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Hometown News Release

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Chattanooga Guardsman commissions as second lieutenant

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. – 2nd Lt. Dainius Jonika graduated Officer Candidate School and earned his commission in the Tennessee Army National Guard at Smyrna’s Volunteer Training Site on Aug. 22.

Jonika is one of two officer candidates to complete the eight-week Accelerated OCS program at Fort McClellan, Alabama. His commissioning ceremony in Smyrna was alongside 15 other classmates who completed the traditional 18-month course. Officer candidates are tested physically and mentally, while developing and performing leadership skills in a high-stress environment.

Jonika is now assigned to the Military Intelligence Corps and will serve as a platoon leader with the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

“I’m excited for the next chapter in life as a second lieutenant,” said Jonika. “I feel like serving as an officer in the Army is my duty and responsibility to give back to this country.”

Jonika was born in Lithuania and has been a citizen in the United States for the past 20 years.

“For me, being a United States citizen means being a great member in the community, which includes taking advantage of opportunities provided to you, as well as giving back,” said Jonika. “I was able to receive a great education, enjoy and grow in a satisfying career, and start a beautiful family.”

He attended the University of Tennessee where he earned his bachelor’s and master’s degree in accounting. He and his wife have been married for 18 years and are new parents to a five-month old son, Theo.

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2nd Lt. Dainius Jonika poses with his wife after receiving his commission as a second lieutenant in the Tennessee Army National Guard at the Volunteer Training Site in Smyrna on Aug. 22. (Photo by Sgt. James Bolen Jr.)

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