

South Dakota National Guard

Public Affairs Office

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SD Army National Guard commissions six new officers

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota Army National Guard welcomed six new officers to its ranks during a commissioning ceremony at Camp Rapid, Aug. 22.

The ceremony commemorated their completion of Officer Candidate School Class 64, which consisted of a year and a half of training to become future leaders in the SDARNG.

“When commissioning candidates, it is rewarding to see their excitement,” said Maj. Michael Bierle, company commander for 1st Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute). “It’s a great culmination after a long, grueling and grinding year to see the candidates’ excitement at commissioning.”

OCS is taught in a high-stress environment, where candidates are tested academically and physically, both in the classroom and in field environments. Training consists of 16-18 months of drill weekends and two, two-week training periods.

The ceremony included several traditions: the pinning of rank on the officers’ uniform, their first salute to an enlisted soldier, and reciting the Oath of Office.

The new second lieutenants will join their assigned units and begin the next phase of their officer development by attending a Basic Officer Leader Course, which focuses on their assigned branch of service, such as engineering, field artillery or transportation, to name a few.

The second lieutenants of OCS Class 64 are:

<u>Soldier</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Unit of Assignment</u>
2nd Lt. Bryce Nussbaum	Rapid City	Forward Support Company, 109th Engineer Battalion
2nd Lt. Brandon Roth	Garretson	740th Transportation Company
2nd Lt. Hillary Smith	Miller	235th Military Police Company
2nd Lt. Tayler Thomsen	Hot Springs	Forward Support Company, 109th Engineer Battalion
2nd Lt. Luke Whalen	Clark	1742nd Transportation Company
2nd Lt. Derek Nehring	Parker	Transfer to Nebraska Army National Guard



200825-Z-TW084-1056: Six new South Dakota Army National Guard second lieutenants recite the Oath of Office, administered by Maj. Gen. Jeff Marlette, SDNG adjutant general, during a commissioning ceremony for Officer Candidate School Class 64 at Camp Rapid in Rapid City, S.D., Aug. 22, 2020. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Officer Candidate Austin Pearce)

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200825-Z-TW084-1048: Newly promoted 2nd Lt. Tayler Thomsen renders his first salute to an enlistee sailor during a commissioning ceremony for the South Dakota Army National Guard's Officer Candidate School Class 64 at Camp Rapid in Rapid City, S.D., Aug. 22, 2020. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Officer Candidate Austin Pearce)



200822-Z-TW084-1025: Newly promoted 2nd Lt. Derek Nehring is pinned with his new second lieutenant rank by a family member during a commissioning ceremony for the South Dakota Army National Guard Officer Candidate School Class 64 at Camp Rapid in Rapid City, S.D., Aug. 22, 2020. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Officer Candidate Austin Pearce)



200825-Z-TW084-1062: Newly promoted 2nd Lt. Hillary Smith receives three awards for academics, physical fitness and leadership performance, presented by Maj. Mike Bierle, company commander for 1st Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), during a commissioning ceremony for the South Dakota Army National Guard's Officer Candidate School Class 64 at Camp Rapid in Rapid City, S.D., Aug. 22, 2020. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Officer Candidate Austin Pearce)

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