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Hometown News Release

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Knoxville resident commissions as second lieutenant

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – 2nd Lt. Donovan Pflieger graduated from the Tennessee National Guard’s Officer Candidate School and earned his commission as an officer in the Tennessee Army National Guard at Smyrna’s Volunteer Training Site on Aug. 13.

Pflieger completed a rigorous 18-month OCS training program designed to turn officer candidates into platoon leaders with the U.S. Army. The course is completed through monthly weekend drills and two, 15-day training sessions held in the summer. Officer candidates are tested physically and mentally, developing and performing leadership skills in a high-stress environment.

“Myself and my fellow OCS candidates endured more than I thought I ever could,” said Pflieger. “I am proud and amazed at what we accomplished.”

Pflieger will now serve as a transportation platoon leader with the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Humboldt.

“I commissioned with ten of the most motivated, dedicated, talented, and outstanding officer candidates the great state of Tennessee has to offer,” said Pflieger. “I look forward to serving this state and my fellow neighbors.”

Pflieger attended Cedar Crest High School in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, and obtained his bachelor’s degree in supply chain management from The Citadel, a public military college located in Charleston, South Carolina.

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2nd Lt. Donovan Pflieger, a Knoxville resident, has his shoulder boards pinned onto his uniform by his parents as part of his commissioning ceremony held at the 117th Regimental Training Institute in Smyrna on Aug. 13. Pflieger is one of 11 officer candidates who graduated from the Tennessee National Guard's Officer Candidate School, Class 65. (photo by Sgt. James Bolen Jr.)

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