

# Pentagram

Dec .15, 2016

## Old Guard Soldiers prepare for 58th Presidential Inauguration

*By Staff Sgt. Terrance D. Rhodes*

Soldiers from the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) are ramping up to support President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration.

Traditionally, military units from each of the five branches have marched in the presidential escort and in the inaugural parade. More than 2,000 Soldiers from The Old Guard will support this inauguration.

"Supporting the peaceful transition of government after a presidential election is a historic event and one that many countries do not have," said Col. Jason Garkey, the regimental commander of the 3d.U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard).

"I have participated in two previous inaugurations — Clinton in 1997 and Bush in 2005 — and they both highlighted the unique characteristics of our

government and how it brings the nation together."

Though there will be numerous representatives in this 58th Presidential Inauguration, The Old Guard will play a vital role in this event. Garkey will represent the commander of troops. The Old Guard's Presidential Salute Battery, the Fife and Drum Corps, an honor company, along with the Army Street Cordon will be in full participation.

Military involvement in the presidential inauguration is a centuries-old tradition. The U.S. military has participated in this important American tradition since April 30, 1789, when members of the U.S. Army, local militia units and Revolutionary War veterans escorted President George Washington to his first inauguration ceremony at Federal Hall in New York City.

Service members involved in the 2017 Presidential Inauguration represent an integrated total force: Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen and Coast Guard members serving their country at home and abroad. This support comprises musical units, marching bands, color guards, salute batteries and honor cordons, which render appropriate ceremonial honors to the commander in chief.

Just as military men and women show their commitment to this country during deployments and stationed abroad, participation in this traditional event demonstrates the military's support to the nation's new commander in chief.

The inauguration will kick off at noon Jan. 20. The parade will follow immediately after the ceremony at 2:30 p.m. Public entrances to the parade generally open at 6:30 a.m.