



MEDIA RELEASE

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DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY

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Tennessee National Guard To Support Presidential Inauguration

NASHVILLE – Major General Gus Hargett, Tennessee’s Adjutant General, today announced that approximately 250 Tennessee National Guard Soldiers and Airmen will provide support for the 56th Presidential Inaugural Ceremony.

The diversity of units throughout the Tennessee Army and Air National Guard allows numerous assets that can be utilized in support of the event, both in view of the public and behind the scenes.

The Army Guard will provide soldiers from the 117th Military Police Battalion, headquartered in Athens, to support the District of Columbia National Guard. Airmen from the 228th Combat Communications Squadron, in Alcoa, and the 118th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Nashville, will provide support to the Virginia National Guard.

Military support at the inauguration is designed to celebrate democracy and honor the commander in chief while recognizing civilian control of the military. National Guard support to civil authority is primarily for logistics, communication, medical support and ceremonial activities.

Providing military ceremonial support to the inauguration dates back 220 years. When George Washington began his inaugural journey from Mount Vernon, Virginia, to New York City, local militias joined his inaugural procession as it passed through towns along the way.

When Washington arrived in New York City, a presidential escort composed of members of the U.S. Army, local militia units and Revolutionary War veterans accompanied him to Federal Hall for the presidential oath. The military has continued this long tradition of inaugural support since that time.

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