

South Dakota National Guard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SD National Guard graduates four new warrant officers

FORT McCLELLAN, Ala. – Four South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers graduated from Warrant Officer Candidate School during a ceremony at Fort McClellan, Alabama, April 13.

Warrant officers make up the technical foundation of the U.S. Army, specializing in a technical area, such as intelligence, aviation, or maintenance, throughout their careers.

WOCS is a three-phase program with online courses and training and includes five months of drill weekends at Fort Meade and a final two-week phase in Alabama.

Candidates are tested throughout WOCS both academically and physically in areas ranging from leadership to tactics.

“Warrant Officer Candidate School is a very demanding and stressful course,” said Command Chief Warrant Officer 5 Todd Dressler, SDARNG state command chief warrant officer. “These four Soldiers started out last October when they began zero phase and culminated with their appointment to warrant officer one. I could not be more proud of them.”

While some of the candidates accept their appointment as warrant officers during the graduation ceremony, others choose to defer their appointment until an available assignment at a later date.

The Warrant Officer Candidate School graduates include:

Warrant Officer 1 Taylor Cimpl, (Food Service Technician) 730th Area Support Medical Company, Vermillion
Warrant Officer 1 Brayden Nelson, (Intelligence Collection Technician) Joint Force Headquarters, Rapid City
Sgt. 1st Class Chasity Oswald, (Human Resources Technician) Joint Force Headquarters, Rapid City
Staff Sgt. Carl Lere, (Human Resources Technician) 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Sioux Falls

Lere and Nelson were also named to the commandant’s list – the top 10 percent of the class for academic average – of 71 candidates nationwide.

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190413-Z-ZZ999-0001: U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jim Fleming, center, senior trainer with 1st Battalion, 196th Regional Training Institute, South Dakota Army National Guard, welcomes the graduating class of the SDARNG’s Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort McClellan, Ala., April 13, 2019. The graduates include, pictured left to right: Staff Sgt. Carl Lere, Sgt. 1st Class Chasity Oswald, Warrant Officer 1 Taylor Cimpl and Warrant Officer 1 Brayden Nelson. (U.S. Army National Guard courtesy photo)



190413-Z-ZZ999-0002: U.S. Army Warrant Officer 1 Taylor Cimpl receives her new rank from Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jim Fleming, senior trainer with 1st Battalion, 196th Regional Training Institute, South Dakota Army National Guard, during the SDARNG's Warrant Officer Candidate School graduation ceremony at Fort McClellan, Ala., April 13, 2019. (U.S. Army National Guard courtesy photo)



190413-Z-ZZ999-0003: U.S. Army Warrant Officer 1 Brayden Nelson receives his new rank from Col. Pat Stapleton, commander of the 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), South Dakota Army National Guard, during the SDARNG Warrant Officer Candidate School graduation ceremony at Fort McClellan, Ala., April 13, 2019. (U.S. Army National Guard courtesy photo)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact the SDNG Public Affairs Office at (605) 737-6721 or e-mail ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil