



United States Marine Corps

Internet: <http://www.29palms.marines.mil/>

Public Affairs Office

P.O. Box 788200

Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center

Twentynine Palms, CA 92278

For more information:

Phone: (760) 830-6213

MEDIA ADVISORY #17-002

April 10, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER DIAZ ROAD RENAMING

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. – Combat Center Commanding General, Brig. Gen. William F. Mullen III, has directed a formal road renaming ceremony in honor of Staff Sgt. Christopher Diaz, a Bronze Star Medal with Valor Device recipient who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country in September 2011, while conducting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The ceremony will take place aboard the Combat Center, April 14, 2017 at 11 a.m.

On September 28, 2011, while serving as a military working dog handler with 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion, Diaz was on a combat patrol in the Upper Gereshk Valley of the Helmand Province, tasked with clearing a reported Improvised Explosive Device from inside a checkpoint. After the team's explosive ordnance disposal technician was severely injured by an explosion inside the checkpoint, Diaz immediately reacted without regard for his own safety and moved to treat his injured team member. Fully aware of the enemy's tendency to emplace secondary improvised explosive devices in the immediate vicinity of the primary charge, Diaz courageously entered the checkpoint. As Diaz and other

first responders attempted to evacuate their injured Marine, there was a second explosion, immediately killing Diaz and two others. By his bold actions, unrelenting perseverance, and total dedication to duty, Diaz reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

The road, which runs adjacent to the military working dog kennels, formerly Calcite Road, will be renamed 'Diaz Road' in his honor.

******MEDIA COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS******

Media interested in covering this event must email the MCAGCC Public Affairs Office at SMBPLMSCOMBATCENTERPAO@usmc.mil and must RSVP no later than 4 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12. Members of the media who have RSVP'd will meet at MCAGCC's MAIN GATE located on Adobe Rd. at 10:00 a.m. on FRIDAY, APRIL 14, to be escorted to the event. Please plan to remain on base for at least 2 hours.