

SPOTLIGHT

Dual-service reservist provides planning skills to inauguration mission

More than 5,000 service members will participate in ceremonies and other events in and around the nation's capital to commemorate the 58th Presidential Inauguration.

U.S. Navy Lt. Marcus Garcia, a Civil Engineer Corps officer and Colorado Springs, Colorado, native, assigned to Amphibious Construction Battalion One in Coronado, California, is currently in the Future Operations division of the Joint Task Force-National Capital Region (JTF-NCR).



Once an enlisted Coast Guardsman, Garcia is now a U.S. Navy intelligence specialist serving as battle captain in the Joint Operations Center during exercises, planned operations and emergency events leading into and throughout this inauguration season.

"I especially enjoy the opportunity to work with members of the joint and combined forces of the U.S. military," said Garcia. "My function here at JTF-NCR is to participate in the planning of consequence and emergency management response of military forces in support of local and civilian authorities."

The work Garcia's team is participating in allows the command to provide effective support to local authorities in the case of an emergency during the Presidential Inauguration or any other no-notice event in the National Capital Region.

The Future Operations division develops plans that drive and guide the 58th Presidential Inauguration and also serves as the board of directors that integrate all of the command's inauguration planning efforts.

One can only imagine how much planning goes into what could possibly be the biggest celebration in the United States. This year, there are expected to be well over one million in attendance, and the U.S. military in the National Capital Region plays a supremely significant role in keeping them safe.

This is an especially rare assignment for a Navy Civil Engineer Corps officer, but engineering plays a significant role in successfully executing a well-designed plan.

"I was selected to fulfill the consequence management planner spot because of the specialized knowledge that Navy CEC officers possess," said Garcia. "Navy CEC officers are true 'can do' professionals always seeking to improve processes and end-products. A Navy CEC officer is a sharp-minded, critical thinker and exactly the kind of officer needed in planning any type of complex operation."