FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Aug. 3, 2010
CONTACT: Rene Coronado 361.825.2331 or 956.371.4775 (cell); Steve Paschal 361.825.2336

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi to Salute Student Veterans with Islander Appreciation Day and Benefits Fair
Information on veterans programs will be provided by government agencies

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – Veterans from all branches of the United States military will be able to receive free information on educational benefits and other state and federal programs available to those who have served their country at the “Islander Veterans Appreciation Day” on Tuesday, Aug. 10, from 5-7 p.m. in the University Center, Lone Star Ballroom at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, which has been designated as a “Military Friendly School” by G.I. Jobs magazine for its efforts and results in recruiting and retaining military and veteran students is sponsoring the free event for all area veterans, along with the Texas Veterans Land Board (TVLB). The University also adopted the “Military Student Bill of Rights” and is participating in the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges, a consortium of colleges and universities dedicated to helping service members and their families obtain college degrees.

Representatives from the University’s Financial Aid, Admissions and Veterans Affairs offices will answer questions for prospective and current students. Information also will be available on the “Post 9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008” and many other important benefits including the “Texas Hazlewood Legacy Program” which allows veterans to transfer some of their educational benefits to their children. In addition, a representative from the TVLB will provide information on low-term housing, land and home improvement loans, and military recruiters will be on hand with information about opportunities in all five branches of the U.S. armed forces.

-MORE-
As of spring 2010, 537 veteran students at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi were receiving benefits from the Veterans Administration under the Texas Hazlewood Act. Rene Coronado, Veterans Affairs coordinator and former Army captain who served in Kuwait and Iraq, says that number is expected to grow quickly due to the newly established and expanded educational benefits.

“We are holding this appreciation day to thank our Texas veterans for their service to our nation,” said Coronado. “With all the veterans organizations and agencies providing information on benefits to our local veterans and representatives from all the University colleges and departments available help veterans get information about all the programs and degrees available at the University, we are hoping for a big turnout.”

The observance will begin at 5 p.m. with a welcome from University President Flavius Killebrew followed by remarks by State Rep. Solomon Ortiz Jr. After a brief overview of veterans’ benefits by Debbie Bush of the Texas Veterans Commission, Toni McCurdy of the Texas Veterans Land Board, and Anthony Diaz, president of the United Student Veterans Organization (USVO) at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, there will be break-out sessions on GI Bill benefits, the Texas Hazlewood Act, Texas Veterans Land Board programs and the USVO.

-A&M-CC-