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Hometown News Release

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Cordova student enlists in Tennessee Army National Guard

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Pvt. Jonathan Rocha, a Memphis native, was sworn in as the newest member to the Tennessee Army National Guard on July 12.

Rocha, an upcoming senior at Cordova High School, enlisted as a carpentry and masonry specialist and will attend 10 weeks of Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, after he graduates high school in 2022. He will then report to the Naval Construction Training Center in Gulfport, Mississippi, for Advanced Individual Training where he will learn his job specialty.

“I wanted to take advantage of what my father has taught me about construction and carpentry and apply that to the Guard,” said Rocha.

Rocha is one of the few high school students to utilize the Split Training Option that allows 17-year old juniors in high school to join the Army National Guard with parent or guardian permission. As a senior, he will train one weekend a month with a local unit.

“I’ve always wanted to help people and joining the National Guard allows me to do that and serve my country,” said Rocha.

Rocha plans to take advantage of the Tennessee STRONG ACT, which will cover 100% of his in-state tuition once he decides which college he wants to attend. He desires to become a surgeon.

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Pvt. Jonathan Rocha, a senior at Cordova High School, enlisted in the Tennessee Army National Guard on July 12 and will attend Basic Combat Training in the summer of 2022. (Submitted Photo)

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