



U.S. ARMY

U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence

Fort Benning, Georgia



One Force, One Fight!

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MEDIA ADVISORY: Chaplain Matthew C. Christensen courageously saves two Soldiers Lives

DATE: March 13, 2017

WHO: U.S. Army awards the Soldiers' Medal to 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry Regiment Chaplain (CPT) Matthew Christensen

WHAT: Chaplain Christensen will be presented with the Soldiers' Medal, the Army's highest non-combat award.

WHERE: 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry Regiment Battalion Headquarters

WHEN: March 14, at 9 a.m.

THEME: Selfless Service, Courage, Duty, Honor, Soldier's Creed, Army Values

Chaplain Christensen put the welfare of others above his own and risked his life by stepping in front of a Soldier swinging a machete. As a result of his bravery, he was awarded with Soldier's Medal.

BACKGROUND: On Feb. 28, 2015, Chaplain Christensen prevented the suicide of one Soldier and saved the life of another. While serving as the on-call duty chaplain, he responded to a situation where an intoxicated Soldier was armed with multiple knives and machetes creating a serious threat. Chaplain was taken by the Soldier as one of the hostages. And when the soldier grabbed an unarmed Soldier and put the machete to his neck, Chaplain Christensen rushed the Soldier and put him in a rear naked chokehold, thereby eliminating the threat and saving the victims' life.

Additional Information: Media will RSVP by 5pm March 13 to the points of contact above and meet their escort at the I-185 Visitor's Center at 8:15 a.m. March 14.

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