Media Advisory

Release Nr: 2201-07

January 31, 2022

Fort Drum Public Affairs

Fort Drum & 10th Mountain Division Holds D-Series Winter Challenge 2022

Fort Drum, NY – The 10th Mountain Division holds the D-Series Winter Challenge on Feb. 3-4, 2022, to enhance the Division’s physical fitness, mental toughness, competitive spirit, and link to unit history.

The competition is held annually and commemorates the hardships and trials the original 10th Mountain Soldiers went through to prepare for combat.  The name “D-Series” is a reference to the culminating winter training event that the Soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division went through in March-April 1944 to prepare for combat in the mountains of Italy.

More than 75, nine-Soldier teams will complete a nine-mile ruck movement with graded stations along the way that are winter-focused and designed to test proficiency and knowledge. Soldiers will be graded on having all items on a packing list to be carried during the competition.

Teams will compete in a stress shoot on an M-4 range that consists of four timed firing positions, scored for accuracy; the firing positions are three varied barrier shots. The other part of the team who aren’t selected to fire will participate in Kim’s Game, where a selection of objects must be memorized by the Soldiers and graded on what they recall seeing later. The game develops a person's capacity to observe and remember details. The name is derived from Rudyard Kipling's 1901 novel Kim, in which the protagonist plays the game during his training as a spy.

Casualty evacuation lanes will have the teams receive a casualty and equipment then execute appropriate actions to evacuate and treat the casualty and secure additional equipment in their sled. Scoring is based on timeliness and procedures used to treat the casualty.

Teams will submit a spot report on a tactical scenario on a radio. Scoring is based on timeliness and accurate transmission of the report.

The teams will split up once again on the rappel lane where half the team will rappel while the other half will tie knots. Squads will be graded on the use of the equipment, proper rappel procedures, navigation on the rock wall, and successful knot tying.

Competing Soldiers will perform weapons proficiency tasks on four weapon systems, to expert-level Army standards. Squads are graded on successful timed completion of the tasks

Teams will move to the finish line and conclude the D-Series Winter Challenge 22 with a rucksack weigh-in and a written exam on the items they saw as part of Kim’s Game. Teams are considered finished with the competition once the written exam is complete.

Drivers on Fort Drum must be alert for Soldiers crossing roads. Bomporto Bridge will be closed from 0800-1730 on Feb. 3 and from 0800-1500 on Feb. 4.  Please use Munns Corner Rd. or Gas Alley Gate.

Media interested in covering the D-Series Winter Challenge 2022 on Thursday, Feb. 3, must be at the Media Operations Center on Route 26 no later than 9:30 a.m. An RSVP is requested by 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2.

To RSVP or for further information regarding this advisory, contact MAJ Travis Shaw at 315-772-8216 or Travis.j.shaw8.mil@army.mil