Press Release

Release No: 2408-02

August 6, 2024

Fort Drum Public Affairs

Soldier Death On Fort Drum Under Investigation

Fort Drum, N.Y. – The death of Specialist Jacob Ashton, age 21, from Perry, Ohio, is currently under investigation by the Department of the Army Criminal Investigation Division, after he was discovered deceased on post Aug. 5.

Specialist Ashton is from the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (LI).  He enlisted in 2021, and attended Basic Combat Training at Fort Moore, Georgia.  He deployed with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (LI) to Iraq in 2023.  Specialist Ashton’s awards and decorations include Army Commendation Medal with C Device, the National Defense Service Medal, Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal, Global War of Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Combat Infantry Badge.

In a statement from Col. Anthony Gore, 2nd Brigade Combat Team commander, he said: “Our entire Commando family feels profound sorrow for the loss of Jacob. While words do little to ease the pain of Jacob’s passing, we are a family, and we will wrap our arms around his family as well as support each other. Let us live in a manner worthy of honoring Jacob’s life and service. As we mourn, I ask each of us to keep his family in our thoughts and prayers.”

Additional support services are available to meet the needs of grieving Soldiers in Specialist Ashton’s unit.  A local memorial is planned.

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Due to the ongoing investigation, there are no additional releasable details regarding the circumstances of Specialist Ashton’s death through Fort Drum and 10th Mountain Division Public Affairs.  Follow-on inquiries should be directed to Department of the Army CID PAO.