



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hometown News Release

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MTSU students graduate Army basic training

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. Two Middle Tennessee State University students graduated from the U.S. Army's basic training and advanced individual training to serve in the Tennessee Army National Guard on Aug. 28.

Spc. Benjamin Rattanavong, a Cookeville native, completed advanced individual training as a musician at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek in Virginia. To qualify for this position, he had to demonstrate proficiency and versatility with a musical instrument and pass auditions before being accepted into the Army program.

Rattanavong is now a professional trumpet player with the 129th Army Band headquartered in Nashville. Musicians in the Army provide ceremonial services and concerts to boost Soldier morale.

"I am thankful for the sense of purpose I have gained from serving my country through my music," said Rattanavong.

He enlisted in October 2020 and said he joined for opportunities to serve through music and for the educational benefits offered by the Guard. Rattanavong plans to continue earning a bachelor's degree in music at MTSU starting this Fall.

Pfc. Jonathan Quick graduated as a motor transport operator after completing four months of training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Quick trained in vehicle operations, navigation, and vehicle loading and unloading.

He will serve with the 1175th Transportation Company headquartered in Smyrna, where he will play a vital part in the unit's transportation logistics.

"I'm thankful for the opportunity to do something that makes my family proud and makes me proud of myself," said Quick.

Quick will continue pursuing his degree in business at MTSU.

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Spc. Benjamin Rattavong, a Middle Tennessee State University student, attended his last Recruit Sustainment Program before joining his unit as a qualified trumpet player for the Tennessee Army National Guard. (Photo submitted)



Pfc. Jonathan Quick, a Middle Tennessee State University student, attended his last Recruit Sustainment Program drill before joining his unit as a qualified motor transport operator for the Tennessee Army National Guard. (Photo submitted)

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