

*You oughta know...*



## Lt. JG Charles Alcasid

**D**o you want to know what kind of people Staten Islanders really are? Set aside the stereotypes and cartoon-character portrayals on reality TV, and let a young man I recently met define us. It would be a whole lot more accurate.

Captain Dennis Farrell, former Commanding Officer of the USS Cole and currently C.O. of the guided-missile cruiser USS San Jacinto, wrote to me about one of his finest officers: Charles Alcasid. According to Captain Farrell, Lt. Junior Grade Alcasid, a Staten Islander and a 2011 St. Joseph-by-the-Sea grad, "was hand-selected to deploy to the Arabian Gulf aboard a warship. He was selected because we need the best of the best at the tip of the spear....and Charles is the Best of the Best."

High praise, indeed. And Charles, after a recent and nearly catastrophic oil spill, led the USS San Jacinto in damage control efforts. "He is a true hero," said Captain Farrell, "and I want to make sure his friends and family know!"

So hats off to this young man, a Staten Islander who does not make us wince with embarrassment, but rather embodies our true character. More attention should be paid to Staten Islanders of his ilk – and there are plenty of them.

I thought you oughta know about Lt. JG Charles Alcasid, and now you do. Be damn proud of him!

**- BOROUGH PRESIDENT JIM ODDO  
WITH FRANK SANTARPIA**

