



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Hometown News Release

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## **Mount Juliet Guardsman commissioned as second lieutenant**

**MOUNT JULIET, Tenn.** – 2nd Lt. Tyler Harris graduated from the Tennessee National Guard’s Officer Candidate School, Class 64, and earned his commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army during a ceremony at Smyrna’s Volunteer Training Site on Aug. 22.

Harris began his military service in the United States Marine Corps as a C-130 loadmaster and crew chief. As a loadmaster and crew chief, Harris was responsible for staging and loading cargo and passengers aboard tactical transport aircraft, transporting hazardous materials, and conducting the aerial delivery of passengers and cargo.

He deployed overseas twice within in his five years of service, allowing him to travel to 19 countries. Following his deployments, he decided to try something different while continuing to serve his country.

“There was a program for Marines to go straight into the National Guard,” said Harris. “I already had a bachelor’s degree and was lucky enough to be able to go to OCS.”

Harris began his 18-month OCS training in January 2020. During the training, Harris overcame the physical, mental, and emotional stress that comes with the rigorous training and is now ready to begin the next stage of his military career.

“Being an officer has been a goal of mine since stepping on the yellow footprints at Paris Island back in 2014,” said Harris. “I am excited to begin this new chapter in my military career and look forward to making a positive impact on the men and women I am blessed to serve beside.”

Harris graduated from Murfreesboro’s Blackman High School in 2010 and earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from the University of Tennessee, Martin.

He will be a platoon leader with the 1175th Transportation Company in Tullahoma.

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2nd Lt. Tyler Harris earned his commission as a second lieutenant in the Tennessee Army National Guard at the 117th Regiment Volunteer Training Site in Smyrna on Aug. 22. (Photo by Sgt. James Bolen Jr.)

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