

SPOTLIGHT

Kingman Marine Has Inauguration Role

KINGMAN –A 2014 Kingman High School graduate will participate in the U.S. presidential inauguration in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 20 – as a U.S. Marine.

Corporal Stefin Nelson, 21, assigned to Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, at the Pentagon as a network operations manager, will brave the cold as either Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton is sworn in as the 45th president. He promptly volunteered to get up close to history when given the opportunity by a superior.

“I thought it would be a cool experience,” he said. “You don’t get this type of opportunity every day.”

Nelson will be among other Marines paired up with law enforcement officers who will salute the president-elect as he or she walks up the steps to the Capitol Building. This is a step outside of normal for the young man. His military specialty is

cyber-network operator. He’s usually inside fixing computer bugs, but like with most military tours, additional duties are to be expected.



Nelson joined the Marines a little less than two months after graduating. He had taken computer classes at KHS, leading to an interest in the technical fields. Nearly three years later, he’s fixing computers and supervising network monitoring at the Department of Defense headquarters. He said he rubs elbows with top brass on a daily basis, including the commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Joseph F. Dunford; the Joint Chiefs of Staff and even Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus. The Corps falls under Department of the Navy command.

Nelson told his dad about the opportunity, who told his mother Shelly, who couldn’t be more proud. “I’m amazed how far he’s come,” she said. “Hopefully his service gives kids in Kingman something to look up to.”

Spencer, the youngest Nelson boy, has already enlisted in the Corps. He’ll ship out after graduating from KHS next year.

“I’m a super-proud Marine momma,” Shelly said.

Nelson is an Arizona resident, but wouldn’t comment on his political participation in this year’s election other than to say he’s excited to witness the results up close and personal.

“I won’t know what to expect with the commander-in-chief standing right next to me,” he said.

Whatever happens, he’s learned to take advantage of opportunities the Marine Corps has offered him. He knows it will pay down the road.

“Don’t shy away,” he said. “You got to get out of your comfort zone and try new things.”