



## An Interview With Alexander Andino

***Can you describe your background in the field of homeland security? How did you get to where you are now?***

Currently, I am the Training and Weapons LPO for the VQ-4 Detachment security department. I have been a Master-at-Arms for 8 years. After 9/11, the U.S. Navy made a big push to increase their MA force. The MA career field sounded much more exciting than working in the supply field, so I jumped at the opportunity. The decision to become a Master-at-Arms was one of the best decisions I made.

***What effect has CHS had on your professional development?***

The CHS program is one of the best Web-based/in-classroom training the Navy has implemented. The courses are relevant to the day-to-day business of the Navy and homeland security. When you complete your certifications, you have a feeling of not only accomplishment but confidence that you can deal with any disaster that may arise.

***You made it possible for the CHS program to hold these training courses. What steps were taken to bring the certification classes to the Navy base?***

There was coordination and cooperation from many people on all levels. MACM Bautista and MAC Wallis from Center for Security Forces ensured we had everything we needed to facilitate the course. Marianne from ABCHS understood how hectic a Security force work schedule can be and made changes to her schedule to accommodate our department. Although it was a lot of work getting the course done, it was a smooth process.

***How have these certification classes benefited the sailors?***

The most important benefits that my sailors took away from the training was a newfound motivation. Most of our security department was fully qualified in the command, so the ABCHS certification gave them something new to strive for. That is by far the biggest benefit of the certification.

***What kind of feedback did you hear back from the sailors who participated?***

I have received nothing but positive feedback from the sailors who attended the course. The level of professionalism and knowledge Colonel Jurchenko displayed while teaching the course was extremely impressive. I have already received several requests for another Level IV/V certification.