



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hometown News Release

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Hardin Valley Academy teacher commissions as 2nd Lieutenant

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – A Hardin Valley Academy teacher graduated from the Tennessee National Guards’ Officer Candidate School and earned his commission as a second lieutenant in the Tennessee Army National Guard on Aug. 13.

2nd Lt. Matthew Riddle completed the 18-month traditional OCS program that is designed to turn 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.

“OCS was the most challenging program that I have ever been a part of,” said Riddle.

Riddle will now serve as a platoon leader for the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

“I’ve always had a strong desire to serve and wanted to join an organization that allowed me to fulfill that desire while being able to maintain my civilian job,” said Riddle.

He is currently a mathematics teacher for Hardin Valley Academy and pursuing his Ph.D.

Riddle graduated from Merrol Hyde Magnet School in 2013 and graduated from Carson-Newman University in 2017 with a bachelor’s degree in mathematics. He earned a Master of Education degree in curriculum and instruction.

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2nd Lt. Matthew Riddle, a Hardin Valley Academy teacher, poses with family after receiving his commission as a second lieutenant for the Tennessee Army National Guard during a ceremony at Smyrna's Volunteer Training Site on Aug. 13. Riddle is one of 11 officer candidates that graduated from the Tennessee National Guard's Officer Candidate School, Class 65. (Photo submitted)

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