

SPOTLIGHT

A Few Good Coast Guardsmen

Who knew that the U.S. Coast Guard is the least represented branch of service in the Joint Task Force-National Capital Region (JTF-NCR)?

Though few, the Coast Guard is represented in all directorates of the 58th Presidential Inauguration from public affairs to military police as well as ceremonies and support.

U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Shaun Marable, a Clinton, Maryland, native and yeoman assigned to Coast Guard Base NCR in Washington, D.C., is one of only 19 Coast Guardsmen present for this year's Presidential Inauguration.

As an administrative staff specialist for the Coast Guard throughout this inauguration mission, Marable's role is to bring on Coast Guard active duty and reserve members from across the country and facilitate their needs as it applies to financial and lodging matters. The administrative advisers, also known as J1, are comprised of one person from each service who handle the organizational details of everyone in their respective branch of service.

"That support they typically get from their home unit, I am that support when they get here to the JTF," said Marable.

Marable, a reservist, volunteered for his position by responding to what is called a "solicitation," or job opening, at his reserve unit that was seeking a Coastie with his skill set.

"Because of my military occupational specialty, I was qualified," said Marable. "My command knew me and my work ethic so they thought I would be a good fit. I've never been a part of the inauguration before and wanted to do something that was exciting, purposeful and that I could put on my resume that was part of history."

Marable said he served in a joint capacity before, but none as large-scale and important as the inauguration. He went on to say that he most appreciates the cohesion with which each branch can collaborate to get one single mission done.

"I'm big on customer service," said Marable. "So the best thing about the job is when I have my sailors come in looking for help and I'm able to facilitate their needs--whatever it is that gives them peace of mind--so that when it comes time for them to take on their mission, they don't have to worry about any administrative issues. I get enjoyment out of helping them."

As for advice, Marable suggests any newcomers and future inauguration supporters come here with an open mind, motivation and enthusiasm to be a part of something that's bigger than yourself and will affect not just the country but the entire world. He went on to say that being present for the passing of power from one president to the next in a peaceful manner is a great opportunity. That, and be ready to do what needs to be done.

"We call it staying in your swim lane," said Marable. "Do your job and everything will flow smoothly."

