



# U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence



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**PRESS RELEASE: Service Member Fatalities**

**DATE:** August 10, 2022

**FORT BENNING, Georgia** – The Maneuver Center of Excellence and Fort Benning extend our condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of two service members, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Evan Fitzgibbon and Staff Sgt. George Taber, who succumbed to injuries sustained during a weather-related incident August 9 at Yonah Mountain, located near Dahlonega, Ga.

Fitzgibbon and Taber, along with three other Ranger candidates, were struck by a fallen tree around 3:15 p.m. while sheltering during a weather-induced training hold. All injured personnel were transported to a local hospital, where Fitzgibbon and Taber were later pronounced deceased.

“We are all deeply saddened by the loss of these two outstanding Soldiers and send our heartfelt condolences to their families,” Maneuver Center of Excellence and Fort Benning Commanding General Maj. Gen. Curtis A. Buzzard said. “They are in our thoughts and prayers.”

Fitzgibbon, an Infantry Officer (11A), assigned to the Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course, 199<sup>th</sup> Leader Brigade at Fort Benning, commissioned May 22, 2021, from the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY.

Taber, a Special Forces Medical Sergeant (18D) with the 7<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group at Eglin Air Force Base, enlisted March 14, 2017.

“Those who volunteer to attend Ranger School represent the very best of our military,” Airborne and Ranger Training Brigade Commander Col. Christopher C. Hammonds said. “This loss resonates across our Army and across our nation.”

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