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*News Release***



7073 RADIO ROAD
FORT POLK LA 71459-5342
Voice: (337) 531-1418
Fax: (337) 531-2403

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Dan Nance

337-531-7203

Fort Polk soldier killed while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom

FORT POLK, La.—The Department of Defense announced today the identity of a Fort Polk soldier who was killed while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Cpl. Tomas Sotelo Jr., 20, of Houston, Texas, was killed on June 27 in Baghdad, Iraq. Sotelo was traveling in a convoy when a rocket propelled grenade struck his vehicle.

Sotelo was assigned to Headquarters Troop, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Polk, La.

Four other Fort Polk soldiers were injured in the incident:

MAJ John L. Ward, Headquarters Troop, 2nd ACR

SGT Fransisco Rodriguez, Jr., Howitzer Battery, 3rd Squadron, 2nd ACR

PFC Robert Leishman, Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 2ACR

PV2 Mark Gratton, Headquarters Troop, 2ACR

All were evacuated to a combat support hospital for treatment. Ward and Rodriguez received serious injuries. Leishman and Gratton were not seriously injured.

The incident remains under investigation.