Assistant Secretary of the Navy Garcia to Address Graduates at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Commencement

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – Assistant Secretary of the Navy Juan Garcia will be the keynote speaker at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi’s Fall 2009 Commencement on Saturday, Dec. 19, at 1:30 p.m. in the American Bank Center Arena.

Garcia, a South Texas native, graduated from UCLA and earned a J.D. from Harvard Law School and an M.A. from Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. In 1992, Garcia reported for flight training at Naval Air Station-Corpus Christi where he earned his “Wings of Gold” before subsequently being deployed to the Persian Gulf and the Western Pacific. In 1999, he was part of Operation Allied Force during hostilities in Kosovo. The following year, Garcia was selected to serve as a White House Fellow as an assistant to the Secretary of Education.

After sea duty aboard the USS Constellation, Garcia transferred to the Naval Reserve as the commanding officer of Reserve Training Squadron 28 at Corpus Christi. In 2004, Garcia joined the Corpus Christi law firm of Hartline, Dacus, Barger, Dreyer, and Kern as an associate attorney. In 2006, he was elected to the 32nd District of the Texas House of Representatives where he served until 2009, focusing on transparency in government and veterans issues. On Sept. 16, 2009, he was confirmed as the assistant secretary of the Navy for manpower and reserve affairs.

Around 650 students from the University’s Colleges of Business, Education, Liberal Arts, Nursing and Health Sciences, and Science and Technology will walk across the stage to receive their diplomas. The University holds commencement exercises in May, August and December.

-A&M-CC-