

# Pentagram

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## JTF-NCR 58th Presidential Inauguration preps for national media attention

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Millions of American viewers will get an understanding of the military's role during Inauguration Day when an estimated 100-plus members of the media from local, national and international news agencies descend on the National Guard's D.C. Armory for the Joint Task Force–National Capital Region's (JTF-NCR) Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) drill on Dec. 14.

The purpose of the ROC drill is to synchronize Department of Defense (DoD) ceremonial support to the 58th Presidential Inauguration with federal, state, and local agencies by conducting a detailed, sequential timeline of events during the inaugural period.

"We're anticipating a great interest by the media this year — especially with a change in administration," said Navy Cmdr. Jonathan Blyth, deputy director of public affairs for the joint task force.

"The public will learn firsthand how the military supports an inauguration," added Navy Lt. Jill Brown, public affairs officer for the JTF-NCR. "It's an opportunity to provide how we've trained and the military support we provide to Inauguration Day."

To prep for the high volume of

reporters and photographers expected to be in attendance, the JTF-NCR public affairs staff and District of Columbia National Guard public affairs office held a meeting at the D.C. Armory Nov. 29.

"It's going to be a busy day and a day for the military to put our best foot forward," said Air Force Maj. Byron Coward, Joint Force Headquarters District of Columbia public affairs officer. Coward served on the task force during both inaugurations of President Barack Obama.

"There are going to be a high number of media agencies and military public affairs offices — they all will be here to see what the Joint Task Force plans to do for the inauguration," he said. "The ROC drill component is basically a timing drill for each of the military elements to go over what their personnel will be doing during the entirety of the inauguration."

Members of the media will have an opportunity to walk the 2,400 square foot three dimensional Washington, D.C. map, meet and interview subject matter experts who have been working the maneuvers that will take place on Inauguration Day. Maj. Gen. Bradley A. Becker, commander of the JTF-NCR and Maj. Gen. Errol R. Schwartz, D.C. National Guard commanding general will

hold a joint press conference. The goal is to provide the media with a better understanding of both the duties of the JTF-NCR and the D.C. National Guard on January 20th.

Members of the U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Capitol Police and numerous other local, state and federal agencies will also be in attendance.

Media will be allowed entry into the D.C. Armory Dec. 14 between 6:45 and 7:45 a.m. and will escorted to the inauguration map at 8:00 a.m., followed by a press conference held with both Major Generals Becker and Schwartz and interviews with subject matter experts.

"The joint task force has both a ceremonial and operational role, and the National Guard plays an enormous responsibility with regard to traffic control and crowd management and overall pedestrian safety during the inauguration of our 45th commander-in-chief," Blyth said. "We've rehearsed, practiced and now it's time to finally implement. The American people will witness a military operation where our service members will execute a flawless Presidential Inauguration on Jan. 20."

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