

SPOTLIGHT

Air Force logistics officer volunteers to orchestrate Inaugural support

By U.S. Army Sgt. Paige Behringer

The 58th Presidential Inauguration is much more than a parade, requiring substantial effort, planning and meetings as Capt. James Chaplin, an Air Force logistics readiness officer, can attest.

Chaplin took on the challenge headfirst when he volunteered to be a part of Joint Task Force-National Capital Region (JTF-NCR) in support of the 58th Presidential Inauguration.

Through a flurry of energy and usually brisk temperatures, Americans have historically lined up for a chance to see their new commander in chief peacefully take the nation's reins each Inauguration Day.



Chaplin is stationed at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, with the 436th Aerial Port Squadron. At Dover, Chaplin said he contributes to the overall mission by putting resources, supplies, equipment and weapon systems in the hands of warfighters anywhere in the world at a moment's notice.

"We move everything from bullets to warfighters, to medicine and other humanitarian supplies for those in need," added Chaplin, a native of Westover, West Virginia.

Now in the Washington, D.C. area supporting the upcoming Presidential Inauguration, Chaplin has a similar role planning transportation requirements, but on a larger scale.

"Every single moving part of the Inauguration, from placing a service member performing as cordon on the parade route, delivering meals to support personnel, establishing tents at various command posts, directing route planning, instituting VIP drivers and coordinating their police escorts, is planned through our shop," Chaplin said. "It's a lot of attention to detail on crucial events that could be easily overlooked."

Chaplin admitted he was terrified at first.

"To be a part of something so visible on the national and worldwide level was quite intimidating," Chaplin added. "But like all things, I just take it one step at a time."

When his home unit was tasked to provide support, Chaplin said he jumped for the opportunity that many in his career field are not afforded.

"The best part of the job is the satisfaction I expect to have when this is over," Chaplin concluded. "It will make all the meetings and stress associated with the event worth it."