

# CSTC-A Honors Fallen Texas Guardsman With Building Dedication

By Petty Officer First Class Douglas Mappin

After honoring fallen comrades during Veteran's Day ceremonies just one day earlier, officials from the Combined Security Transition Command–Afghanistan (CSTC-A), Camp Eggers, Kabul, Afghanistan, were reminded of the sacrifice of one of their own. On 12 November 2008, CSTC-A members dedicated a building in memory of Texas Army National Guardsman, Sergeant Jamie Gonzalez Jr., who was killed when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device on 3 August 2008.

Sergeant Gonzalez, a 40-year-old native of Austin, Texas, who had previously served in the U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy, entered the Texas Army National Guard on 10 November 2006. A year later, he volunteered to join the 436th Chemical Company, Laredo, Texas, so that he could deploy to Afghanistan, where his unit provided security forces for Camp Eggers. Sergeant Gonzalez was highly regarded by his fellow team members.

"I am honored by the privilege to be at this building dedication to honor Sergeant Gonzalez," said Major General Robert W. Cone, CSTC-A Commander. "He was a valued member of our team who gave the ultimate measure of service as he courageously executed his mission."

Offering his condolences to Sergeant Gonzalez's family and fellow service members, Major General Cone commented on the bravery that Sergeant Gonzalez displayed during his service at Camp Eggers. "He was proud to serve. I consider myself privileged to have served with him and witness his team's dedication, selfless service, and commitment each and every day," he said.

Major Tonya Hightower, CSTC-A Garrison Commander, and Sergeant Juan Gonzalez-Martinez, a close friend of Sergeant Gonzalez, also delivered remarks during the ceremony. Major General Cone and Major Hightower then unveiled the dedication plaque.

Gonzalez's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal, and the Navy Good Conduct Medal. He is survived by his parents, wife, and children. 🗣️

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