

# MATTHEW J. WALTER

Museum of The Big Bend  
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## SUMMARY STATEMENT

Presently working as Curator of Exhibits and Public Programming at the Museum of the Big Bend, on the campus of Sul Ross State University, in Alpine, TX. Also work as curator of the cartographic collection at the museum, and in charge of museum security. Have taught two history courses at Sul Ross every semester since the fall of 2002, including U.S. History (1301 and 1302), Texas History (3309 and 5302), and US Civil War and Reconstruction History (4323, 5310 and 5313). Have taught these courses as distance-learning classes from time to time. Duties have also included writing syllabi, preparing curriculum, selecting textbooks, and developing courses. Bilingual; minored in Spanish during my undergraduate years at Sul Ross. During my 20 year career in the U.S. Coast Guard, served one tour of duty as an instructor which included writing the curriculum for and teaching a course in Coast Guard history, and served as Training Officer on board Coast Guard cutters *Valiant*, *Dependable*, and *Dauntless*. Service awards include one Outstanding Service Medal, three Humanitarian Service medals, five Good Conduct awards, six Unit Commendation ribbons, two Special Operations ribbons, the Arctic Service Medal, and the National Defense Medal. Strong organizational, research and communication skills.

## EDUCATION

2002 Master of Arts, History, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX.  
2000 Bachelor of Arts, History, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX.  
1996-1998 Brazosport Community College, Lake Jackson, TX.

## PUBLICATIONS

*Putting Texas on the Map*. Sul Ross State University Press, 2011.  
"Disorder on the Border," *Going to Texas: Five Centuries of Texas Maps*. TCU Press, Fort Worth, TX, 2007.  
*Love on the Rio Grande: The 1850 Exploration by Captain Love*. Journal of Big Bend Studies, Volume 19. Sul Ross State University Press, 2007, 35-45.

## EMPLOYMENT

2003- Present Historian and Curator, Museum of the Big Bend, Alpine, TX.  
2002- Present Lecturer in History, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX.  
2001- Present Seasonal Ranger, Fort Davis National Historic Site, Fort Davis, TX.  
1998-2006 Resident Manager, Spanish Oaks Apartments, Alpine, TX.  
1976-1996 United States Coast Guard. Retired in April 1996 as a Chief Boatswain's Mate.

## LANGUAGES

Undergraduate minor in Spanish. Reading knowledge of Portuguese.

## EXHIBITS CURATED

Summer 2011 - *Jodie P. Harris: Postcards from the Border*  
Fall 2010 - *Going to Texas: Five Centuries of Texas Maps*  
Fall 2009 & Spring 2010: *Putting Texas On the Map: Firsts in the Mapping of Texas*  
Spring & Summer 2009 - *A Nation at War: How Americans Learn Geography*  
Jan & Feb 2009 - Union League Club, NYC - *Going to Texas: Five Centuries of Texas Maps*  
Spring & Summer 2008 - *Tracks Across Texas: Railroading in the Lone Star State*  
Spring & Summer 2007 - *The US-Mexican Boundary Survey*  
Spring 2007 to Spring 2010 - *Going to Texas: Five Centuries of Texas Maps*  
Spring & Summer 2006 - *Turn South at the Pecos: the Aft and Times of Bill Leftwich*  
Spring & Summer 2005 - *American Journey: In the Footsteps of Lewis & Clark*  
Fall 2004 - *Boundaries to Blair: Eight Scientists in the Big Bend*

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Texas Map Society, Texas Historical Society, Texas Association of Museums, Brewster County Historical Commission, National Association of Park Rangers, Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association.