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Hometown News Release

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Columbia native to compete in 2022 National Guard All Best Warrior Competition

COLUMBIA, Tenn. – A Tennessee Guardsman and Columbia native, Sgt. Zachary Kleinfelder, will compete against the National Guard’s best Soldiers and Noncommissioned Officers in the 2022 National All Guard Best Warrior Competition July 24-29.

Kleinfelder, an Infantryman with 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, will represent Tennessee as one of the best 14 Guardsmen from seven regions. Earlier this year, Kleinfelder won both his state and regional competitions, enabling him to advance to the national competition.

“I have learned something at every competition and met some amazing people,” said Kleinfelder. “It has been an amazing experience.”

The national competition will be even more grueling, pushing the competitors beyond their limits.

The competitors will be tested and evaluated on over 30 stress-inducing events over the course of six days. The competition will be held at multiple locations across the state to maximize Tennessee’s terrain features and cultural experience.

The winners of the national competition will represent the Army Guard during the All-Army Best Squad competition later this year, which will consist of the top Soldiers from the Army and the Army Reserves.

In his civilian life, Kleinfelder works as a group fitness instructor and personal trainer.

“It reminds me that I must pay rent on my fitness everyday and that my attitude and effort are the two main things I can control,” said Kleinfelder.

Kleinfelder holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Tennessee at Martin, and a Bachelor of Science in exercise science from Belmont University. He is a graduate of Lipscomb University, where he earned his master’s degree in exercise and nutritional science.

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Sgt. Zachary Kleinfelder, an Infantryman with the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, is one of 14 competitors competing in the 2022 National All Guard Best Warrior Competition. Kleinfelder was named the Tennessee and Region III Noncommissioned Officer of the Year earlier this year. (Submitted photo)

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