC submitted their report on February 12, 1981, Secretary Hidalgo officially established the Association of Naval Services Officers.

