



An Interview With Rodolfo Gallardo

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

I am Active Duty with 8 years in the United States Navy, and I am currently serving as Master-at-Arms Second Class Petty Officer in Security for Naval Station Ingleside in Ingleside, Texas. I have 3 and half years' experience within the Expeditionary Warfare community where I served in Iraq providing operational and logistical support. I also provided security while embarked on two high-value oil terminals in the North Arabian Gulf, ensuring the safe passage of \$1,000,000 of supplies, etc. I also coordinated and provided personnel security escorts for numerous civilian contractors and high-ranking officials to and from the Iraq AOR in support of the oil terminals and the support of the Operation Iraqi Freedom. I am also CAS & CMAS qualified.

What effect has CHS had on your professional development?

It has changed dramatically as I have been called upon to help others in my command and other commands in the Texas Region to help set up and prepare for future classes. I have updated my resume with the qualification and have started noticing the benefit of interest from private security companies, Fortune 500 companies, and Federal and State agencies for follow-up of possible interviews. This certification sets the standards higher and promotes competition for peers competing for the same job opportunity.

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?

I first had to understand the program and get familiar with how it would benefit me in the future. Once I had completed [levels] one, two, and three, I then introduced it through my chain of command for qualification so that they would have something to fall back on upon retirement or separation from the service. I maintained communication with my chain of command, other bases in the area, and the U.S. Navy Credentials Program Office to coordinate the total amount in attendance, the date,

and the place to conduct the training. Through this coordination effort, the training was able to be hosted at Naval Station Ingleside and produced a total of 68 ABCHS Level-V graduates.

How have these certification classes benefited the sailors?

The certification class have been beneficial to my fellow sailors in the following ways:

- They are more prepared for natural disasters.
- They are more prepared to take charge and render aid in any scenario that may occur.
- They are educated in anti-terrorism and Force Protection standard operating procedures.
- They are more aware of their surroundings and OPSEC.

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

The class has opened their perspective on the responsibilities and priorities of how the Department of Homeland Security operates. It has also sparked interest with the sailors and DOD Officers to pursue further education in the area of Homeland Security.