



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

April 11, 2026

For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE ON THE PASSING OF A MEMBER OF THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO DEFENCE FORCE

The Minister of Defence, the Honourable Wayne Sturge, expresses deep sadness at the tragic passing of Private Shaquil Curtis McCoy, a 27-year-old member of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force. Private McCoy, who served with the 1st Infantry Battalion at Camp Ogden, St. James, was found at his residence in Maraval. The matter is currently being treated as a suspected suicide.

The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force, has initiated a full investigation to determine the circumstances surrounding this incident. The Ministry of Defence has been advised that all necessary procedures are being rigorously followed in the investigation that is being conducted.

Minister Sturge extends sincere condolences to the family, loved ones, and fellow service members of Private McCoy during this period of profound grief. He has also conveyed his support to the leadership of the Defence Force and all those affected by this loss.

“The loss of any member of our Defence Force is deeply felt—not only within the ranks, but across the national community. Our service men and women dedicate their lives to the protection of this country, and their well-being remains a priority,” the Minister stated.

The Ministry of Defence confirms that appropriate internal support systems have been activated within the Defence Force to provide counselling and assistance to personnel impacted by this tragedy.

The Ministry respectfully urges the public and media to exercise sensitivity and refrain from speculation as investigations are ongoing.

Further information will be provided as it becomes available.

Wayne D Sturge

Minister of Defence

Minister in the Ministry of Homeland Security

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