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NEWS RELEASE

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Asst. Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs to be guest speaker at NAS Kingsville's Navy Ball



NAVAL AIR STATION (NAS) KINGSVILLE -- The Honorable Juan M. Garcia III will be the featured speaker at NAS Kingsville's Navy Birthday Ball, Oct. 13 at the NAS Kingsville Captain's Club. NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Capt. Mark McLaughlin made the official announcement earlier this week.

"I'm very excited that Secretary Garcia will be joining us as guest speaker for our Navy Ball this year," McLaughlin said. "He's a native of South Texas, and a Naval Aviator who earned his wings at NAS Corpus Christi. He's one of our own, and we are very fortunate that he will be joining us this year to celebrate the Navy Birthday and the anniversary

of NAS Kingsville's commissioning."

This year's Navy Ball at NAS Kingsville celebrates the 237th birthday of the Navy and the 70th anniversary of the air station's commissioning on July 4, 1942. More than 300 people are expected to attend the annual gala.

Garcia was confirmed as the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) on Sept. 16, 2009. In this capacity, he acts on matters pertaining to manpower and personnel policy within the Department of the Navy – including issues affecting active duty and reserve Sailors, Marines, and Department of the Navy civilians.

Garcia is an attorney, a former Texas State Representative, and a second-generation Naval Aviator. Garcia, whose family hails from South Texas, was born May 27, 1966. He graduated from UCLA in 1988, and gave the student commencement speech. Garcia earned a Juris Doctor degree from Harvard Law School and a Master of Arts graduate degree from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government in 1992. After graduation, Garcia reported to Aviation Officer Candidate School and flight training, earning his "Wings of Gold" at NAS Corpus

Christi.

Garcia served in Patrol Squadron 47 out of NAS Barber's Point, Hawaii, and completed deployments to the Persian Gulf and Western Pacific. Garcia also served overseas as flag aide to the deputy commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe in London, England, and deployed as part of *Operation Allied Force* during hostilities in Kosovo. From 1999 to 2000, Garcia was one of 16 Americans selected to serve as a White House Fellow, serving as a special assistant to the Secretary of Education, the Hon. Richard Riley. Garcia then reported for sea duty aboard the aircraft carrier *USS Constellation*, serving as the officer of the deck. In 2002, Garcia returned to the air as a flight instructor with Training Squadron 27 at NAS Corpus Christi.

Garcia left active duty in 2004 and transferred to the Navy Reserve. He served as the commanding officer of Reserve Training Squadron 28 at NAS Corpus Christi until becoming nominated for Assistant Secretary of the Navy (M&RA) in October 2009.

Garcia joined the Corpus Christi law firm of Hartline, Dacus, Barger, Dreyer, and Kern as an associate attorney in 2004. In 2006, he was elected to the Texas House of Representatives, representing the 32nd District from 2007-2009. While in the State House, Garcia focused on transparency in government and veterans issues.