### SPRING INAUGURAL ISSUE



The official magazine of the Association of Naval Services Officers (ANSO)

## IN THIS EDITION: WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS MAKING AN IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITY





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## **About ANSO**

### <u>Our History</u>

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 descent, 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 U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps (USMC), U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and the U.S. Merchant Marine. Shortly after the HORC submitted their report on February 12, 1981, Secretary Hidalgo officially established the Association of Naval Services Officers.

### OUR CORE VALUES: LEADERSHIP, EXCELLENCE, AND DEDICATION.

### **Our Five Pillars**

**Resources:** To enhance ANSO visibility, foster relationships with other affinity groups and generate sponsorship to remain functional and relevant to the Sea Services.

**Membership (internal communication)**: To sustain and increase a diverse and active ANSO membership through local chapter guidance, support, and outreach within the Sea Services.

**Recruitment (external communication):** To achieve an officer corps makeup that reflects the enlisted work force it leads.

**Professional Development:** To provide networking, mentoring, training and other professional opportunities which enhance competitiveness for advancement and assignment, and support members in reaching their personal and professional goals.

**Community Outreach:** To develop and grow long term relationships with key centers of influence, mentorship and outreach activities within Hispanic communities.

# LA ESQUINA DEL PRESIDENTE

#### LTCOL JOSE MONTALVAN

Familia,

In the last three months, the ANSO's Board of Directors and Chapters' Leadership, with the support of Lifetime and Annual members, have the following highlights to report:

- Establishment of the MajGen Garza's Scholarship
- Establishment of the ANSO Podcast (on Spotify and YouTube)
- Membership increase (over one hundred Lifetime and Annual members)
- Board of Directors growth (Civilian, Academies, and service Reps)
- High School presentations and discussions conducted

The above accomplishments are a testament to all the hard work and dedication of all the ANSO volunteers across our services and Nation. Since 1974, we have celebrated National Volunteer Appreciation Month in April. During this time of year, I want to recognize our ANSO volunteers who selflessly devote their time and service to ANSO and our communities outside of work. Their love for making a difference in the lives of everyone they encounter and their passion for mentoring young men and women are impressive. Our volunteers are positively influencing future generations. Their impact is essential to continuing our legacy and creating a support network for service members and their loved ones. Thank you for volunteering!

As this month ends, a few weeks will remain to collect funds for the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. This program provides financial assistance to Marines, Sailors, and their families for emergency funds or day-to-day living expenses. They have given transportation for those with family illnesses, covered funeral expenses, assisted with education bills, helped with family emergencies, and much more. There is no obligation to donate, but while it may not seem like much, every small donation makes an incredible difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters.

As Bobby Bowden said, "He who gets the best players usually wins." ANSO comprises some of our finest Marines, sailors, and Coast Guardsmen. Your selfless dedication and unrivaled work ethic enable ANSO's continued success. And I am honored to be surrounded by winners and to serve with you.

God bless you and our GREAT Nation. I am proud to be serving as your ANSO President!

Muchas gracias por todo lo que hacen!

Semper Fidelis, Semper Paratus, and Full speed ahead, Lieutenant Colonel Jose L. Montalvan



# EN FAMILIA

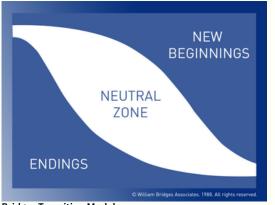
CHAPLAIN DIEGO LONDOÑO

Spring is in the air. I live in South California. Winter storms bring enough moisture to the ground, and colorful flower patches are starting to show everywhere in the region. Seasonal changes like this are striking and powerful. The hibernating earth covered by a cold layer keeps days shorter, and the naked trees, almost lifeless,



hold nothing on their branches until expressions of vitality and new color show hope in the longer spring and summer days. Nature welcomes seasonal changes impacting our daily routines. According to William Bridges, these signs of change are opportunities to embrace transition.

Bridges developed the Transition Model. According to his model, "change is the external event or situation that takes place," and "transition is the inner psychological process that people go through as they internalize and come to terms with the new situation that the change brings about." This differentiation between these two terms helps us understand the parallel processes happening, externally and internally, in organizations. Change opens the door to transition, an internal process, as organizations and individuals work on adaptation.



Bridges Transition Model

Bridges identifies three stages in transition: ending, neutral zone, and new beginnings. The initial stage is ending, as those going through change experience the loss of what used to be and begin to let go, acknowledging the emotional reactions of the transition. The neutral zone offers an opportunity for confusion, search, and role identification. This in-between stage provides the best opportunities for growth as identity, processes, and practices go through their genesis. In the new beginnings, there is movement from the confusion of the previous stage to a new drive towards identity and a more effective alignment to change.

Latinos in the military experience change in multiple ways. Many migrated from their countries of origin, and others experienced secondhand the generational impact of acculturation. Entering the military is a cultural shock and requires adaptation. The military brings different layers of change: permanent change of station, deployments, exercises, promotions, inspections, and mobilizations, among others. Each of those experiences of change is an invitation to transition. Taking time to go through the internal process of loss, emotional awareness and confusion, and readaptation to the new ways helps to go through change more effectively. Intentionality is vital in transition. Sometimes, it gets ignored easily in military settings. Acknowledging transitions is a leadership skill that requires small pauses, empathy, and calling out to the elephant in the room.

As ANSO goes through changes, may we transition well, and as we experience changes in our personal or professional journey, may we intentionally walk through the stages of transition with more empathy, transparency, and thoughtfulness.



Members from the San Diego Chapter

## Empowering Women: ANSO Chapters Celebrate Women's History Month

**ANSO San Diego Chapter** proudly celebrates Women's History Month at Mount Soledad Memorial, honoring the remarkable achievements and contributions of women everywhere. #WomensHistoryMonth #SanDiego

The **ANSO San Diego Chapter** recently gathered to celebrate Women's History Month at Por Vida Cafe in Barrio Logan. The event honored the invaluable contributions of women in the U.S. military and welcomed attendees from all backgrounds. ANSO extended an open invitation to join their mission of promoting diversity and empowerment within the military community. Stay tuned for more events and initiatives from ANSO San Diego Chapter - together, we can make a difference! #SanDiego #ANSOevents



Members from the San Diego Chapter



Members from Washington DC Chapter

The **ANSO DC Chapter** celebrates, "Latinas in Naval Service" an event held at the Women's Ceremonial Corridor, at the Pentagon. The panel discussion featured esteemed speakers Mrs. Mery-Angela Sanabria Katson, CAPT, USN, Ret., CDR Jessica Anderson, USN, and SSgt Melannie May, USMC, who shared inspiring insights and experiences. Attendees gained a deeper understanding of the significant contributions and journeys of Latina servicewomen, highlighting their resilience and achievements in defending our nation. A heartfelt thank you to all who attended, contributing to a memorable celebration of women in the armed forces. Let's continue honoring these trailblazers and heroes who shape our future. #WashingtonDC #ANSOevents In the dynamic landscape of the military community, leadership often emerges from unexpected quarters, exemplifying dedication, vision, and a tireless commitment to service. Marine Captain Kevin Valdez and Lieutenant Alejandro Balandran stand as shining examples of such leadership, their recent endeavors underscoring the transformative power of initiative and perseverance.

Over the past three months, Captain Valdez has displayed unwavering dedication in reactivating the ANSO (Association of Naval Services Officers) Hawaii Chapter. His tireless efforts have not only revitalized the chapter but have also reignited a sense of camaraderie and purpose among Marines and Sailors stationed in Hawaii. Through his strategic vision and proactive approach, Captain Valdez has fostered a thriving community that serves as a beacon of inspiration for all.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Balandran has demonstrated remarkable commitment in establishing an ANSO Chapter aboard the Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka. In the face of challenges and logistical complexities, LT Balandran's perseverance has been unwavering. His leadership has not only laid the foundation for a new chapter but has also galvanized Marines and Sailors stationed in Yokosuka to come together in pursuit of a common goal.



CAPTAIN KEVIN VALDEZ, USMC Hawaii Chapter

# RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP



LT ALEJANDRO BALANDRAN, USN Yokosuka Chapter

The efforts of Captain Valdez and Lieutenant Balandran serve as a poignant reminder that leadership knows no bounds of rank or age. Their dedication and initiative have inspired those around them to unite and collaborate, fostering a sense of unity and purpose within their respective communities. They embody the ethos of service and selflessness, reminding us all that each individual has the power to effect positive change through vision and dedication.

As we commend Captain Valdez and Lieutenant Balandran for their outstanding leadership, let us also take inspiration from their example. Their achievements stand as a testament to the transformative impact of initiative, perseverance, and a steadfast commitment to service. In recognizing and celebrating their contributions, we honor not only their individual efforts but also the collective strength and resilience of the military community.



Photo: Corniel family (left) and Petty Officer First Class Jose Corniel, USCG (right)

# SEATTLE CHAPTER WELCOMES New President: A New Era of Leadership begins



### By: Xochitl Castañeda , ANSO Historian

The **ANSO Seattle Chapter** recognizes, Storekeeper Petty Officer 1st Class, Jose Corniel joined the US Coast Guard at 26 years old. He is from Dominican Republic (DR) and came to live with his dad and step-mom at 14 years old as a Spanish language speaker. He excelled in school because his DR coursework was accelerated compared to the US. His Bronx area school taught him in Spanish initially, and later in English. Jose went to college right out of High School, but left as a sophomore when the demands of full time work and family obligations necessitated. He wanted to join the US Coast Guard right out of High School. His father was initially opposed, so he joined later, as a 26 year old. While Jose was in boot camp his 2 month old son was not doing well and ended up on medications for a liver disorder. His Command Cadre at boot camp allowed him to call home daily to check in on his son's condition. Later, while stationed in Boston his Command gave him 2 months off to be with his then 3 year old son in the Hospital while he underwent a liver transplant. Jose loves the way the CG cares about family and plans to stay in for 30 years. You'll be happy to know, his son is currently a thriving young man attending technical school in Seattle with Jose's GI Bill.

Jose has been a member of ANSO since 2019 and recently attended his first ANSO symposium in San Diego. He stepped up to lead the Seattle Chapter to help bring along the next generation of leaders. One thing that impressed Jose, was the number of people in the military with advanced degrees. Jose is currently finishing up his MBA and had just taken a finance exam before we spoke. He continues to balance work, life and education and plans to apply for Warrant Officer soon. He's happily married with 3 children ages 19, 17 and 14. His family is very supportive of his Coast Guard career and loves the adventure of moving to new places. Jose loves how ANSO helps him learn from different people, "It's not just for Hispanics, but people from everywhere!"



Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG) Andrea Victoria Porrata (USCG), Vice President of the Miami Chapter

# LTJG ANDREA VICTORIA PORRATA: A BEACON OF EXCELLENCE IN MARITIME SERVICE



By: David Castillo, ANSO Miami Chapter President

The **ANSO Miami Chapter** is proud to spotlight Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG) Andrea Victoria Porrata (USCG), our Vice President. LTJG Porrata, a native of Puerto Rico, earned her commission through the College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative (CSPI) and graduated from Officer Candidate School. In her role within Sector Miami Inspections Division, LTJG Porrata has showcased her dedication to excellence. As one of the three qualified marine inspectors, she has played a vital role in conducting examinations and inspections on Foreign Vessels and US Commercial vessels. Her efforts have contributed significantly to ensuring maritime commerce, bolstering the local economy, and maintaining the continuity of the Cruise Ship industry.

LTJG Porrata's professionalism and expertise were evident in her role as the primary point of contact for Cruise Ship examination scheduling. Through her diligent work, Coast Guard Sector Miami successfully met the stringent requirements for Cruise Ship examinations necessary for operation within the US and carrying US passengers worldwide. Her meticulous attention to detail ensured the uninterrupted operation of the world's busiest cruise ship, thus impacting both national and global cruise operations.

Furthermore, LTJG Porrata has demonstrated exceptional leadership by actively engaging in mentorship roles during visits to local middle and high schools. Her involvement in programs such as ANSO, HISPA, and Coast Guard Partners in Education has not only showcased her leadership abilities but also served as an inspiration to young girls, who see her as a commendable role model.



2024 Women's History Panel "Latinas in Naval Service" an event held at the Women's Ceremonial Corridor, at the Pentagon.

## DC CHAPTER RECOGNIZES EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF LT MARIBEL BENITEZ



### Secretary Eduardo Hidalgo Chapter Washington, D.C.

By: LCDR Jon Hilzinger, ANSO DC Chapter President

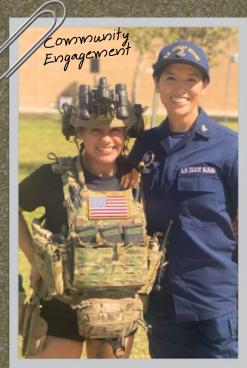
The **ANSO DC Chapter** proudly recommends LT Maribel Benitez for recognition, honoring her outstanding achievements and unwavering dedication to the organization's mission.

As the DC Chapter Vice President, LT Benitez has demonstrated exemplary leadership and initiative, notably through her organization and moderation of a groundbreaking Women's History Month Panel Discussion. This event marked a historic milestone as the first ANSO gathering at the Pentagon in at least four years, showcasing LT Benitez's determination to elevate the visibility and impact of the organization.

LT Benitez's efforts extended beyond logistics, as she curated a panel of Latina role models to share their inspiring stories of heritage, challenges, and growth. Through their narratives, LT Benitez inspired attendees to explore new avenues of support for women in their lives, fostering a sense of empowerment and unity within the community.

Furthermore, LT Benitez's commitment to enhancing ANSO's image and branding is evident in her procurement of not one, but two banners for DC Chapter events. These efforts reflect her dedication to professionalism and excellence, further bolstering ANSO's presence and impact.

For her exceptional contributions and unwavering commitment to ANSO's mission, LT Maribel Benitez is deserving of recognition and applause. **Bravo Zulu, Shipmate**!



La Esquina del Presidente

Preguntas del Presidente: 1. Change generates visks but it also creates rewards. What risks have you taken in the last 3 months?

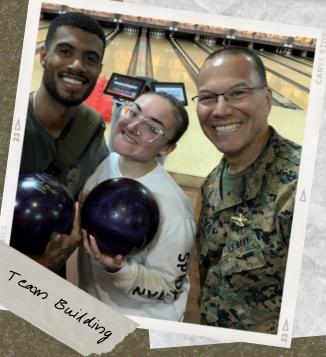
2. Steel sharpens steel. Who have you sharpen lately?

3. We must use our rank for good. What good have you done this week?

Raising ANSO awareness

150

Recognizing Others



Professional Development

Treat each other with dignity and respect, and remember: People + Together + Success + Family = ANSO (There is no ANSO without you!)

## CELEBRATING COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY: LCDR MIGUEL MONTALVO & HM2 ALEXA VALERIO

In the heart of the **ANSO DC Chapter** beats a spirit of service and dedication embodied by LCDR Miguel Montalvo and HM2 Alexa Valerio. Their unwavering commitment to community engagement and outreach shines brightly, enriching the lives of those they touch.



LCDR Miguel Montalvo, USN reading to a class of students

LCDR Montalvo's leadership and ownership of all 2024 DC Chapter events serve as a testament to his passion for service. From meticulously handling logistics for the Women's History Month Panel Discussion to nurturing young minds at the Child Development Center, his impact resonates deeply within the community. His innovative ideas and tireless efforts have propelled the chapter forward, inspiring others to follow his example. ANSO is truly fortunate to count LCDR Montalvo among its members, a beacon of dedication and passion.

In their selfless dedication to community service, LCDR Miguel Montalvo and HM2 Alexa Valerio embody the core values of ANSO—unity, leadership, and empowerment. Their contributions serve as a reminder of the profound impact that individuals can make when they come together in service of others.

HM2 Valerio's leadership shines brightly in her coordination of the DC Chapter's inaugural community engagement event of 2024—an ANSO STYLE "Read Across America" Event at the CDC, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, which took place on 5-6 March 2024. Her initiative brought ANSO members to read books to over 30 children, sharing stories and inspiring them to dream big. HM2 Valerio's commitment to service reflects credit upon herself, the Sea Services, and ANSO as a whole.





HM2 Alexa Valerio, USN reading to a class of students

# **INSPIRING THE**



# OF SEAFARERS

Article and Photos by Sea Cadets Public Affairs



The importance of maritime operations for sea power, security, and commerce cannot be overstated. With more than 70% of the earth covered by water, and the majority of goods transported through waterways, inspiring the next generation of seafarers is a strategic imperative. Encouraging youth to consider civilian and military maritime careers starts with giving them a chance to explore maritime fields. For more than 5,000 youth, the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps provides this opportunity.

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, or Sea Cadets, is the official youth program of the United States Navy. Through partnerships with our nation's armed forces, the Sea Cadets gives young Americans ages 10–18 an appreciation of and an introduction to the sea services, military life, and the maritime field. The hands-on cadet leadership opportunities prepare them for success – first by exposing them to the wide variety of maritime and military related career fields and then by letting the cadets try the different skills and trades through high quality, relevant trainings. In 2023, the maritime-related trainings offered to Sea Cadets across the United States included sailing, navigation, bridge team operations, firefighting, and personal survival as well as many others. These trainings were held on military bases, on military vessels, and at civilian institutions including the Massachusetts Maritime Academy and the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies.

Our field staff is an all-volunteer force of more than 2,300 dedicated adults from all walks of life. Volunteering in the Sea Cadets is a meaningful way to invest in our nation's maritime future and national security by mentoring today's youth. While our volunteers do not need specific skills before becoming a Sea Cadet volunteer, we especially encourage military personnel and veterans to support our thousands of cadets based in local units throughout 46 states and U.S. territories.

### To volunteer at a unit near you, visit seacadets.org.



# ANSO PODCAST

NEW - Listen and subscribe to ANSO's official podcast! We're a nonprofit committed to empowering Hispanic and Latino leaders in the U.S. Maritime Services. Visit our website ansomil.org to learn more and subscribe for updates on our programs and success stories!

## **UPCOMING EVENTS EPISODE RELEASE**

IF.V

CAPT Jose Medina (USN)



Dual Military - CWO2 Madeline Almodovar Sanabria & 1stLt Rafael Almodovar Sanabria (USMC)



JUNE

PO1 Phyllis Almaraz (USCG)







https://www.youtube.com/@ansomil/videos

OFFICERS

LON OF NAVAL SERVICIO

ANSO

## 29JUL -02AUG

### JOINT LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM NORFOLK, VA

52024

Annual leadership development and training. Association of Naval Service Officers (ANSO) and National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) joint symposium featuring guest speakers, expert mentorship, workshops, and social events.

## **19 SEPT**

## NATIONAL LATINA STYLE SYMPOSIUM WASHINGTON DC

National LATINA Style Symposium stands as the largest gathering of Latina military leaders across the nation. All are welcomed to attend. Key topics covered include career development, business opportunities, family dynamics, health and wellness, cultural awareness, as well as the intricacies of pursuing a military career. Latina awardees will be featured next quarter's newsletter.

## 2-6 DEC

## WESTERN REGION SYMPOSIUM SAN DIEGO, CA

Be prepared for a dynamic and collaborative environment that fosters learning, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas. Join us for a memorable experience that promises to enhance your knowledge and broaden your professional network.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.ANSOMIL.ORG



DON'T FORGET TO NOMINATE YOUR LATINA BY JUNE 7, 2024. GO TO LINK, DOWNLOAD THE APPLICATION AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS

https://www.nationallatinasymposium.com/



The Immediate Scholarship Reserve (ISR) is a unique opportunity for individuals seeking to further their education while serving their country. ISR offers scholarships to qualified applicants, enabling them to pursue higher education and reserve a place in the armed forces simultaneously.

### **Benefits of ISR:**

Financial Support: ISR provides financial assistance for tuition, books, and other educational expenses, easing the burden of college costs. Free tuition to more than 150 universities.

### **Career Advancement:**

By participating in ISR, individuals can secure their future in the armed forces while pursuing their educational goals, setting themselves up for success both academically and professionally. Commission to become a Naval Officer upon graduation.

### Leadership Development:

ISR offers opportunities for leadership development, preparing participants for future roles within the military and beyond. More than 20 HBCU's and Hispanic-serving universities.

Who Can Apply? ISR is open to individuals who meet the following criteria:

- United States citizens (Must be 17 or not yet 23 by September 1st of every year starting college)
- High school graduates or equivalent (Must have a 2.75 GPA or Higher)
- Meet the academic and physical standards for military service
- SAT 550 EBRW / 600 MATH or combined 1230 (ACT) 26 MATH / 22 ENG or combined 54

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Email, **ANSOSCHOLARSHIPS@ANSOMIL.ORG** to learn more about the application process and eligibility requirements for ISR.



## WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN ANSO

It is your gateway to professional growth and community impact! Are you a military service member looking for mentorship, community outreach, opportunities for personal and professional development? Look no further, ANSO is here for you, all ranks are welcomed, valued, and respected! No matter your background, whether you are military or civilian, officer or enlisted, you can help spread the word about ANSO to our Hispanic youth, educators and leaders. Share the good news about the tremendous career, educational and leadership opportunities available in our sea services. Join your local chapter or become a member-at-large to start making a difference in the life and career of others, as well as your own, now!

# What ANSO represents according to our National President LtCol Jose Montalvan, USMC

#1 Treat everyone with dignity and respect.

#2 Together, we are stronger. If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, got together.

#3 We succeed through the success of others, and our legacy is what our Marines, Coast Guardsman, and Sailors accomplish.

#4 We are a family and must treat each other as brothers and sisters.

### THERE IS NO ANSO WITHOUT YOU Adelante con ANSO!



For the fifth year, we will publish an assembly of energizing stories from a diverse set of role-model Hispanic Stars nationwide.

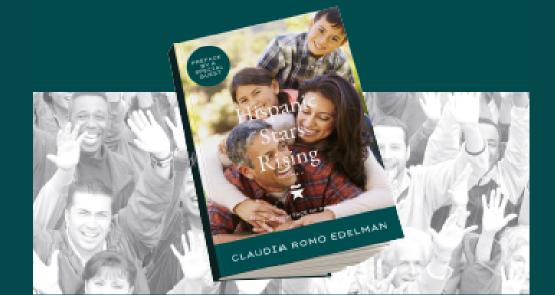
Hispanic Stars Rising: Volume V shares their personal journeys and emphasizes the power of their Latinidad.

## BECOME PART OF SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY

## HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR STORY?

- Review the editorial guidelines here: http://bit.ly/HSR5EG
- 2. Craft your story following the editorial guidelines
- 3.

Share your story at hispanicstar.org/book



## **2024 ANSO Board of Directors**



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CAPT Santico "Tico" Valenzuela

U.S Navv



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Academy Representative Maj Jose A Castillo U.S Marine Corps



Judge Advocate CDR Sergio Villaverde U.S Coast Guard (Ret.)



Historian CDR Xochitl Castañeda U.S Coast Guard (Ret.)



**USMC Enlisted Representative** MSgt Carmen Christman U.S Marine Corps



Master-At-Arms CAPT James Kirby U.S Navy

ANSO is seeking to fill positions on its Board of Directors. This is a great way to volunteer and stay engaged in the Sea Service community. Interested in any of the opening below, please email, ANSO.President@gmail.com to inquire and apply. We look forward to hearing from you!

Civilian Representative

Danitza G James

U.S Army ( Ret)





Membership Coordinator LT Jaime "James" Aranibar U.S Coast Guard (Ret.)







