

South Dakota National Guard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



SD National Guard graduates eight new warrant officers

FORT McCLELLAN, Ala. – Eight South Dakota Army National Guard soldiers graduated from Warrant Officer Candidate School during a ceremony at Fort McClellan, Alabama, April 16.

Warrant officers make up the technical foundation of the U.S. Army, specializing in a technical area such as human resources, information systems, aviation, maintenance and others 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.

“I’m extremely proud of this year’s WOCS class. They worked very hard during Phase I in South Dakota to meet all required training objectives plus prepare for the culminating training held during Phase II at Fort McClellan,” said Command Chief Warrant Officer 5 Kenneth Schoenfelder, SDARNG state command chief warrant officer. “Warrant Officer Candidate School is rigorous and requires the candidates to be mentally and physically fit.”

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 Bryan Becker, (Field Artillery Technician) HHC, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Sioux Falls,
- Warrant Officer 1 Shawn Hulbert, (Automotive Maintenance Warrant Officer) Forward Support Company, 153rd Engineer Battalion, Huron,
- Warrant Officer 1 Jason Bell, (Construction Engineering Technician) Headquarters Company, 153rd Engineer Battalion, Huron,
- Warrant Officer 1 Kimberly Meyer, (Band Master) 147th Army Band, Mitchell,
- Warrant Officer 1 Tyler Pepper, (Electronic Systems Maintenance Warrant Officer) 665th Maintenance Company, Mitchell,
- Sgt. 1st Class Kayla Johnston (Human Resources Technician) Joint Force Headquarters, Rapid City,
- Staff Sgt. Kyle Buckley (Human Resources Technician) 109th Regional Support Group, Rapid City,
- Staff Sgt. Timothy Glidden (Property Accounting Technician) 842nd Engineer Company.

Johnston and Glidden were also named to the commandant’s list – the top 20 percent of the class for academic average.

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220416-Z-A365-0001: U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jim Fleming, front left, senior trainer with 1st Battalion, 196th Regional Training Institute, South Dakota Army National Guard and U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Kaylan Harrington, front right welcome the graduating class of the SDARNG's Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort McClellan, Ala., April 16, 2022. The graduates include front: Sgt. 1st Class Kayla Johnston, Warrant Officer 1 Kimberly Meyer, Staff Sgt. Kyle Buckley. Back: Warrant Officer 1 Shawn Hulbert, Warrant Officer 1 Jason Bell, Staff Sgt. Timothy Glidden, Warrant Officer 1 Tyler Pepper, and Warrant Officer 1 Bryan Becker. (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