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10th Mountain Life features soldier shoutouts, photos of Fort Drum events, memories from post and more.

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The Madison Barracks 9th Division of the 25th Field Artillery, on maneuver at the Pine Camp artillery range, prepare to fire a 75-millimeter gun. In 1906, the area of Pine Camp near the communities of Black River and Deferiet was selected by the commanders of Madison Barracks for training. Courtesy of the 10th Mountain Division & Fort Drum Museum



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ON THIS DAY

A team comprised of Central New York and Fort Drum-based sled hockey players watches a game against a team from Buffalo during the fifth 1000 Islands River Classic pond hockey tournament in Clayton on Jan. 30, 2016. From the Watertown Daily Times Archive

10TH MOUNTAIN LIFE

10th Light Support Battalion honored by Assemblyman Gray

By JONATHON WHEELER
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FORT DRUM — The 10th Light Support Battalion was recently recognized by Assemblyman Scott A. Gray for extraordinary efforts during high-priority missions.

The battalion had completed more than 20 high priority missions without a single error.

“It really came down to extraordinary work by the unit,” Gray said. “We thought it was worthy to point it out and actually thank them for it and welcome them home.”

Gray said that when units complete the high-level missions without error, it is worth officially recognizing at the state level.

“They’re under extreme pressure,” Gray said. “It’s like having a perfect season in sports... It’s worthy of recognition when somebody can execute at that level.”

Gray called the Fort Drum connection to the north country “huge” while complimenting the work of Capt. Kenard Hird, who is the Company C commander.

“There are certain units and there are certain leaders and Kenny Hird is one of those leaders, one of those



Assemblyman Scott Gray presents the citation to Capt. Kenard Hird, right, and 1st Sgt. Darlson Osias. Provided photo

exceptional leaders,” he said.

He said Hird leads the unit at a high level.

“We’re talking about not only war-fighting, when they’re operating flawlessly, but we’re talking about when they come home, they train hard... they incorporate moral type of building activities in there and they’re very community oriented,” Gray said. “When you talk about well rounded leadership and you’re talking about a well-rounded unit, you’re looking at Kenny leading that unit.”

JOB WELL DONE



Sgt. Pedro Crespo Jesus, a human resources NCO, gets awarded by soldiers and leaders with HHC, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade during his ETS ceremony at Fort Drum on Dec. 9. Pedro reaffirmed his dedication to service in the United States Army by reenlisting for 3 years the prior month. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Mason Nichols

OUT AND ABOUT

- Seven soldiers, including one from the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Polk, started off 2026 by earning their newest Military Occupational Specialty — 91J — by completing five weeks of training in the 91J10 Quartermaster and Chemical Equipment Repairer Course at Regional Training Site (RTS)-Maintenance at Fort McCoy. Spc. Chandler Petrimoulx with 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, was among them.
- Although he never wore a military uniform, Charles Minot Dole’s service to the U.S. Army proved invaluable as his advocacy and recruitment efforts led to the establishment of the 10th Mountain Division in 1943. Fort Drum community members and invited guests gathered inside the post museum to celebrate his legacy Jan. 23 during the dedication ceremony of the Charles Minot “Minnie” Dole Heritage Complex. “Today we are not simply renaming a building,” said Maj. Gen. Scott Naumann, 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum commanding general. “We are recognizing the individual whose vision, persistence, and love of the mountains helped create this division and, probably more importantly, helped define who we are.” Dole, the founder of the National Ski Patrol, recognized a critical gap in the U.S. military and relentlessly petitioned the War Department for a specialized mountain unit.