



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 25, 2023

Hometown News Release

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Tommie Boleyn Retires After 40 Years of Military Service

After serving in the U.S. military for over four decades, Bedford County resident, Lt. Col. Tommie Boleyn, retired from the Tennessee National Guard during a ceremony at his home in Shelbyville on September 23.

Boleyn was honored for his commitment and sacrifice to the nation and the state of Tennessee after faithfully serving both for more than 40 years.

“If we ever needed anything, Tommie was always there,” said Maj. Timothy Butler. “He is more than just a great officer and an amazing leader; he has been a brother to us all. He will be deeply missed.”

Boleyn first enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in August of 1982 while still attending high school. Upon graduation in 1983, he became an assaultman and a heavy anti-tank weapon system crewman with the 27th Marine Regiment at 29 Palms, California. For the next 13 years, he served at numerous duty stations in California, North Carolina, Japan, and Okinawa. He also served aboard the USS Independence and USS Theodore Roosevelt as well as deployed to the Persian Gulf, the Philippines, Somalia, and Yugoslavia for various contingency operations.

After serving in the Marine Corps, Boleyn moved to Nashville and became a Tennessee Highway patrolman and earned his bachelor’s degree in criminal justice administration from Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. In 2000, Boleyn and his family moved to Bedford County.

Boleyn enlisted in the Tennessee Army National Guard as an infantryman in 2003 and earned a direct commission as a 2nd Lt. to become a Military Police Officer in 2005. Over the next twenty years, he deployed to Iraq, Cuba, and Kosovo and responded to numerous state and national level emergencies like Hurricane Katrina, the southwest border, numerous hurricanes and floods, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Tommie was always the one to volunteer for the most challenging and difficult missions,” said Bulter. “Serving people and always being there to help those in need is in his blood. He may have retired, but he will never stop being there for others whenever he is needed.”

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During his retirement ceremony from the Tennessee National Guard, Bedford County resident, Lt. Col. Tommie Boleyn, poses with his wife, Tara, at his home in Shelbyville on September 23. (photo by Lt. Col. Darrin Haas)

All Tennessee Army and Air National Guard press releases can be found at
<https://www.tn.gov/military/news.html>

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