



**Marine Staff Sgt. Christopher Diaz 27, of Albuquerque, N. M.**

SSgt Diaz was assigned to Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Air Combat Center, Twenty-nine Palms, California. Died September 28, 2011 in Helmand province, Afghanistan while conducting combat operations.

SSgt was a top dog and one of the most experienced handlers in the Marine Corps. He was killed while rushing in to help a wounded Marine during operations in support of reconnaissance and special forces units on raids to kill or capture Taliban leaders in Helmand province strongholds.

SSgt Christopher Diaz was an accomplished young man; he graduated from La Cueva High School in Albuquerque, NM and went on to enlist in the [United States Marine Corps](#) in 2003.

Chris "Fatso" comes from a long line of military tradition which includes his great-grandfather Jesus Diaz, grandfather Salvador Diaz, father Salvador Diaz, Jr. and older brother Raynaldo S. Diaz.

SSgt. Diaz was assigned to Headquarters Battalion Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center and served for III-MEF. During his eight years of loyal service he did one tour in Iraq, one tour in Israel, and one tour in Afghanistan.

Knowing the dangers that came with his career he bravely served with honor, courage and commitment to the very end.

Left to honor the memory of his life are his children, Jeremy C. Diaz, Mia E. Davis; parents, Salvador Diaz Jr., Sandra Diaz; and fiancée, Tonya Jackson. Other survivors include his brothers, Raynaldo S. Diaz (Lori Wilcox), Jeromie Diaz (Marisa Godoy); and numerous family members and friends.

His faithful K-9 companion, Dino was adopted by SSgt Diaz's family.

His decorations consist of:

**Combat Action Ribbon**

**Marine Corps. Good Conduct Medal**

**Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal**

**Sea Service Deployment Ribbon**

**Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal**

**Navy and Marine Corps. Overseas Service Ribbon**

**Iraq Campaign Medal**

**Global War on Terrorism Service Medal**

**National Defense Service Medal**

**Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation**

**Certificate of Commendation (Individual Award)**

**Letter of Appreciation.**