



16 - 058

Privately Owned Weapon Mishap Claims One Soldier's Life

A Soldier assigned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, Fort Drum, NY, died of a gunshot wound on 13 June 2016, at approximately 0030 local, while on transition leave in Gulf Shores, AL. The 23-year old SPC was attempting unload a .380 ACP pistol when a round was discharged and struck him in the head. He had been visiting friends at a private residence when he was handed the loaded weapon.

Leader Engagement Tips

- Emphasize the importance of always maintaining muzzle awareness with your Soldiers.
- Discuss with your Soldiers the importance of not handling weapons when you are consuming alcohol; alcohol is a factor in the majority of fatal privately owned weapons mishaps.
- Tools for leaders to engage their Soldiers on privately owned weapons, please visit the USACRC link: <https://safety.army.mil/OFF-DUTY/PrivatelyOwnedWeapons.aspx>

This is the 3rd Class A, Personally Owned Weapon Mishap fatality in FY16, compared to 1 for the same time frame in FY15. This PLR does not identify specific root causes of this incident as the investigation is ongoing. Further details will be available at a later date through RMIS (RMIS Login Required).

PLRs are intended to alert leaders to mishaps resulting in the loss of Soldiers/Civilians and to provide awareness in the interest of prevention and combat readiness.

Our Army depends on you to use these PLRs to help Soldiers understand the impact of decisions made on and off duty.

The [U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS CENTER](#) is interested in your comments; please [click here](#) to provide feedback on the Preliminary Loss Reports (PLR). [FAQs](#) and additional resources can be found on the USACRC website at <https://safety.army.mil>



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