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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Four Military Academy Cadets to Be Honored at the 18th Annual  
HENAAC Career and Awards Conference in Anaheim, CA.**

HENAAC is proud to announce the recipients of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Military Academy Cadet "Role Model" Awards which will be presented on Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at the Department of Defense/ HENAAC Luncheon. The luncheon is one of the many activities that will take place during the October 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> HENAAC Conference in Anaheim, CA. These individuals are being honored for their academic excellence, exceptional leadership, and distinction of service at their respective academies. At the luncheon, each cadet will address hundreds of high school students on their methods for success in becoming Role Models for the Hispanic community. The Senior Department of Defense members in attendance will be the Honorable Michael Dominguez, Principle Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness and Mr. Clarence A. Johnson, Principal Director, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Equal Opportunity.

**2006 Military Academy Cadet Honorees**

Cadet First Class Gilberto A. Nieves – U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York

Midshipman First Class Daphne Ponce – U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland

Cadet First Class Edward Salazar – U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado

Cadet First Class David Gonzalez – U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut

**About the Military Academies:** Although each military academy has its own entrance requirements, applicants compete for admission on a national level for a very limited number of openings. All those accepted receive government-sponsored tuition that covers four to five years of academic, military, and physical education to prepare them for leadership as officers in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard. Cadets also receive a monthly allowance to cover personal costs such as uniforms, books and personal items. Upon graduation, all will fulfill a minimum service requirement of 4 or 5 years, depending on the regulations of the academy they attended.

**HENAAC Mission Statement:** To enlighten our nation about the achievements of Hispanics in engineering, science, technology, and math; to motivate and educate more students to pursue careers in these fields; to increase the role the Hispanic community plays in maintaining America's status as the world's technology leader.

For more information about the Military Academy Cadet Honorees or about the HENAAC conference call (323) 262-0997, or visit the HENAAC website at [www.henaac.org](http://www.henaac.org)

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