

Commander Adam Gonzalez (Ret.) has traveled to each of the 50 U.S. states, including the five major U.S. territories. Adam has also traveled to multiple countries as well as six of the world's seven continents. He has worked as a public safety servant for over 25 years, well over half of which has been in various leadership positions including Specialist, Corporal, Investigator, Instructor, Sergeant, Court Liaison, Lead Negotiator, and Division Commander. Adam has been certified as a Crisis Intervention Team member since 2004, a Field Training Officer since 2005, and a certified Hostage/Crisis Negotiator since 2009. Adam has been the past recipient of the Fraternal Order of Police's Lodge Founders Award and the J. Edgar Hoover Memorial Gold Medal for Distinguished Public Service from the American Police Hall of Fame. Adam is a graduate of several local, regional and national leadership programs including the University of Utah's Public Safety for the Emerging Leaders Program in Salt Lake City, Utah, and the Department of Homeland Security's Leadership Academy (DHSLA) at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia, where he would become a Distinguished Graduate and serve as a Class Mentor for DHSLA Session 23. Adam has also graduated from the National Command and Staff College in Holly Springs, North Carolina. Regarding this, Adam was recognized with the Outstanding Individual Capstone Research Project Award for his 46-page custody research paper. Some of his additional award-winning professional work has been published in the American Correctional Association's publication "Corrections Today", and the National Sheriff's Association's magazine "Sheriff and Deputy". Outside of public service, Adam is a strong advocate for private service, volunteerism and giving back. Adam continues volunteering through his faith by serving in various positions including Sunday School teacher. Adam serves in Scouting America and was the recipient in 2022 of the James E. West Fellowship Award and was recognized as a National Eagle Scout Association Legacy Fellow in 2024. Also, having served in the past as an American Red Cross First Aid, CPR, and AED Instructor, Adam has long provided as a continuous Sickie Cell Fighter Program blood donor. In 2025, Adam was awarded the Blood Service Heroes Award by the American Red Cross for his continuing services, including over 100 blood units donated (approximately 12.5 gallons). Adam continues to be a powerful supporter for blood donation, and now partners with the American Red Cross as a Board Member. In his personal life, Adam has completed many marathons and obstacle course races, is a scuba diver with both fresh and saltwater diving experience, and enjoys hiking and stream trout fishing. Adam is quick to point out that first and foremost, he is a family man, and prefers nothing more than being with his family. Adam's professional memberships include Life Member of the National Eagle Scout Association, Life Member of the Vanguard International Scouting Association, Life Member of the American Jail Association and Life Member of the National Sheriff's Association. After retiring in 2017, Adam's passion for teaching and service led him back to the field, and to the classroom. In 2022, he joined the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC) in Seattle as a guest instructor. His skill and commitment quickly led him to a part-time position in 2023, followed by a full-time contracted role in 2024. Upon invitation, Adam ended his contract in 2025, and joined full-time as a Criminal Justice Trainer with the State of Washington. Adam now proudly serves as a primary instructor, administrator, and counselor at WSCJTC, where he helps shape the next generation of public safety professionals.