Media Advisory

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May 9, 2024

10th Mountain Division Public Affairs

Three Soldiers Earn ‘Ace’ Status for Downing Enemy Unmanned Aircraft Systems

Fort Drum, N.Y. – Local media are invited to meet three returning 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) Soldiers who earned "Ace" status (shot down five or more enemy Unmanned Aircraft Systems) while deployed to the U.S. Central Command’s area of responsibility, at 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 15, 2024.

Interested media will meet with Sgt. William J. Taroc (shot down 13 enemy UASs), Staff Sgt. Henry Davis (shot down seven enemy UASs), and Staff Sgt. Daniel Smith (shot down eight enemy UASs) with 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team. These three Soldiers shot down a total of 28 incoming UASs while deployed to the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility. Media will have the opportunity to ask Soldiers about the counter-UAS training they received ahead of the deployment, and how this training directly impacted their ability to defend their bases and fellow Soldiers. Media will also hear how Soldiers have reintegrated back into the Fort Drum and North Country community, since returning home.

Information on 2nd Brigade Combat Team’s tour:

Last July, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) “Commandos” deployed in support of Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve. Soldiers of 2nd Brigade executed area security operations throughout Iraq, Syria, Jordan, and Kuwait. As part of Operation Inherent Resolve’s largest and most geographically dispersed component, 2nd Brigade’s approximately 2,000 Soldiers were instrumental in enabling CJTF-OIR’s mission to advise, assist, and enable partner forces to prevent the resurgence of ISIS. The Commandos protected coalition assets while maintaining the strategic legitimacy of the coalition and deterred malign actors, enabling coalition forces’ freedom of maneuver.

Media interested in covering this event must be at the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum Museum parking lot on Route 26 no later than 9:20 a.m. Wednesday, May 15. An RSVP is requested by 3 p.m. Tuesday, May 14.

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To RSVP or for further information regarding this advisory, contact Capt. Eric-James Estrada at ericjames.estrada.mil@army.mil or 315-772-2192 (office), 315-489-0901 (cell).