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August 12, 2021

Hometown News Release

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Tennessee Guardsman balances leadership and service on COVID-19 mission

WINCHESTER, Tenn. – Spc. Courtney Battle is making a positive impact in Tennessee’s fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Like most Tennessee Guardsmen, she balances a civilian career with her service in Nashville’s 105th Personnel Service Company as a human resource specialist. When the opportunity became available to join the Tennessee National Guard’s COVID-19 response task force, she immediately volunteered.

While working with the Franklin County Health Department, Battle’s duties with the task force include verifying appointments, registering walk-in vaccinations, and assisting the medical staff.

Battle said that the community where she works appreciated the presence of the Guard. She also emphasized how the residents were committed to beating the pandemic.

“The community of Winchester has been really supportive of us,” said Battle. “Everything has been very positive and we’ve seen real southern hospitality.”

Even while serving the COVID-19 response task force, Battle was able to attend to the U.S. Army’s Basic Leadership Course. This four-week course teaches specialists and corporals the basic skills to lead small groups of Soldiers and is part of their career progression.

“Even though I had to go to BLC virtually, it was still a great experience,” said Battle. “I learned a lot of things that I feel will make me a stronger leader.”

For Battle, the ability to serve Tennesseans while learning to lead Soldiers has been its own reward.

“This mission has prepared me to serve in a leadership position,” said Battle. “It has been reassuring to see so many people coming to get vaccinated. Being able to help with this mission has been a rewarding experience. I’m glad that I could be a part of that.”

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Spc. Courtney Battle, a human resources specialist with Nashville's 105th Personnel Service Company, prepares an administrative tablet for use in Winchester on June 16. Battle has been a member of the Tennessee National Guard's COVID-19 task force since February. (Photo by Sgt. Finis L. Dailey, III)

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