



**ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT    COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY**  
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**NEWS RELEASE** *for Immediate Release*

**No. 2017 – 62**

**April 20, 2017 3:45 p.m.**

**St. Mary's County Government Stands with the 12<sup>th</sup> Aviation Battalion**

**Leonardtown, MD** - Though the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office was among the first responders on Monday, when a UH-60 Black Hawk crashed during a routine training flight, St. Mary's County Government has otherwise remained silent out of respect for the investigation, the United States Army and the friends and family of the victim and the other crew members.

This was not our story to tell.

Tuesday evening, the U.S. Army Military District of Washington released the names of those involved in the incident. At this time, we want to send our deepest condolences to everyone who has been affected and will continue to be affected by the terrible tragedy which took place on April 17.

Our deepest prayers go out to the family, friends and fellow soldiers of Specialist Jeremy Darrell Tomlin of the 12<sup>th</sup> Aviation Battalion, who died in the crash. We are also keeping Chief Warrant Officer Christopher Nicholas, a pilot and Captain Terikazu Onoda, Charlie Company commander, in our prayers as well.

St. Mary's County Government wishes to publicly recognize the acts of kindness and selflessness exhibited in the wake of the crash.

We praise those community members who reacted quickly and administered lifesaving efforts at the crash site. These individuals selflessly provided assistance before police and Emergency Service Units arrived on scene. We are thinking of our volunteer Fire and Rescue Personnel, the Sheriff's deputies who helped to extricate the crew members from the crash as well as the other deputies and detectives who worked tirelessly through the night to preserve and protect the scene.

St. Mary's County Government and the Sheriff's Office thank those who brought commodities to those at the scene, the Breton Bay Golf Course for their assistance and hospitality and Eddie Bailey for providing food and drink throughout the evening.

Finally, special recognition goes to the entire Breton Bay Community for going above and beyond in showing their support and offer condolences to the 12<sup>th</sup> Aviation Battalion and the United States Army by hanging American flags on the poles leading to the crash site.

MORE

St. Mary's County Government is proud of the response by members of our community as we all continue to stand with the 12<sup>th</sup> Aviation Battalion.

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