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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

TAYLOR COMPLETES ARMOR BASIC COURSE

CHARLESTON -- 2nd Lt. Michael Taylor, a 1996 graduate of Eastern Illinois University with a B.S. in computer science management, recently graduated from the United States Army Armor Officer Basic Course at Fort Knox, Ky.

The Armor Officer Basic Course is an intense 16-week program teaching leadership, management, public speaking and administrative skills as well as tactics to prepare newly commissioned officers for their initial assignment as armor officers.

During the course, 2nd Lt. Taylor earned a spot on the Commandant's List, reserved for the top 20 percent of each class. In addition, he also was recognized as the best in his 57-member class in maintenance administration by winning the Maintenance Award. After vacationing at home in Belleville, he will travel to Korea for a year-long tour as an armor platoon leader.

2nd Lt. Taylor earned his commission from the Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) at Eastern by participating in the Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP). This program allowed him to continue to serve in his reserve unit and ROTC at the same time.