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Hometown News Release

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Colombia native named 278th ACR best warrior

SMYRNA, Tenn. – A Tennessee National Guardsmen from Colombia competed in the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment’s Best Warrior Competition, and earned the title of Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, Nov. 19, at Smyrna’s Volunteer Training Site.

Sgt. Zachary Kleinfelder, an infantryman assigned to 2nd Squadron, 278th ACR, competed against three other noncommissioned officers for the title of best warrior. During the nearly weeklong competition, the Soldiers preformed a series mentally and physically demanding events to include a ruck march, weapons qualification, the Army Combat Fitness Test, and land navigation.

Kleinfelder, an eight-year veteran, earned the Army Commendation Medal for his superior performance during the competition.

“I’m honored to have been able to compete alongside my peers,” said Kleinfelder. “This was a great opportunity to showcase our skills, and I’m thrilled with how the week went.”

In the coming months, Kleinfelder will represent the 278th as he advances to the State competition, pitting the best from all of Tennessee’s major commands against one another. The winners of the State Best Warrior Competition will progress to the regional competition.

“I’m excited to represent the 278th,” said Kleinfelder. “I’m going to continue to train hard and prepare myself so I can win the state title and keep going forward.”

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Sgt. Zachary Kleinfelder, 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, conducts the Army Combat Fitness Test, Nov. 18, at Smyrna's Volunteer Training Site. Kleinfelder was named the 278th ACR's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year after competing against his peers in a series of physically and mentally challenging exercises. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Cordeiro)



Sgt. Zachary Kleinfelder, 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, is awarded the Army Commendation Medal, Nov. 19, at Smyrna's Volunteer Training Site. Kleinfelder was named the 278th ACR's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year after competing against his peers in a series of physically and mentally challenging exercises. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Cordeiro)

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