



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Oct. 14, 2021

Hometown News Release

**CONTACT: Lt. Col. Darrin Haas**

**OFFICE: 615.313.0662**

darrin.w.haas.mil@mail.mil

## **Nurse at Vanderbilt’s Nurse Residency Program enlists in National Guard**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** – A nurse in Vanderbilt University Medical Center’s Nurse Residency Program committed to serving her state and country by enlisting in the Tennessee Army National Guard as an officer candidate on Sept. 24.

Spc. Mary White will attend the U.S. Army’s Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. There, she will be tested mentally and physically as she fulfills the requirements to become a Soldier. Once she completes BCT, she will attend Officer Candidate School to earn her commission in the Army’s Medical Corps.

“I had been thinking about joining the military for a while,” said White. “I am looking forward to excelling on this new path to become an officer in the Army National Guard.”

White had a passion for medicine from a young age. After gaining an education, experience, and shadowing colleagues, she decided nursing was the path for her. White’s hard work and determination led her to being selected for the nurse residency program at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where she works in the Medical Intensive Care Unit. She is now another step closer to achieving her dreams.

“I joined the Guard to get a foundational skill-set in leadership and to utilize my science and nursing background in military medicine,” said White. “I am excited to serve my community and my country, as well as achieve my dream of becoming a practicing nurse in the civilian world and a medical officer in the Tennessee Army National Guard.”

White earned a Bachelor’s of Science degree concentrating in biochemistry, cellular, and molecular biology from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 2008. She continued her education and earned a master’s degree in public health, with a concentration in epidemiology from East Tennessee State University in 2013 and an associate’s degree in nursing from Nashville State Community College in 2021.

The National Guard’ education benefits will assist White with medical school tuition and paying off existing student loans. The Student Loan Repayment Plan is one of the benefits White can use to pay up to \$50,000 in student loans.

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Spc. Mary White poses with Sgt. Ian Lynch, Tennessee Army National Guard Recruiter, after enlisting in the Tennessee Army National Guard as an officer candidate at the Nashville Military Entrance Processing Station on Sept. 24. She will attend Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in June 2022.

**All Tennessee Army and Air National Guard press releases can be found at**  
<https://www.tn.gov/military/news.html>