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## MEDIA ALERT

Jan. 14, 2021

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### **Arkansas National Guard to provide support in DC**

***~ Gov. Hutchinson approves mission for 500 Soldiers and Airmen to support 59<sup>th</sup> Presidential Inauguration***

**WHO:** The Arkansas National Guard

**WHAT:** Will mobilize and deploy approximately 500 Soldiers primarily from the 142<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Brigade based in Northwest Arkansas and Airmen from the 189<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing.

**WHEN:** Beginning on Jan. 17 and returning before the end of January, 2021

**WHERE:** Washington, D.C.

**WHY:** The 59th Presidential Inauguration, like all presidential inaugurations, is considered a National Special Security Event. The U.S. Secret Service as the lead federal agency responsible for coordinating, planning, exercising and implementing security for National Special Security Events has requested support from the National Guard. The preparation for a NSSE is a cooperative effort among federal, state and district agencies. Arkansas Guardsmen will work alongside several other states' National Guard units, the D.C. Metro Police, the U.S. Park Police, the U.S. Capitol Police and the Secret Service.

The requested missions include assistance with Traffic Control and Access Control Points, Traffic Management, Metro Station Security, Crowd Management, Patrol / Watch Stander on outside Fencing, facility security at City Hall / the National Mall, and the Lincoln Memorial among others.

“Being in the Guard is about service. Service to one’s State and their Nation. We’re sending some of our very best to support Inauguration Day activities,” said Maj. Gen. Kendall Penn, Arkansas National Guard’s Adjutant General. “Priority No. 1 is to protect people and property, and our Guardsmen are trained very well to do just that.”

The Arkansas Air National Guard’s 189<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing based at Little Rock Air Force Base will provide C130H aircraft to transport the Guardsmen to Washington, D.C.