

South Dakota National Guard

Public Affairs Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 19, 2016

SD National Guard welcomes 11 new second lieutenants

By 1st Lt. Chad Carlson
SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota Army National Guard welcomed 11 new second lieutenants to its ranks following a commissioning ceremony at Camp Rapid, Aug. 19.

The ceremony marks the end of Officer Candidate School - the first step in officer training and development – and the beginning of their careers as commissioned officers.

“These Soldiers endured a culmination of three intense phases of training to prepare them for the next step in their military careers,” said Lt. Col. Deb Bartunek, commander of 1st Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), the SDARNG battalion responsible for conducting OCS.

OCS is taught in a high-stress environment, where candidates are tested academically and physically, both in the classroom and in field environments. Training consisted of 16-18 months of drill weekends and two two-week training periods for 10 of the new officers who completed the traditional program, while the eleventh completed the accelerated program of eight straight weeks.

The second lieutenants of OCS Class 60 are now assigned to National Guard units across South Dakota.

“Today you enter one of the most prestigious, challenging, and rewarding roles within our nation - that of a commissioned officer,” said Brig. Gen. Kevin Griese, assistant adjutant general of the SDARNG, prior to administering the Oath of Office. “As you assume the duties and responsibilities of a second lieutenant, there definitely will be challenges, but nothing that you will not be able to overcome.

“You’ve just spent the last year learning how to overcome challenges,” said Griese. “Learning how to lead.”

The newly commissioned seconds lieutenants are:

Garret Gibbs, Sioux City, Iowa
Drew Gillogly, Dell Rapids
Amber Gustafson, Rapid City
Andrew Hanson, Sioux Falls
Patrick Jones, Sioux Falls
Tyler Kanaly, Johnston, Iowa
Devan Kinser, Rapid City
Kevin Lancial, Council Bluffs, Iowa
Kasey Lanning, Sioux Falls
Brian Roehrich, Milbank
Michael Wollman, Bonesteel

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In addition to the commissioning ceremony customs and traditions, several awards were presented to include:

- Second Lt. Lancial received the Endeavor Award for demonstrating the highest degree of consistent advancement, perseverance and devotion to duty during the training year.
- Second Lt. Jones earned the Academic Excellence Award by attaining the highest academic rating for the school year as well as the Leadership Excellence Award for attaining the highest leadership evaluations during the training year.
- Second Lt. Wollman earned the Army Physical Fitness Award for scoring the highest on the Army Physical Fitness Test with a score of 317 as well as the Erickson Trophy, awarded to the OCS graduate with the highest combined overall standing in leadership evaluations, academics, physical fitness and peer evaluations.
- The Battalion Leadership Award was presented to SDARNG's 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery for the greatest number of officers commissioning from Officer Candidate School.

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High resolution photos are available at www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard



160819-Z-ZZ999-002: U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Kevin Griese, assistant adjutant general of the South Dakota Army National Guard, administers the Oath of Office to 11 newly commissioned second lieutenants during a commissioning ceremony at Camp Rapid, Rapid City, S.D., Aug. 19, 2016. The newly commissioned officers will be assigned to National Guard units across South Dakota. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Chad Carlson)



160819-Z-ZZ999-002: Eleven members of the South Dakota Army National Guard take the Oath of Office, commissioning as second lieutenants, during a commissioning ceremony at Camp Rapid, Rapid City, S.D., Aug. 19, 2016. The newly commissioned officers will be assigned to National Guard units across South Dakota. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Kristin Lichius)

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