Media Advisory

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Fort Drum Public Affairs

4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Plans Memorial on 20th Anniversary of Black Hawk Helicopter Crash March 11

Fort Drum, N.Y. – The 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) will hold a memorial ceremony on the 20th anniversary of a Black Hawk helicopter crash at 1 p.m. March 11 at the 4-31 Infantry pad.

This ceremony will honor the legacy of the Soldiers who lost their lives during a training exercise in the Fort Drum training area.

On March 11, 2003, the 4-31 “Polar Bears” were conducting air mobile operations with the support of 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (LI). At approximately 1:50 p.m., the trail Black Hawk of a series of three aircraft disappeared from radar. It was not until the other two helicopters arrived back at Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield that the realization of a tragedy had struck.

A search-and-rescue team found the wreckage in a snowy wooded area an hour and a half later. Among the Soldiers who were on the helicopter at the time there were 11 fatalities and two who survived, but with critical injuries.

The following Soldiers were killed in the accident:

\* Capt. Christopher E. Britton, 27, from Ohio, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment;

\* Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kenneth L. Miller, 35, from California, assigned to B Company, 2nd Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment;

\* Staff Sgt. Brian Pavlich, 25, from Port Jervis, N.Y., assigned to C Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment;

\* Sgt. John L. Eichenlaub Jr., 24, from South Williamsport, Pa., assigned to C Company, 4-31 Infantry;

\* Sgt. Joshua M. Harapko, 23, from Peoria, Ariz., assigned to C Company, 4-31 Infantry;

\* Spc. Lucas V. Tripp, 23, from Aurora, Colo., assigned to B Company, 2-10 Aviation;

\* Spc. Barry M. Stephens, 20, from Pinson, Ala., assigned to B Company, 2-10 Aviation;

\* Pfc. Shawn A. Mayerscik, 22, from Oil City, Pa., assigned to C Company, 4-31 Infantry;

\* Pfc. Tommy C. Young, 20, from Knoxville, Tenn., assigned to C Company, 4-31 Infantry;

\* Pfc. Stryder O. Stoutenburg, 18, from Missoula, Mont., assigned to C Company, 4-31 Infantry, and

\* Pfc. Andrew D. Stevens, 20, from Rockingham, N.H., assigned to C Company, 4-31 Infantry.

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Media interested in attending the ceremony must RSVP by 4 p.m. March 10 and be at the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum Museum parking lot at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 11.

To RSVP or for further information regarding this advisory, contact MAJ Jennifer Dyrcz, jennifer.e.dyrcz.mil@army.mil