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## Inaugural planners work to game out Jan. 20 scenarios

By Nancy Benac

Hundreds of inaugural planners planted themselves in front of a giant 60-by-40-foot floor map of Washington on Wednesday for a daylong rehearsal of how each moment of Inauguration Day 2017 will play out.

These are not people who like surprises: They're looking to game out every scenario for a day that should be all about the peaceful transfer of power and not pesky mix-ups.

With many inaugural plans still taking shape, "America's Got Talent" star Jackie Evancho said she'll be singing the national anthem at the Jan. 20 swearing-in, a role Beyonce performed in 2013. Trump's communications director for the inaugural committee tweeted that 16-year-old Evancho is "an inspiration for all Americans."

"It's going to be awesome," Evancho told NBC's "Today" show.

The Presidential Inaugural Committee is sorting through

applications from 200 groups hoping to march in the inaugural parade. Don't look for any high school marching bands from the District of Columbia in that stack, though. WRC-TV reported Wednesday that no city public schools applied, although D.C. schools have marched in the last five inaugural parades.

Wednesday's rehearsal was sponsored by the military, which provides 13,000 active duty and National Guard members to help with inaugural events, including the swearing-in ceremony, parade, protests, balls and movement of an anticipated 800,000 spectators.

What keeps these inaugural planners up at night?

The weather, for one thing.

"I put the chaplain on this task," joked Maj. Gen. Bradley Becker, commander of the joint task force providing military ceremonial support for inaugural events. "He has guaranteed us a beautiful, 40-degree, clear and

very nice day."

(Just in case, though, each military participant comes to Washington with three uniforms designed for different kinds of weather.)

Beyond that, there's the matter of Donald Trump. Will this most unconventional president-elect go all-in for the traditional pomp and ceremony that has long been associated with Inauguration Day?

"There's only so many ways you can make this thing happen," says Brig. Gen. George Degnon, deputy commanding general for the inauguration. "Generally speaking, the inauguration is taking shape as it has in the past."

Degnon added that military planners working side by side with Trump's team at the Presidential Inaugural Committee have gotten no indication that he wants to break sharply with inaugural traditions.