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U.S. ARMY MANEUVER CENTER OF EXCELLENCE



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## **MEDIA RELEASE: Second update: Fort Benning Soldier's condition improves**

**DATE:** Oct. 18, 2014

**FORT BENNING, Georgia** - The results of the Ebola blood test for the Soldier, who recently travelled to Nigeria, are negative.

The Soldier reported to Fort Benning's Adjutant General (AG) Reception Battalion on Oct. 14, and during in-processing was identified as having travelled to Nigeria, which is one of the five Ebola affected countries. As required, the 30<sup>th</sup> AG monitored the Soldier's temperature twice daily. On Thursday, Oct. 16, the Soldier had an elevated temperature, and out of an abundance of caution, normal protocols were implemented and, within two hours, the unit quickly segregated him. Within four hours, he was admitted to isolation at the new Martin Army Community Hospital, where he has been treated and monitored.

"The new hospital was designed with a decontamination room for this type of contingency," said Colonel Scott Avery, Commander of Martin Army Community Hospital. "We received the call to evacuate the Soldier during the evening hours, and brought the Soldier to the new hospital through an entrance designed for chemical decontamination."

While part of the hospital is still under construction, no workers were present. The next morning, a decision was made to stop all work in the Emergency Room to allow the care team to provide for the patient without any distraction. "There was no hazard to any workers in the Emergency Room," said Avery, "as none had any contact with the patient."

By Friday evening, the Soldier's temperature had dropped, and by Saturday morning, his temperature had returned to the normal range, which is completely inconsistent with the disease process associated with Ebola. Although not required, Fort Benning medical personnel continued to exceed the protocols and sent blood samples from the affected Soldier to the U.S Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Disease in Maryland for processing.

On Saturday, Oct. 18, blood test results showed the Soldier was not infected with Ebola. Per protocol, the Soldier will be moved from isolation into the general patient area of the hospital, and continue to be monitored until he is medically cleared. At that time, he will be released back to the 30<sup>th</sup> AG to resume training.

"While we are relieved this Soldier does not have Ebola," said COL Patrick Donahoe, Maneuver Center of Excellence Chief of Staff, "this was an opportunity for Fort Benning to not only test our systems, but exceed protocols to better ensure the safety and well-being of our Soldiers and those in the workforce who support them."

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