



21-045

## Combat Skills/Military Unique Mishap Claims One Soldier's Life

A Specialist assigned to Fort Benning, Georgia, attending Ranger School, died in a combat skills/military unique mishap 25 March 2021 at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, at approximately 1826 local. The Soldier was crossing a rope bridge constructed on Weaver River when he became submerged at the halfway point. Four instructors attempted to render aid but were unable to maintain contact. The instructors lost sight of the Soldier for several minutes before locating him unconscious and without pulse. On-site medics began immediate trauma care and air evacuated the Soldier to the local hospital. He was pronounced dead upon arrival by the attending physician.

**Since FY16, the Army has lost an average of three Soldiers a year to combat skills/military unique mishaps. This was the first combat skills/military unique mishap of FY21.**

*PLRs are intended to be used as an engagement tool for leaders to discuss the hazards and trends impacting Soldier safety and readiness. The PLR contains only basic information but provides sufficient background to allow leaders an opportunity to communicate risk at the Soldier level. More detailed information on this and other Army mishaps can be found on the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center website at <https://safety.army.mil/lessonslearned>.*

*To access current U.S. Army accident statistics and reports, visit <https://safety.army.mil/STATISTICS>.*

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

