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Hometown News Release

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**Nashville soldier commissions in the Tennessee National Guard**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** – Nashville resident, 2nd Lt. Vansimone Holder, graduated from the Tennessee National Guard’s Officer Candidate School in Smyrna and earned her commission as a second lieutenant in the Tennessee Army National Guard on Aug. 13.

During the ceremony, Holder was honored as the one of the class’s top honor graduates where she was recognized for her exceptional leadership, academic, and physical achievements.

Holder completed the 18-month traditional OCS program that turns officer candidates into platoon leaders in the U.S. Army. The program is broken into four phases and is completed through monthly weekend drills and two, 15-day training sessions held in the summer. Officer candidates are tested mentally and physically to develop their leadership skills in a high-stress environment.

“After serving for five years as an enlisted Soldier, I am honored to have the privilege these past 18 months to develop my leadership capabilities and serve at a greater level of responsibility,” said Holder.

She enlisted in the Tennessee National Guard in 2018 and decided to continue her selfless service as a platoon leader. Upon graduation, she is assigned as a quartermaster platoon leader for the 230th Sustainment Brigade, headquartered in Chattanooga.

Holder earned her bachelor’s degree in political science and urban planning from Florida State University and a master’s degree in urban and regional policy from Northeastern University.



2nd Lt. Vansimone Holder poses with Brig. Gen. Trent Scates, Tennessee's Assistant Adjutant General – Army, after receiving the honor graduate award during her commissioning ceremony with the Tennessee Army National Guard at Smyrna's Volunteer Training Site on Aug. 13. Holder is one of 7 officer candidates that graduated from the Tennessee National Guard's Officer Candidate School, Class 66. (Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Timothy Tupper)

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