

SPOTLIGHT

Headland graduate playing role in presidential inauguration

Whether it's Trump or Clinton, the Henry County city of Headland may be watching the January presidential inauguration a little closer.

One of its own will be playing an integral role. Staff Sgt. Brandon Carroll, a 2001 Headland High School graduate, will be part of a task force in charge of coordinating all military ceremonial support as well as official Defense support of civil authorities for the entire inaugural period.

Carroll is a contract specialist for the Army and will use his expertise to make sure the 5,800 military men and women from every branch of service have the services, items and equipment necessary to perform their duties. Carroll said he is honored to serve on the task force.

"It was an honor to be selected. This wasn't something that I applied for," Carroll said during a recent interview with the Dothan Eagle. "The branch managers in my career field selected me. I was really taken aback by it. I felt like maybe I had done something right in my career."

Carroll has fond memories of his time in Headland. He played football, participated in the school's NJROTC program and worked at the local Piggly-Wiggly. He said he decided to join the Army to experience new things and start a career.

"For me, basically it was a way to pay for college and do more," Carroll said. "Being from a small town you don't really get to see a whole lot, don't get to experience a whole lot."

Carroll will be eligible to retire from the Army in five or six years. He plans to take his expertise as a contract specialist and pursue a job with the federal government or a private firm. Carroll has been deployed to Iraq three times.

"This is a historic inauguration," Carroll said. "To be present for (Barack Obama) leaving office and the 45th president coming in, I can say I was a part of it. We have been doing this since 1789 and to know this is a tradition the military has always been a part of is something. This is probably the highlight of my career."

Carroll is attached to the 926th contracting battalion, stationed at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland.

