



18-011



Fall Mishap Claims One Soldier's Life

A Sergeant Major assigned to 128th Aviation Brigade, Fort Eustis, Virginia, died in a fall mishap 4 November 2017 at 1330 local in Beaverdam, Virginia. Preliminary reporting indicates the Soldier suffered fatal injuries when he fell while trimming a tree at his residence.

ENGAGEMENT TIPS:

Unless you can work with both feet on the ground and the job is a simple pruning of small branches, consider hiring a professional tree service.

- Working at height requires proper training and protection due to a number of risky variables such as electrical wires, wildlife, nearby fences, buildings or homes.
 - It takes knowledge, skill and expertise to correctly estimate where a larger limb will fall when cut from the tree.
 - Professionals use the right kind of equipment and proper safety precautions to prevent catastrophic results from miscalculations.
- If you are trimming your own trees:
 - Assume all power lines are energized.
 - Do not work on any trees within 10 feet of a power line; leave that to the pros.
 - Wear personal safety equipment.
 - Do not work in dangerous weather conditions.
 - Use caution on ladders and lifts.
 - Do not climb with tools.

PLRs provide leaders with awareness of Army loss and highlight potential trends that affect combat readiness. Our Army depends on you to use these PLRs to help Soldiers understand the impact of decisions made on and off duty.

Additional U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center resources can be found on the USACRC website at <https://safety.army.mil>.

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