



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
9301 CHAPEK ROAD
FORT BELVOIR VA 22060-5527

February 24, 2023

Nikhel Sus
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington
1101 K St., N.W., Suite 201
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Nikhel Sus:

This letter responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated January 10, 2021. Your request is now in litigation, cited as *CREW v. DOJ, et al.*, 1:21-cv-572 (D.D.C.).

Your request is for:

1. All records from December 1, 2020, to January 6, 2021, relating to DOD, the National Guard, or the Army providing assistance or support to the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department in connection with the January 6, 2021 congressional session to count electoral votes.
2. All records reflecting the parameters for the National Guard's deployment to D.C. on January 6, 2021, including any limitations imposed on the number of personnel deployed, their movement within the District, or their use of force.
3. All communications with the D.C. Mayor's Office or the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department regarding the parameters for the National Guard's deployment to D.C. on January 6, 2021."

Our search yielded the attached responsive records. These records are part of a continuous rolling release over the course of the litigation. This release consists of 131 pages.

We have redacted material under Exemptions (b)5, (b)6, and (b)7(E).

Exemption 5 of the FOIA 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5)

Exemption 5 protects "inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency." 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5). Courts have interpreted Exemption 5 to encompass the privileges recognized by statute or case law in the civil discovery context. See *U.S. v. Weber Aircraft Corp.*, 465 U.S. 792, 800 (1984); *FTC v. Grolier Inc.*, 462 U.S. 19, 26 (1983) at 26, *NLRB v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 421 U.S. 132, 149 (1975). In this case,

the applicable privileges that serve as bases for citing Exemption 5 are the Deliberative Process Privilege and Attorney-Client Privilege.

Deliberative Process Privilege

Exemption 5 of the FOIA which protects from disclosure “interagency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party. . . in litigation with the agency”: 5 U.S.C. Section 552(b)(5)(1994). Exemption 5 includes the “Deliberative Process Privilege,” which protects from release agency records that disclose the agency’s decision-making process. *NLRB V. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 421 U.S. 132, 95 S.Ct. 1504, 44 LEd.2d. 29 (1975) and *Jordan v. Department of Justice*, 591 F2d 75.3 (D.C. Cir. 1978) (en banc). In this case, the document you requested contains specific recommendations and frank opinions. As such, it forms part of the “give-and-take” between agency officials involved in the decision-making process. These recommendations and opinions do not necessarily represent the views of the Department of the Army. Release of such pre-decisional and deliberative exchanges would chill the open communication between Federal employees as they would fear that their developing thoughts and opinions would be shared with the public. Accordingly, this information is exempt from release under the deliberative process privilege of exemption (b)(5) of the FOIA.

Attorney-Client Privilege

The attorney-client privilege protects “confidential communications between an attorney and his client relating to a legal matter for which the client has sought professional advice.” *Mead Data Central, Inc. v. Dept. of the Air Force*, 566 F.2d 242, 252 (D.C. Cir. 1977). Additionally, the privilege protects communications containing purely factual information divulged by a client to the attorney and any opinions given by an attorney to his client based upon those facts.” *Electronic Privacy Info. Ctr., v. Dept. of Homeland Security*, 384 F. Supp. 2d 100, 114 (D.D.C. 2005).

Exemption 6 of the FOIA 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)

Exemption (b)(6) of the FOIA protects from mandatory disclosure “personnel and medical files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6) (2011). To qualify for protection under Exemption (b)(6), records must meet two criteria: (1) they must be “personnel and medical files and similar files,” (2) the disclosure of which “would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.” *Id.*; *United States Dep’t of State v. Washington Post Co.*, 456 U.S. 595, 599-603 (1982). The first prong is met if the information “appl[ies] to a particular individual” and is “personal” in nature. *New York Times Co. v. NASA*, 852 F.2d 602, 606 (D.C. Cir. 1988). The second prong requires courts to strike a “balance between the protection of an individual’s right to privacy and the preservation of the public’s right to government information.” *United States Dep’t of State v. Washington Post Co.*, 456 U.S. 595, 599 (1982). The “public interest” in the analysis is limited to the

“core purpose” for which Congress enacted the FOIA: to “shed . . . light on an agency’s performance of its statutory duties.” *United States Dep’t of Justice v. Reporters Comm. for Freedom of the Press*, 489 U.S. 749, 773 (1989).

We are withholding telephone numbers and other contact information for all Army personnel (e.g., e-mail addresses, telephone-line numbers) and third-party information under Exemption 6. 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). See *Judicial Watch, Inc. v. United States*, No. 03-1160, 2004 WL 26736, at *4 (4th Cir. Jan. 6, 2004). Under the Exemption (b)(6) balancing test, the Supreme Court held in a similar case that disclosure of employee addresses “would not appreciably further the citizens’ right to be informed about what their Government is up to and, indeed, would reveal little or nothing about the employing agencies or their activities.” *United States Dep’t of Defense v. Fed. Labor Relations Auth.*, 510 U.S. 487 (1994). The same is true here regarding telephone numbers. Disclosure of the names, contact, and personal information of government employees would contribute little to the public’s understanding of government activities. By contrast, such disclosure would constitute a “non-trivial” and “not insubstantial” invasion of government employees’ privacy interests. *Id.* at 500, 501.

Exemption 7 of the FOIA 5 U.S.C. § 552(b) 7(E)

Exemption (b)7(E) of the FOIA protects from mandatory disclosure law enforcement records and affords protection to all law enforcement information that “would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(E). Information withheld under these exemptions have been appropriately marked.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the information furnished, please contact Lee Reeves at (202) 616-0773 or Lee.Reeves2@usdoj.gov.

Sincerely,

Paul V. DeAgostino

Paul V. DeAgostino
Senior Counsel

Message

From: McCarthy, Ryan D HON USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) [/O=EASF/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (B6)]/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=(B6)
Sent: 1/1/2021 6:04:18 PM
To: Milley, Mark A GEN USARMY JS OCJCS (USA) (B6)
Subject: Fwd: DCNG 5-6 January 2021 Support and Contingency Plan
Attachments: 5-6 January Support and Contingency Plan as of 311600DEC2020.pdf

From: "Walker, William J MG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA)" <(B6)>
Date: Thursday, December 31, 2020 at 5:13:26 PM
To: "McCarthy, Ryan D HON USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <(B6)>, "Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA)" <(B6)>, "Hokanson, Daniel R GEN USARMY NG OCNGB (USA)" <(B6)>, "Sasseville, Marc H Lt Gen USAF NG OCNGB (USA)" <(B6)>, "Jones, Omar J IV MG USARMY MDW (USA)" <(B6)>
Cc: "Dean, Aaron R II BG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA)" <(B6)>, "(B6) CSM USARMY NG DCARNG (USA)" <(B6)>, "Maldonado, Mark A Brig Gen USAF NG DCANG (USA)" <(B6)>, "Ryan, R Kenneth (B6) BG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA)" <(B6)>, "(B6) COL USARMY NG DCARNG (USA)" <(B6)>
Subject: DCNG 5-6 January 2021 Support and Contingency Plan

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

The Honorable Ryan D. McCarthy,
Secretary of the Army
The Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Secretary,

Sir, this afternoon I received a call from Dr. Chris Rodriguez, Director of the District of Columbia Homeland and Security Management Agency (HSEMA) requesting DCNG support on 5 and 6 January 2021 to assist the MPD and Fire and Emergency Medical Services (FEMS). Mr. Secretary we have yet to receive a formal request for assistance, however our MPD liaison advises the request will be for the DCNG to augment 30 Traffic Control Points and six Metro Stations. Sir, FEMS is going to request the 33rd Civil Support Team assist them.

Sir, we anticipate (B5) DCNG Guardsmen will be required to assist the District on both days with two 12 hour shifts. Mr. Secretary, the attached slides outline the plan to support the two District agencies upon receipt of a formal request and your approval.

Mr. Secretary, we remain in continuous communication with Federal and District Government law enforcement authorities and as of 1700 hours this evening, no Federal requests for assistance have been made, and with the possible exception of the U.S. Secret Service, none are anticipated. Sir, the Secret Service will let us know by Monday if they will request our support.

Mr. Secretary, I am standing by to answer any questions. Sir, I will provide additional details and any updates as they become available. Happy New Year Sir.

Most respectfully,

MG Walker

WILLIAM J. WALKER
Major General, USA
23rd Commanding General
District of Columbia National Guard

"Protecting the Capital and Defending the Nation since 1802"

B6

B5, B7E

B5, B7E



Planned Activities (1 of 2)

- **The Silent Majority – 01/05/2021 – 01/06/2021**
 - **Time:** 1000 to 1700 hours
 - **Location:** National Mall at 13th Street
 - **Participants:** (500) listed on permit application
- **Washington, DC (New Jersey Patriot Events) – 01/05/2021 – 01/06/2021**
 - **Time:** 2200 hours
 - **Location:** New Jersey to the National Mall
 - **Participants:** (94) listed / (258) interested
- **Canton/Akron Protest Bus Transportation – 01/06/2021**
 - **Time:** 0400 to 2345 hours
 - **Location:** Canton & Akron, OH, to U.S. Capitol
 - **Participants:** (59) listed / (184) interested
- **March on Congress – 01/06/2021**
 - **Time:** 0700 hours
 - **Location:** Washington, DC
 - **Participants:** (814) listed / (4,500) interested
- **Million MAGA March, March for Trump, Stop the Steal (NJ Patriots) – 01/06/2021**
 - **Time:** 0700 hours
 - **Location:** Washington, DC
 - **Participants:** (676) listed / (2,000) interested
- **Rally to Revival – 01/06/2021**
 - **Time:** 0800 to 2359 hours
 - **Location:** Sylvan Theater
 - **Participants:** (5,000) listed on permit application

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Planned Activities (2 of 2)

- **March for Trump (Prime Time Patriots) – 01/06/2021**
 - **Time:** 0900 to 1800 hours
 - **Location:** 213 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
 - **Participants:** (69) listed / (378) interested
- **Women for America First – 01/06/2021**
 - **Time:** 0900 to 1900 hours
 - **Location:** The Ellipse/Freedom Plaza
 - **Participants:** (5,000) listed for each location
- **Patriot Party and Pat King – 01/06/2021**
 - **Time:** 1200 hours
 - **Location:** Washington, DC
 - **Participants:** (104) listed / (650) interested
- **Stop the Steal March #Be There – 01/06/2021**
 - **Time:** 1200 hours
 - **Location:** Capitol Hill
 - **Participants:** (199) listed / (730) interested

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Crew v. DoD, Army, et al. (D.D.C.), No. 21-cv-572 00000946

B5, B7E

B5, B7E

To: McCarthy, Ryan D HON USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) [B6]; McConville, James C GEN USARMY HQDA CSA (USA) [B6]
Cc: [B6] COL USARMY HQDA DAS (USA) [B6]; [B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) [B6]; [B6] COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA) [B6]; Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA) [B6]; Martin, Joseph M GEN USARMY HQDA VCSCA (USA) [B6]; [B6] SMA USARMY HQDA SMA (USA) [B6]; McPherson, James E HON USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) [B6]; Hannah, Amy E BG USARMY HQDA OCPA (USA) [B6] [B6] [B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) [B6] [B6] COL USARMY HQDA VCSCA (USA) [B6] [B6] COL USARMY HQDA OCPA (USA) [B6] [B6] Eifler, Brian S BG USARMY HQDA OCLL (USA) [B6] [B6] [B6] COL USARMY HQDA OCLL (USA) [B6]
From: Hannah, Amy E BG USARMY HQDA OCPA (USA) [/O=EASF/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP [B6] /CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=[B6]]
Sent: Tue 1/5/2021 10:49:16 PM (UTC)
Subject: ARMY (PA) Close of Business (COB) Report - 5 JAN
[smime.p7m](#)

Mr. Secretary and Chief:
Below please find today's Close of Business Report.
v/r, Amy

ON TOP

- **DCNG ACTIVATION:** Continued coordination ISO the DCNG mission. DCNG public affairs is being augmented with a PAD of six Soldiers and has two organic PA Soldiers to provide coverage of their support. We assisted them with social media post for their black vests (vs body armor) and we remain in close coordination with the DCNG. We will provide support with social media monitoring, message development and other requests as needed. Between 0900 and 1400 today, there were approximately 51,000 social media mentions of the demonstrations in DC; 95% of these posts mentioned the DCNG's support mission. While there is considerable emotion on both sides of the political spectrum in these posts, neither side is displaying animosity towards the Guard mission. Full text of news articles is attached. DCNG completed a b-roll package today and is posted to DVIDs for media use. We are sending to the Pentagon Press Corps and DC-affiliates to ensure they 1) understand the mission profile and don't mistakenly use file footage featuring combat gear.
- **INDO-PACIFIC ARTICLE:** Coordinating with the G 3/5/7 on the release of an article reinforcing the Army's strategic importance in the Indo-Pacific theater. Expect to place it with Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy or War on the Rocks prior to the inauguration.
- **FORT KNOX MTF:** The MTF at Knox hosted local media today allowing them to highlight their COVID-19 vaccination administration of Tier 1A personnel while reinforcing the vaccination's safety and efficacy. Expect to feature leader and Soldier highlights regularly on social media from around the Army.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST:

- **#IAmVanessaGuillen Act:** A march in Washington D.C. is planned for January 21st at 1PM in support of the #IAmVanessaGuillen Act. Organizers say the march is to show Congress and President-elect Biden that "we will not stop until the legislation #IAmVanessaGuillen is signed into law." We will BOLO.

THREE DAY MEDIA INTERVIEW FORECAST

- **PEOPLE**
 - 6-8 JAN: SMA [B6] will travel to Fort Hood to discuss "This Is My Squad" and People First priorities, and to conduct listening sessions to get feedback on changes since the investigations began. (AP will cover)
 - 11 JAN: Under Secretary James McPherson will record an on-camera interview for social media platforms to highlight leadership lessons from his tenure.
 - 12 JAN: SMA [B6] will participate in a livestreamed AUSA Noon Report event on the Army's People First priorities, advancing a culture of trust and QoL services and reforms (register at <https://www.bigmarker.com/ausaorg/AUSA-Noon-Report-SMA-Grinston>).

LAST 12 HOURS

- **Cooper Calls in National Guard to Pick up Vaccine Rollout**
(The Associated Press, Jan. 5, Staff Writer) <https://apnews.com/article/north-carolina-coronavirus-pandemic-coronavirus-vaccine-09d5acd1fd6d264b6d1ec80afeeb301>
- **Navy SEAL pleads guilty in strangulation death case of Army Green Beret staff sergeant**

(Army Times, Jan. 5, Todd South) <https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2021/01/05/navy-seal-pleads-guilty-in-strangulation-death-of-army-green-beret-staff-sergeant/>

- **US cavalry unit takes up position in Lithuania**

(Stars and Stripes, Jan. 5, Staff Writer) <https://www.stripes.com/news/europe/us-cavalry-unit-takes-up-position-in-lithuania-1.657486>

- **Israel sends 'Iron Dome' anti-missile units to the U.S.**

(The Washington Times, Jan. 5, Mike Glenn) <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/jan/5/israel-sends-iron-dome-anti-missile-units-us/>

QUERIES OF NOTE:

- SFC [B6] Ileana Najarro, Tampa Bay Times, requested service record and confirmation if [B6] was ever stationed at MacDill AFB. Provided approved releasable service information.

SOCIAL MEDIA ROLLUP

JAN 4-5 Social media post schedule "Run of Show" attached.

ARMY.MIL LINEUP

Army distributes COVID-19 vaccine to US troops in Korea <https://www.army.mil/article/242160/>

Amid takeover of his native country, Soldier fights for family, homeland <https://www.army.mil/article/242173/>

Army & Air Force Exchange Service celebrates first year of patronage expansion to disabled veterans <https://www.army.mil/article/242172/>

Amy E. Hannah
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Chief of Public Affairs

Office of Chief of Public Affairs (OCPA)

Rollup D.C. National Guard Activation 5 January 2021

DATE/TIME: 4-5 January 2021

MEDIUM: Print and broadcast

SUBJECT: Coverage of announcement of D.C. National Guard’s activation in connection with Jan.5-6 Washington D.C. rallies

Print

Between 1700 on Jan. 4 – 1700 on Jan. 5, there were at least 10 original print stories related to the Washington DC protests and the subsequent activation of the DC National Guard. Nine of them originated from national outlets (*The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Hill*, *National Public Radio*, *The New York Times*, *NBC News*, *ABC News*, *Voice of America* and *Newsweek*), while one article was published by a local newspaper –*Washington Examiner*.

The papers reported factually on the current DC National Guard activation, with *Washington Examiner* mentioning that the Guard will not be armed. Several outlets reported that the 340 National Guard Soldiers are much less than the thousands of National Guard members who were mobilized last June. MG William J. Walker, commanding general of the D.C. National Guard, was quoted saying they would be in a support role. *The Washington Post* and *The Wall Street Journal* published photos of DC National Guard Soldiers in standard Army uniforms and black protective vests, but without armament and protective gear guarding key transportation hubs.

The Hill reported that Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser (D) told Justice Department and Pentagon leaders on Tuesday that the city is not requesting federal law enforcement assistance with protests organized by President Trump's supporters this week. Bowser addressed a letter to acting Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen, Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy and acting Secretary of Defense Christopher Miller, in which she requested that officials notify the city and its police department if federal authorities are deployed. The mayor said federal officials did not provide this notification to the city’s Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) during events last year. *The Hill* also published a copy of the letter.

Broadcast

During the reporting period, there were at least 135 broadcast segments from national and local media reporting on the DC National Guard activation in connection with the protests. The six broadcast segments originating from national and local Washington DC outlets reported factually on the DC National Guard’s involvement and none of them showed images of National Guard Soldiers.

WJZ-CBS (MD) reported that around 340 DC National Guard members were activated, quoting sources saying that Soldiers will not be armed or wearing body armor, and will perform mainly traffic control functions. *WJZ-CBS (MD)* also reported that no traditional active duty military will be present.

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9. D.C. POLICE ARREST LEADER OF THE PROUD BOYS AHEAD OF FAR-RIGHT PROTESTS..... 14
(National Public Radio, Jan. 4, Elena Moore)..... 14

The head of a far-right extremist group, the Proud Boys, was arrested in Washington, D.C., on Monday evening less than a day before thousands of pro-Trump and far-right demonstrators are expected in the city..... 14

10. LEADER OF PROUD BOYS, A FAR-RIGHT GROUP, IS ARRESTED AS D.C. BRACES FOR PROTESTS.....16

(The New York Times, Jan. 4, Jennifer Steinhauer, Katie Benner, Eric Schmitt and Helene Cooper) 16

The leader of the Proud Boys, a far-right group that has vocally supported President Trump’s efforts to overturn the election results, was arrested on Monday in Washington as Mayor Muriel Bowser requested support from the Army National Guard before expected protests of the November vote in the nation’s capital..... 16

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(WJZ-CBS (MD), Jan. 5)..... 18

Washington, D.C.'s mayor urged calm Monday as some 340 National Guard troops were being activated while the city prepared for potentially violent protests surrounding Congress' expected vote to affirm President-elect Joe Biden's victory..... 18

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(WRC-NBC (DC), Jan. 4, Shomari Stone)..... 18

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Print:

1. Trump supporters protesting the election begin demonstrating in D.C.

(The Washington Post, Jan. 5, Marissa J. Lang, Emily Davies, Peter Hermann and Jessica Contrera)

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2021/01/05/dc-protest-trump-supporters-election/>

One day before Congress votes to certify that Joe Biden won the presidential election, Trump supporters who refuse to accept the reality of his defeat have begun demonstrating in Washington again. The city is bracing for 48 hours of potentially violent protests, egged on by President Trump himself.

One Wednesday gathering has a permit with the National Park Service for up to 30,000 people, but multiple events planned for Tuesday are already drawing crowds downtown. Among the masses: the far-right groups whose members were involved in stabbings and, police say, the vandalism of historic Black churches in the District during last month’s protest.

The city has mobilized the National Guard alongside its police force, which will focus on arresting anyone who is unlawfully armed. The mayor has asked residents to avoid the demonstrations, taking place at Freedom Plaza, the Capitol and the Supreme Court on Tuesday and Wednesday.

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Protesters have traveled across the country to D.C. for what they see as a last stand for Trump, who has continued to falsely assert that the election was stolen from him. He has promoted Wednesday's demonstrations for weeks and said he is planning to make an appearance.

By 3 p.m. Tuesday, hundreds of people were gathered in Freedom Plaza, listening to speakers who repeated falsehoods about the election, offered prayers and shared discount codes for MyPillow, a company owned by a Trump ally. Some donned flak jackets with walkie-talkies and camouflage fanny packs strapped around their waists.

D.C. police, U.S. Park Police and the Secret Service lingered nearby.

Those at the microphone praised the lack of masks in the mostly White crowds, saying the demonstrators were exercising their personal freedoms.

"I'm going to give everyone three action steps ... turn to the person next to you and give them a hug," one speaker exhorted the crowd. "Someone you don't know ... it's a mass-spreader event! It's a mass-spreader event!"

Masks are required outdoors in the District, but police are not enforcing the mandate this weekend, even as a winter coronavirus surge worsens.

The city is averaging 233 new coronavirus cases daily, and hospitalizations are up 12 percent compared with last week. On Friday, the Washington region set a daily record for new coronavirus infections.

Though many Republican lawmakers, all 10 living former defense secretaries and election officials across the country have said Trump should stop attempting to overturn the results of the election, his refusal to do so has energized his followers. They have journeyed by car, bus and plane to rally alongside his most prominent and divisive allies expected to attend, including his personal attorney Rudolph W. Giuliani, recently pardoned campaign adviser Roger Stone and far-right conspiracy theorist Alex Jones.

Jones, who has been banned from multiple major social media platforms for spreading misinformation about politicians, school shootings and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, told supporters on the conservative social media site Parler: "Trump wants to see you in D.C."

On Parler and the encrypted messaging app Telegram, right-wing groups have openly discussed how to sneak guns into the District, where there are laws banning open carry and prohibiting firearms on federal lands and near protests.

Recent pro-Trump protests have devolved into violent skirmishes. In December, members of the Proud Boys, a male-chauvinist organization with ties to white nationalism, spent hours attempting to reach activists in Black Lives Matter Plaza, being repeatedly blocked by police. Later in the evening, four people were stabbed amid a crowd of Proud Boys and Trump supporters outside Harry's Bar, which has become a Proud Boys gathering spot.

When the leader of the Proud Boys, Enrique Tarrio, returned to the District for this week's events, he was arrested. D.C. police took him into custody Monday afternoon on a warrant charging him with burning a Black Lives Matter banner taken from Asbury United Methodist Church during the December demonstration.

He faces a misdemeanor charge of destruction of property and two felony counts of possessing extended gun magazines at the time of his arrest.

Office of Chief of Public Affairs (OCPA)

On Tuesday afternoon, Tarrío appeared in D.C. Superior Court, where he pleaded not guilty. A judge released him but banned him from the District, pointing to his social media posts in which he threatens to set fire to more signs. Tarrío could be arrested if he is seen anywhere in the District.

As he was being released, the crowds in Freedom Plaza were growing. Vendors nearby hawked red caps, Trump 2020 sweatshirts and one T-shirt featuring a Baby Yoda decked out in MAGA gear. They cheered for a Michigan lawmaker, a pastor who told them it was “time for war,” and a man wearing a patch representing the far-right armed group Three Percenters, who told them to “fight, fight, fight.”

Arielle Early, 17, flew from Northern California after she saw Trump’s tweets calling for demonstrators to descend on the nation’s capital.

“What I love about Trump is that he rallies people to come here and fight,” she said.

Early said she dropped out of public school in 2017 after being bullied for supporting Trump. But on Instagram, she found a community of like-minded young Trump die-hards. She plans to meet up with those virtual friends this week in Washington.

Diane Marney, a 62-year-old real estate agent who lives in Wyoming, said she sees this week’s demonstrations as the single most important event in her lifetime. She worries about what a Biden administration will mean for her son, who works in a coal mine. She compared her decision to come to D.C. to her grandson’s decision to serve in the military.

“I want to do the same as him,” she said. “Just not with a gun.”

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2. Trump Supporters Again Plan Protests in D.C. to Dispute Election Results

Supporters—including conspiracy and extremist groups—plan to gather in the U.S. capital for the third time since the November presidential election

(The Wall Street Journal, Jan. 5, Rachael Levy)

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/trump-supporters-again-plan-protests-in-d-c-to-dispute-election-results-11609880570>

President Trump’s supporters plan to protest in Washington, D.C., Tuesday and Wednesday as Congress meets to ratify President-elect Joe Biden’s Electoral College win, marking the third such mass demonstration in the nation’s capital disputing the election results.

The Washington protests, like those before them, are expected to attract Mr. Trump’s loyalists from around the country. City officials are bracing for potential violence downtown in a repeat of unrest stemming from earlier pro-Trump protests, and adding police officers to monitor historic Black churches that were vandalized following last month’s demonstrations.

Mainstream Trump supporters, private militia groups, white supremacists, the far-right Proud Boys and conspiracy theorists such as those backing QAnon are expected to attend, social-media posts and permits show.

The city plans to deploy National Guard members and to augment its police presence at the demonstrations, officials said Monday. The president, who ran on a platform of law and order during last year’s presidential election, hasn’t called for federal law enforcement to monitor the activity as he did

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during last year's Black Lives Matter protests. A White House spokesman didn't immediately respond to a request for comment on the president's plans.

Permits granted by the National Park Service show several thousand people are expected at the main events on Wednesday, with at least one demonstration beginning on Tuesday afternoon. Protesters aren't required to file for permits to engage in what is a First Amendment right.

The filing for Women for America First shows that it expects 30,000 people, though the numbers listed on the permits aren't necessarily accurate predictors of attendance.

Women for America First describes itself on its website as a Virginia-based nonprofit of conservative women.

"We just want to make sure that we have a free and fair election," Kylie Jane Kremer, who is listed on the permit as the organizer of the group's Washington rally, told C-Span on Tuesday. "We've seen voter fraud that has been rampant around the country," she added, citing "affidavit after affidavit."

Election officials from both political parties, governors in battleground states and Mr. Trump's recently departed Attorney General William Barr have said there was no evidence of widespread fraud in the November election. Dozens of state and federal court decisions have rejected efforts by Mr. Trump and his allies to overturn the presidential election results.

Ms. Kremer said she started a popular "Stop the Steal" Facebook group after the election, but Facebook removed the group in November as part of a sweep of measures to limit the spread of false and possibly dangerous content after the election.

Another D.C. protest organizer, calling itself the Silent Majority, expects 250 people, while a "Rally to Revival" expects 5,000 people for a Tuesday event, according to permits. The Tuesday event will include speakers such as conspiracy theorist Alex Jones and Roger Stone, a longtime adviser to the president whom the president recently pardoned. Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani also is slated to speak to protesters.

The two earlier protests, also held during the nation's worsening coronavirus crisis, drew crowds who largely defied the city's mask mandate. Many of the protesters had traveled from around the country to attend. The city's mayor, Muriel Bowser, asked residents in recent days to avoid downtown and said the city's police wouldn't enforce the mask rules at this week's protests.

President Trump, who has yet to concede he lost the November election, has promoted the protests on his Twitter account. Mr. Trump plans to make in-person remarks at the protests on Wednesday morning, a White House official said.

At the November demonstrations, Mr. Trump staged a limousine drive-by and at the December protest, Mr. Trump's helicopter flew low over cheering crowds.

The far-right Proud Boys also are expected. Washington police officers arrested the group's leader, Enrique Tarrio, on Monday on a charge related to unrest emanating from last month's protests. Mr. Tarrio told the Washington Post in December he participated in burning a Black Lives Matter banner that had been ripped from a historic Black church during evening unrest that followed pro-Trump protests that month. Mr. Tarrio also was charged with carrying two high-capacity firearms magazines, the police said.

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A court released Mr. Tarrío on Tuesday and ordered him to stay away from Washington until his next court date, scheduled for June 8, documents show. Mr. Tarrío didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Earlier the day of those protests, large crowds of Trump supporters gathered in downtown D.C. to call for the presidential-election result to be overturned, two days before the Electoral College met. Violence later broke out between some of the demonstrators and counterprotesters. Several people, including eight police officers, were hurt, authorities said at the time. Four people were stabbed.

A pro-Trump protest after the November election results were announced also spiraled into violence. After the protest, at least 21 people were arrested and numerous people injured, including one individual who was stabbed. The violence grew out of a largely peaceful rally of Trump supporters backing the notion that the election has been "stolen" from Mr. Trump.

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3. Bowser to DOJ, Pentagon: DC isn't asking federal law enforcement to assist with protests

(The Hill, Jan. 5, Justine Coleman)

<https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/532739-bowser-to-doj-pentagon-dc-isnt-requesting-federal-law-enforcement-to>

Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser (D) told Justice Department and Pentagon leaders on Tuesday that the city is not requesting federal law enforcement assistance with protests organized by President Trump's supporters this week.

Bowser addressed a letter to acting Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen, Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy and acting Secretary of Defense Christopher Miller, in which she requested that officials notify the city and its police department if federal authorities are deployed.

The mayor said federal officials did not provide this notification to the city's Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) during events last year.

"To be clear, the District of Columbia is not requesting other federal law enforcement personnel and discourages any additional deployment without immediate notification to, and consultation with, MPD if such plans are underway," she said in the letter.

The mayor pointed to incidents in 2020 when MPD "was expected to perform the demanding tasks of policing large crowds while working around unidentifiable personnel deployed in the District of Columbia without proper coordination."

"Unidentifiable personnel – in many cases, armed – caused confusion among residents and visitors and could become a national security threat with no way for MPD and federal law enforcement to decipher armed groups," she wrote.

During the Black Lives Matter protests last summer, military personnel, at least some of whom were not wearing identifiers, extended the perimeter around the White House in the days after law enforcement and demonstrators clashed in the area.

Bowser indicated that MPD "is prepared" for the demonstrations over the next few days and has coordinated with its federal partners, specifically the U.S. Park Police, U.S. Capitol Police and U.S. Secret

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Service. She noted that these agencies “regularly have uniformed personnel protecting federal assets” in the city.

She also referenced her activation of the D.C. National Guard on Monday, saying the troops will work with the police department. The D.C. National Guard said about 340 members will be activated to assist the city and address the expected protests.

The mayor’s letter to officials comes as at least four pro-Trump demonstrations are planned for Tuesday and Wednesday when Congress is slated to meet to approve the Electoral College certification of President-elect Joe Biden’s win. Congress's official meeting is Wednesday.

The protests intend to support the effort of dozens of Republican lawmakers to challenge the Electoral College results.

But the effort is unlikely to be successful because Democrats control the House and several Republicans in the Senate have said they will not support the attempt.

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4. D.C. mayor calls on National Guard as pro-Trump protests set for capital

Pro-Trump supporters are planning rallies in the capital as Congress is set to meet to formally count the Electoral College results.

(NBC News, Jan. 5, Phil Helsel)

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/d-c-mayor-calls-national-guard-pro-trump-protests-set-n1252800>

The National Guard has been mobilized to Washington ahead of pro-Trump demonstrations planned this week as Congress convenes to certify the election results.

The Guard will be used to help control crowds and manage traffic, the police chief said. Mayor Muriel Bowser requested the Guard be activated and urged residents and others to stay safe and be cautious.

"We're asking D.C. residents and people who live in the region to avoid confrontations with anybody who's looking for a fight," Bowser said. "And the best way to do that is to avoid the area."

Congress is scheduled to meet Wednesday to formally count the Electoral College votes. President Donald Trump lost the election but has baselessly alleged fraud. On Tuesday, Georgia will hold runoff elections that will determine which party controls the Senate.

Organizers plan to rally Tuesday evening at Freedom Plaza and all day Wednesday on the Ellipse, including a 1 p.m. Wednesday march to the Capitol, The Associated Press reported.

Trump has encouraged the rally, and on Sunday tweeted "I will be there. Historic day!" while retweeting a message about Wednesday's planned event.

More than 300 District of Columbia National Guard personnel will support the city government Tuesday and Wednesday, providing crowd control at Metro stations and helping with street closures, the guard said in a statement.

Maj. Gen. William J. Walker, commanding general of the D.C. National Guard, said they would be in a support role.

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Acting Metropolitan Police Department Chief Robert Contee warned demonstrators and anyone else that guns are not permitted.

"We have received some information that there are individuals intent on bringing firearms into our city, and that just will not be tolerated," Contee said.

In December, several people were stabbed during clashes around a pro-Trump rally.

A leader of the Proud Boys, Enrique Tarrío, was arrested Monday after entering Washington after being accused of burning a Black Lives Matter sign that had been torn down at a historic Black church during that Dec. 12 rally. He also allegedly had two high-capacity magazines, police said.

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5. National Guard Deployed To D.C. as Capital Braces for Repeat of Violence

(Newsweek, Jan. 5, Ewan Palmer)

<https://www.newsweek.com/national-guard-washington-proud-boys-protest-trump-1558972>

Fearing a repeat of previous violence, officials have confirmed that the National Guard will be deploying hundreds of troops to the nation's capital this week as tens of thousands of Donald Trump supporters and far-right nationalists protest the congressional certification of Joe Biden's election victory.

Trump himself is one of those who has been promoting the "wild" protests scheduled to take place in Washington D.C. on Wednesday, January 6, prompting concerns that extremists such as Proud Boys will descend on the city and engage in physical violence and destruction in support of the president's widely dismissed cries of widespread voter fraud.

Trump supporters are expected to start arriving and gathering in the city on Tuesday, one day ahead of the congressional certification of the Electoral College results and Biden's victory.

Authorities in the capital have already taken steps to try and ensure there will not be a repeat—or worse, an escalation—of the violence which broke out following a previous pro-Trump rally in the city on December 12 as far-right and white nationalist groups clashed with counter-protesters and antifa.

The District of Columbia National Guard confirmed that 340 troops will be deployed to the city this week to assist with the patrolling of the planned protests.

"At the request of Mayor Muriel Bowser, the District of Columbia National Guard is in a support role to the Metropolitan Police Department which will enable them to provide a safe environment for our fellow citizens to exercise their first amendment right to demonstrate," said Maj. Gen. William J. Walker, Commanding General of the D.C. National Guard.

"Our main mission is augmenting select traffic control points and metro stations identified by MPD."

Metropolitan Police Chief Robert Contee also told a City Hall news conference on Monday that the National Guard troops will also be joined by the U.S. Capitol Police, U.S. Park Police and U.S. Secret Service.

The Metropolitan Police Department has also warned protesters not to openly carry guns at the protests like in previous rallies and that firearms will be prohibited within 1000 feet of D.C.'s Freedom Plaza, located near the White House.

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Washington D.C. already has a strict firearms law which bans the open carry of guns. It is also illegal to conceal carry a firearm in the city unless they have a concealed pistol license issued by the District of Columbia.

Elsewhere on Monday, Enrique Tarrío, leader of the Proud Boys group, was arrested on January 4 while entering the District of Columbia on suspicion of setting fire to a Black Lives Matter flag which had been torn off a church during the night of unrest which followed the December 12 protest.

Tarrío was also allegedly found to be in possession of two high capacity firearm magazines. He has been charged with destruction of property and possession of high capacity feeding device.

Mayor Bowser has urged people not to engage with those who are intending on arriving into the city to cause unrest.

"I am asking Washingtonians and those who live in the region to stay out of the downtown area on Tuesday and Wednesday and not to engage with demonstrators who come to our city seeking confrontation, and we will do what we must to ensure all who attend remain peaceful," Bowser said in a statement.

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6. DC National Guard activated ahead of protests

Demonstrations will be held when Congress is to certify the election results.

(ABC News, Jan. 5, Luis Martinez)

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/dc-national-guard-activated-ahead-protests/story?id=75041642>

The Pentagon has approved a request by the mayor of Washington D.C. to activate 340 members of the D.C. National Guard to assist law enforcement ahead of Wednesday's planned demonstrations scheduled for when Congress is expected to certify the results of the 2020 presidential election.

The unarmed guardsmen will work in shifts to help manage traffic control checkpoints in the city's downtown area to free up D.C. police officers who could be needed to respond should the protests turn violent.

Local and federal law enforcement authorities are expecting thousands of demonstrators to converge on the nation's capital on Wednesday to protest the certification of President-elect Joe Biden's victory. D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser has urged local residents to avoid the downtown area out of concern that far-right supporters of President Donald Trump may act out violently.

"Approximately 340 personnel will support the city government Jan. 5 to 7 by providing crowd control at several Metro stations and assist police with street closures at multiple intersections to provide safety in and around pedestrian areas," according to a statement issued by the D.C. National Guard.

"The Capital guardsmen will also support D.C. Fire and Emergency Management Services with specially trained Civil Support Team personnel. Guardsmen are prepared to respond to augment the main missions, should additional personnel be required," the statement continued.

Mayor Bowser requested the activation on Dec. 31 and the request was approved Monday by the acting defense secretary, said a senior defense official. Unlike other states' National Guards -- whose activation is controlled by state governors -- the responsibility for the D.C. National Guard falls to the Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy, who then must have the decision approved by the defense secretary.

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The activation of 1,600 D.C. guardsmen last summer during Black Lives Matter protests proved controversial as Bowser had said at the time that she had not requested their activation.

The National Guard's use of helicopters to disperse demonstrators led to an investigation by the Army's Inspector General that is being reviewed by the Pentagon's Office of Inspector General.

The 340 guardsmen activated Monday will work in day and night shifts, with approximately 100 working at any given time, manning more than 30 traffic control checkpoints in the downtown area according to defense officials. No National Guard helicopters were requested by Bowser.

"No one's going to be armed or (wearing) body armor or anything like that," said the official. "What they need is traffic control."

Placing the National Guardsmen at the checkpoints will help free up an equal number of D.C. police officers who could "be closer to the demonstrations in the event that there's a violent act they be in a position to respond much, much more quickly and effectively so it just gives them much more flexibility and greater density of support," said the official.

"We think it's helpful to have our D.C. guardsmen, who are our guard, that I have requested from the Secretary of the Army to assist MPD with traffic management," Bowser said Monday. "It absolutely frees up more officers."

D.C. Metropolitan Police Chief Robert Contee labeled any possibility of violence surrounding the protests as "unacceptable" and restated that carrying firearms at the protests is not allowed under D.C., law as it is not an open-carry jurisdiction.

In addition to the traffic presence, the D.C. Guard will also have a chemical-biological response team available to local authorities.

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7. DC National Guard will be unarmed for Electoral College protests after George Floyd failures (Washington Examiner, Jan. 5, Abraham Mahshie)

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/defense-national-security/national-guard-unarmed-electoral-college-protests>

In the face of severe criticism for its response to the George Floyd protests in June, the District of Columbia National Guard will be unarmed in the nation's capital to support local law enforcement during protests surrounding Congress's counting of electoral votes that is set for Wednesday.

"We saw numerous challenges, but we continue to support our fellow citizens and visitors to the district," spokesman Senior Master Sgt. Craig Clapper told the Washington Examiner on Tuesday. The Guard will be activated through Thursday.

Clapper said Mayor Muriel Bowser insisted that the 340 local Guard members who will help local law enforcement with traffic, crowd, and access control be unarmed.

Only Quick Response Force members, if specifically requested, would carry a baton and shield for personal protection.

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“We've explicitly been told there is no weaponry of any kind for this mission,” Clapper said. “If anything came to that, yes, they would have to facilitate transportation back to the armory.”

Of the 340 activated Guard members, 115 would be on the street with traffic and crowd control at any one time, Clapper said. That leaves more than 200 that could potentially respond in a QRF capacity.

The District of Columbia National Guard was criticized this summer after it was called to assist law enforcement with clearing Lafayette Square of protesters near the White House prior to a curfew on June 1 so that President Trump could walk through the park for a photo opportunity.

Two National Guard helicopters flew low over protesters in an effort to disperse them, causing an incident that is still under Army investigation. The incident has been turned over to the Pentagon's inspector general, but the findings have not been made public.

The Guard also wore inadequate identification and borrowed gear with the city's police markings, all issues Clapper said have been resolved ahead of the current mission.

'Not a civil disturbance mission'

Should civil disturbance occur surrounding the electoral ballot count, authorities in the city would have to request authorization from Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy for a change in the National Guard mission.

“This is not a civil disturbance mission for us,” Clapper said, drawing a distinction between the Guard response in June that encamped the entire 2,600-member force and summoned out-of-state Guard units, who remained nearby on the ready.

Following the June incident, then-Defense Secretary Mark Esper told the House Armed Services Committee that the 1,700 active-duty military members on standby in Virginia were not used and that 5,000 Guard members on duty did not engage protesters.

This activation may be different, with district businesses already boarding up and calling on employees to work remotely in what may be a final salvo for election protesters.

In October, McCarthy defended the use of the Guard during violent protests in which some Guard members were injured.

“The protests became very violent,” McCarthy told Pentagon journalists at the time. “It was necessary to bring in the support to help local law enforcement and federal law enforcement officials due to the tremendous damage [and] police officers and Guardsmen being injured.”

National Guard Association spokesman John Goheen sees few parallels between the June events and the current activation. He pointed out that previous protesters were locals, while tens of thousands of expected protesters this week are expected to be out-of-town Trump supporters who are angry at the election results.

“There certainly is some anger,” he said. “Anger on the streets is not a good thing.”

He added: “What you can't allow is for those expressions of anger to turn violent, either to people or property. So those are your similarities, but you are talking about different groups here.”

Both officials assessed that the Metropolitan Police of the District of Columbia's intelligence was guiding decision-making at this early stage, monitoring social media chatter and messaging.

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Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrío was arrested on Monday after he entered the district in connection with setting fire to a Black Lives Matter banner taken from a historic black church. He was also charged with two felony counts of possessing high-capacity magazines found when he was taken into custody.

Still, Clapper said, Washington's Guard members, who are among the most diverse units in the country with an estimated 50% minorities, will not wear helmets or security vests.

“They literally have a vest, and it's like a vest that somebody at Walmart would wear,” Clapper said. “Fingers crossed that nothing goes too crazy.”

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8. Proud Boys Leader Arrested Ahead of Pro-Trump Demonstrations in Washington

(Voice of America, Jan. 5, Staff Writer)

<https://www.voanews.com/usa/proud-boys-leader-arrested-ahead-pro-trump-demonstrations-washington>

The leader of the far-right group the Proud Boys was arrested by Washington police on Monday, two days before supporters of President Donald Trump are scheduled to hold demonstrations in the capital city over Trump's loss to Joe Biden in the November presidential election.

The District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department said it arrested Henry “Enrique” Tarrío on destruction of property charges for burning a Black Lives Matter sign that was torn down from a historic African American church during protests in Washington last month.

The Proud Boys are expected to converge on the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, as Congress votes to affirm Biden's victory, one of several pro-Trump rallies planned in the city.

Tarrío, 36, is also facing weapons charges after police found two high-capacity firearm magazines when he was taken into custody.

City officials warned Trump supporters not to bring guns to the protests. The local government in Washington prohibits people from carrying weapons in the open and possessing a handgun without a local license.

The District of Columbia National Guard said 300 troops would support the city government during Wednesday's planned protests.

Protest at Senator Hawley's House

Ahead of the rallies, Senator Josh Hawley said that his family was targeted by “Antifa scumbags” who frightened his family at their Washington DC home Monday night. Hawley has said he would challenge the certification of the Electoral College vote that gave Biden his victory. The group involved in the protest outside his home, ShutDown DC, said activists held a “vigil” and delivered a copy of the U.S. Constitution to his door.

December rally

In December, violence erupted at a pro-Trump rally in December as Trump supporters, some wearing the Proud Boys colors of black and yellow, instigated confrontations with counter-protesters and activists.

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As Trump supporters tried to enter Black Lives Matter Plaza near the White House, counter-protesters tried to block them. By nightfall, pro-Trump demonstrators ripped down a Black Lives Matter banner and sign from two historic Black churches in downtown Washington and set the banner on fire.

Tarrio acknowledged to The Washington Post newspaper that he helped with the burning of the banner and said he would plead guilty to destruction of property charges and pay the church for the banner.

Police were investigating the events last month as potential hate crimes, a spokesman told The Associated Press. Tarrio has not commented on the charges, but he said recently on the social media app Parler that “record numbers” of the group’s members would protest Trump’s loss beginning Wednesday.

Last week, Trump tweeted, “The BIG Protest Rally in Washington, D.C., will take place at 11.00 A.M. on January 6th.... StopTheSteal!”

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9. D.C. Police Arrest Leader Of The Proud Boys Ahead Of Far-Right Protests

(National Public Radio, Jan. 4, Elena Moore)

<https://www.npr.org/2021/01/04/953349879/d-c-police-prepare-for-far-right-protests-as-congress-counts-electoral-votes>

The head of a far-right extremist group, the Proud Boys, was arrested in Washington, D.C., on Monday evening less than a day before thousands of pro-Trump and far-right demonstrators are expected in the city.

Enrique Tarrio, 36, was taken into police custody and charged with destruction of property, according to a statement from the Metropolitan Police Department.

The charge is related to his actions during last month's pro-Trump demonstration in D.C. that turned violent. Tarrio admitted to removing and burning a Black Lives Matter banner from a historically Black church, an action the Proud Boys are now being sued over.

According to the police statement, Tarrio is also being charged with possession of a high-capacity feeding device. Officers found two high-capacity firearm magazines with him when he was arrested.

The FBI says the Proud Boys have "ties to white nationalism," and the organization has previously been associated with acts of violence.

Three conservative groups have officially submitted permit applications to the National Park Service for events on Tuesday and Wednesday, as reported by USA Today. Women for America First and the Eighty Percent Coalition requested permits for thousands of people each. A third event run by the organization The Silent Majority filed a permit for several hundred attendees.

The protests coincides with the newly sworn-in 117th Congress official certification of the Electoral College ballots on Wednesday, marking the last step in the election before President-elect Joe Biden is sworn in on Jan. 20.

President Trump is supporting the protests and vows to attend.

Meanwhile, city leaders are preparing for possible violence, especially as reports show members of the Proud Boys are planning to attend the march dressed incognito.

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In the lead-up to the demonstrations, information advising people how to secretly bring guns to the protests has been posted online, according to The Washington Post.

In a statement Sunday, Mayor Muriel Bowser advised D.C. residents to avoid areas near downtown and issued a reminder that firearms are illegal while in National Park Service areas, including the National Mall and Freedom Plaza, two areas where protesters are expected to gather.

Open possession of a firearm is also illegal throughout the city.

Bowser has also requested assistance from the National Guard for both Tuesday and Wednesday. According to the mayor's office, there will be around 114 members available "at any given time" and 340 available in total.

Bowser submitted the request to the commanding officer of the D.C. National Guard, Maj. Gen. William Walker, on New Year's Eve, according to a copy of the letter provided to NPR by the mayor's office. The Guard members will be unarmed and responsible for duties such as traffic control, in order to free up police.

Many streets in downtown D.C. will also be closed off starting Tuesday.

National figures have also expressed concern about the upcoming demonstrations.

Former Defense Secretary William Cohen told NPR's Morning Edition on Monday he thinks the events will present "a real challenge to maintain order and stability."

Cohen, who served in the Clinton administration, joined the other nine living former defense secretaries in an opinion piece that ran in The Washington Post Sunday condemning Trump's attempts to subvert the election and reaffirming that the military plays no role in political disputes. Cohen is concerned civil disruption could be used as a pretext to deploy military forces in the streets.

"There are things taking place which pose, I think, a threat to our domestic tranquility and security, and that is the president encouraging some of the more right-wing extremists to march on Washington and to protest," Cohen said. "And the indication is he's urging them to — it's going to be wild."

In a statement Monday evening, Washington, D.C., Attorney General Karl Racine condemned groups that plan to incite violence at the protests, referring to them as entities that "promote hate on a racial and religious basis." He did not specifically name any groups.

"While we respect their right to protest, we will not tolerate criminal behavior—and we should deny them the opportunity to cause chaos," he said.

Racine also echoed Bowser's request for residents to stay away from the area.

"Hate has no home in the District," he added. "Let's keep the peace, rather than provide this band of agitators any more attention than their divisive and hateful demonstrations will otherwise receive."

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10. Leader of Proud Boys, a Far-Right Group, Is Arrested as D.C. Braces for Protests

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About 340 National Guard troops are expected to deploy in support of local law enforcement before demonstrations against the election results.

(The New York Times, Jan. 4, Jennifer Steinhauer, Katie Benner, Eric Schmitt and Helene Cooper)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/04/us/politics/enrique-tarrio-proud-boys.html>

The leader of the Proud Boys, a far-right group that has vocally supported President Trump's efforts to overturn the election results, was arrested on Monday in Washington as Mayor Muriel Bowser requested support from the Army National Guard before expected protests of the November vote in the nation's capital.

Enrique Tarrío, the chairman of the Proud Boys, was arrested by the Metropolitan Police on suspicion of burning a Black Lives Matter banner that was torn from a historic Black church in Washington during protests last month that led to several violent clashes, including stabbings, around the city.

A spokesman for the Metropolitan Police Department confirmed that Mr. Tarrío, 36, had been arrested on charges of destruction of property stemming from an episode in downtown Washington in mid-December. Upon his arrest, he was found to have two high-capacity firearm magazines and charged accordingly with possession.

The protests by the Proud Boys and other groups are expected to occur on Tuesday and Wednesday in support of Mr. Trump and his false claims that he was re-elected.

In anticipation, officials announced that about 340 Army National Guard troops — about 15 percent of the 2,700 District of Columbia National Guard force — are expected to deploy on Tuesday and remain for two days in support of local law enforcement. Their mission is to help control traffic and to protect the streets and public transit stops, officials said.

The number ordered to duty is far less than the 5,000 Guard troops who deployed to Washington in June, at the height of the protests over the police killing of George Floyd. During those protests, Mr. Trump walked across Lafayette Square for a photo op after the authorities used tear gas and rubber bullets against mostly peaceful protesters.

Unlike other National Guard units, the D.C. Guard reports not to a governor but to the Army secretary, who in turn reports to the defense secretary and the president.

Customs and Border Protection is also placing agents on standby in Washington to guard federal property during the anticipated protests, according to Stephanie Malin, a spokeswoman for the agency.

“The District of Columbia National Guard is in a support role to the Metropolitan Police Department, which will enable them to provide a safe environment for our fellow citizens to exercise their First Amendment right to demonstrate,” Maj. Gen. William J. Walker, the commanding general of the D.C. National Guard, said in a prepared statement.

In June, Mr. Trump raised the option of deploying active-duty troops onto the streets and ran into resistance from both his defense secretary at the time, Mark T. Esper, and Gen. Mark A. Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The president eventually backed down.

Some Pentagon officials acknowledged that they were worried about a possible repeat: that Mr. Trump could seek to use civil unrest, especially if it turned violent, to use active-duty troops to restore order, which could play into his battle in Congress and in the courts to overturn the election outcome.

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The deep concerns among national security experts about the apolitical military being ordered into a partisan dispute was underscored on Sunday, when The Washington Post published an extraordinary opinion article by all 10 living former secretaries of defense. The former Pentagon chiefs, both Republicans and Democrats, warned that the military should not be dragged into any election disputes.

The letter signing was organized by former Vice President Dick Cheney, according to people close to the signatories. In a clear rebuke to Mr. Trump, who is expected to address a rally of supporters on Wednesday, the men wrote, “The time for questioning the results has passed; the time for the formal counting of the Electoral College votes, as prescribed in the Constitution and statute, has arrived.”

The protests on Wednesday will present a particular challenge to the acting secretary of defense, Christopher C. Miller, a former counterterrorism official who replaced Mr. Esper at the end of last year. In recent weeks, Mr. Miller has demonstrated awkward political instincts; on Sunday, he announced a confusing reversal of strategy on confronting threats that Iran might attack American troops or diplomats in the Persian Gulf.

Since the protests in June, some of the country’s senior military leaders have talked among themselves about what to do if Mr. Trump again tries to invoke the Insurrection Act to deploy active-duty troops into the streets, Pentagon officials confirmed. The Insurrection Act, a 200-year-old law, enables a president to send active-duty troops to quell disturbances over the objections of governors.

In the months since June, General Milley and the military’s top leadership have sought to build firewalls to slow any immediate rationale to invoke the act.

In the protests last year, General Milley rushed to summon enough National Guard troops from other states to reinforce the 1,200 D.C. Guard troops who had already been called up. In the end, more than 5,000 National Guard troops from 12 states and the District of Columbia, many with experience in dealing with civil disturbances, arrived in time to prevent the president invoking the act.

Troops from the 82nd Airborne, based in Fort Bragg, N.C., still headed to Washington but were deployed to Fort Belvoir, in suburban Virginia, as a backup force and never entered the capital.

To avoid that kind of last-minute scramble in the future, the Pentagon streamlined the process for activating National Guard troops from other states in support of the D.C. Guard. A senior military official said on Monday that there were no indications that the 82nd Airborne was on any kind of alert status for possible duty in Washington.

Several Pentagon officials have said that Mr. Trump risked resignations among many of his senior generals if he ordered active-duty troops into the streets at the time of the election.

Pentagon officials have been keeping track of nightly episodes of civil unrest across the country, in order for Defense Department officials to be able to counter any narrative that might come from the White House that such occurrences could not be handled by local law enforcement.

The protests in Washington scheduled for Wednesday by Mr. Trump’s supporters might attract counterprotests by opposing groups. Pentagon officials worry that any violent clashes could give the president an opportunity to try to order troops to the streets.

The letter from the former defense secretaries cited General Milley, who said in October that “there is no role for the U.S. military in determining the outcome of a U.S. election.” The general has said this

Office of Chief of Public Affairs (OCPA)

repeatedly in recent months to Congress and to Pentagon and White House officials, Defense Department officials said.

The former defense secretaries also addressed the continuing fight between Mr. Miller and President-elect Joseph R. Biden Jr. over complaints that the Biden transition team had not been given proper access at the Defense Department. Mr. Miller and his subordinates, the defense secretaries wrote, “must refrain from any political actions that undermine the results of the election or hinder the success of the new team.” The Pentagon has released several statements listing the support given to the Biden transition team.

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Broadcast

1. DC Mayor Calls In National Guard For Protests Ahead Of Congress' Vote On Electoral College Results

(WJZ-CBS (MD), Jan. 5)

<https://baltimore.cbslocal.com/video/5171044-dc-mayor-calls-in-national-guard-for-protests-ahead-of-congress-vote-on-electoral-college-results/>

Washington, D.C.'s mayor urged calm Monday as some 340 National Guard troops were being activated while the city prepared for potentially violent protests surrounding Congress' expected vote to affirm President-elect Joe Biden's victory.

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2. DC Businesses Board Up in Preparation for Wednesday's Protests

The D.C. National Guard will assist the Metropolitan Police Department with crowd management and traffic control

(WRC-NBC (DC), Jan. 4, Shomari Stone)

<https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/dc-businesses-board-up-in-preparation-for-wednesdays-protests/2529256/>

Some D.C. business owners are concerned about Wednesday's protests, so they've boarded up to prevent potential damage. But to some, the financial damage is already too much to bear.

[\[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS\]](#)

3. National/local DC broadcast:

<http://mms.tveyes.com/NetReport.aspx?ReportHash=7f317ca353d5eb91352d1a32901919ef>

[\[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS\]](#)

4. Complete TVEyes coverage:

<http://mms.tveyes.com/NetReport.aspx?ReportHash=6fae192088a595bd760f6790b9bc3129>

[\[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS\]](#)

To: Martin, Joseph M GEN USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA) [B6]
From: [B6] COL USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA)/O=EASAF/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=[B6]) [B6]
Sent: Mon 1/4/2021 2:51:49 AM (UTC)
Subject: Fwd: "HOT" DC request for DCNG 6JAN21
smime.p7m

Sir,

[B5]

V/R,

[B6]

COL [B6]
[B6]
[B6]

From: "Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA)" <[B6]>
Date: Sunday, January 3, 2021 at 9:46:56 PM
To: "[B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <[B6]>, "Pearce, Michele A SES USARMY HQDA OGC (USA)" <[B6]@mail.mil>, "[B6] DIV USARMY HQDA OGC (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] LTC USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <[B6]>
Cc: "LaNeve, Christopher Charles BG USARMY HQDA DCS G-3-5-7 (USA)" <[B6]>, "Flynn, Charles A LTG USARMY HQDA DCS G-3-5-7 (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] COL USARMY HQDA DAS (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] COL USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <[B6]>
Subject: RE: "HOT" DC request for DCNG 6JAN21

Team,

Apologies. [B5] Subject to LTG Flynn or BG LaNeve additions please review for tomorrow.

COL [B6]

[B5]

Thank you

V/R

Walt

LTG Walt Piatt

Director of the Army Staff

[Redacted B6]

People First! Winning matters!

From: [Redacted B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[Redacted B6]>
Sent: Sunday, January 3, 2021 4:13 PM
To: Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA) <[Redacted B6]>; Pearce, Michele A SES USARMY HQDA OGC (USA) <[Redacted B6]>; [Redacted B6] CIV USARMY HQDA OGC (USA) <[Redacted B6]>; [Redacted B6] LTC USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[Redacted B6]>
Cc: LaNeve, Christopher Charles BG USARMY HQDA DCS G-3-5-7 (USA) <[Redacted B6]>; Flynn, Charles A LTG USARMY HQDA DCS G-3-5-7 (USA) <[Redacted B6]>; [Redacted B6] COL USARMY HQDA DAS (USA) <[Redacted B6]>; [Redacted B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[Redacted B6]>; [Redacted B6] COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA) <[Redacted B6]>; [Redacted B6] COL USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA) <[Redacted B6]>; [Redacted B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[Redacted B6]>
Subject: RE: "HOT" DC request for DCNG 6JAN21

Ms. Pearce/Ms. [Redacted B6]

[Redacted B5]

v/r;

COL [Redacted B6]

v/r;

COL [Redacted B6]

[Redacted B6]

Secretary of the Army

[Redacted B6]

B6

From: Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA) <[B6]>

Sent: Sunday, January 3, 2021 3:29 PM

To: Pearce, Michele A SES USARMY HQDA OGC (USA) <[B6]> [B6] CIV USARMY HQDA OGC (USA) <[B6]> [B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[B6]> [B6] TC USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[B6]>

Cc: LaNeve, Christopher Charles BG USARMY HQDA DCS G-3-5-7 (USA) <[B6]> Flynn, Charles A LTG USARMY HQDA DCS G-3-5-7 (USA) <[B6]> [B6] COL USARMY HQDA DAS (USA) <[B6]> [B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[B6]> [B6] COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA) <[B6]> [B6] COL USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA) <[B6]>

Subject: Re: "HOT" DC request for DCNG 6JAN21

Thanks all

Update to SA is 0730 tomorrow. Need the letter for review at that time.

Thanks again.

V/R

Walt

People First, Winning Matters!

Walt Piatt

LTG, US Army

Director of the Army Staff

Office [B6]

From: "Pearce, Michele A SES USARMY HQDA OGC (USA)"

[B6]

Date: Sunday, January 3, 2021 at 15:27:18

To: "Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA)"

[B6]

"[B6] CIV USARMY HQDA OGC (USA)"

[B6]

[B6]

[B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)"

<[B6]>

[B6]

[B6] LTC USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)"

<[B6]>
Cc: "LaNeve, Christopher Charles BG USARMY HQDA DCS G-3-5-7 (USA)"
<[B6]>, "Flynn, Charles A LTG USARMY HQDA DCS G-3-5-7 (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] COL USARMY HQDA DAS (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] COL USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA)" <[B6]>
Subject: Re: "HOT" DC request for DCNG 6JAN21

Walt,

Copy all.

Best,

Michele

From: "Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA)"
<[B6]>
Date: Sunday, January 3, 2021 at 3:04:50 PM
To: [B6] CIV USARMY HQDA OGC (USA)"
<[B6]>, "Pearce, Michele A SES USARMY HQDA OGC (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] LTC USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <[B6]>
Cc: "LaNeve, Christopher Charles BG USARMY HQDA DCS G-3-5-7 (USA)" <[B6]@mail.mil>, "Flynn, Charles A LTG USARMY HQDA DCS G-3-5-7 (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] COL USARMY HQDA DAS (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] A COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] COL USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA)" <[B6]>
Subject: RE: "HOT" DC request for DCNG 6JAN21

B5

V/R

Walt

LTG Walt Piatt

Director of the Army Staff

[B6]

People First! Winning matters!

From: Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA)
Sent: Sunday, January 3, 2021 3:03 PM
To: [B6] CIV USARMY HQDA OGC (USA) <[B6]>; Pearce, Michele A SES USARMY HQDA OGC (USA) <[B6]> [B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[B6]>; [B6] [B6] LTC USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[B6]>
Cc: LaNeve, Christopher Charles BG USARMY HQDA DCS G-3-5-7 (USA) <[B6]>; 'Flynn, Charles A LTG USARMY HQDA DCS G-3-5-7 (USA)' <[B6]>; [B6] COL USARMY HQDA DAS (USA) <[B6]>; [B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[B6]>; [B6] COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA) <[B6]>; [B6] COL USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA) <[B6]>
Subject: "HOT" DC request for DCNG 6JAN21

COL [B6]

Attached is a draft letter (word document) that the SA would like to sign and send to the SEC DEF tomorrow. Request that you have your team put it in SA format and tweak as required for his style.

The SA would also like to meet with the A/SD in person tomorrow at 0900 (with the CSA). He told me it was re-scheduled as a phone call. I will engage but would like you to engage as well.

BG LaNeve,

Please add as required.

Thanks

V/R

Walt

LTG Walt Piatt

Director of the Army Staff

[B6]

People First! Winning matters!

From: Walker, William J MG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <[B6]>
Sent: Saturday, January 2, 2021 4:44 PM
To: Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA) <[B6]>
Subject: Fwd: DC request for DCNG 6JAN21

LTG Piatt,

Sir, please see the attached and kindly share with Secretary McCarthy. [B5]
[B5] I have
decided that 340 is the correct number of Guardsmen required to support the MPD.

Sir, I will be standing by this weekend if you have any questions.

Most respectfully,

MG Walker

[B6]

From: "[B6] LTC USARMY NG DCARNG (USA)" <[B6]>
Date: Friday, January 1, 2021 at 12:17:50 PM
To: "[B6] CIV USARMY HQDA OGC (USA)" <[B6]>
Cc: "Walker, William J MG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] COL USARMY NG DCARNG (USA)" <[B6]@mail.mil>, "[B6] COL USARMY NG DCARNG (USA)" <[B6]>, "Piatt, Walter

E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA)" <[redacted] B6 >, "Dean,
Aaron R II BG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA)" <[redacted] B6 >,
"Maldonado, Mark A Brig Gen USAF NG DCANG (USA)"
[redacted] B6 >, "Ryan, R Kenneth [redacted] B6 BG USARMY NG
DCARNG (USA)" <[redacted] B6 >
Subject: DC request for DCNG 6JAN21

[redacted] B6

[redacted] B5

Thanks,

[redacted] B6

V/r,

[redacted] B6

LTC, JA, DC ARNG

[redacted] B6

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate (OSJA)
2001 E. Capital St. NE
Washington, DC, 20003-1719

Office:

[redacted] B6

NIPR:

[redacted] B6

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B5

To: 'SD - Cables Executive Support Officer' ([redacted])
From: [redacted] B6 CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)/O=EASF/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=[redacted]) B6
Sent: Sat 1/2/2021 12:24:20 AM (UTC)
Subject: **SecArmy#**RE: January 2: SD/SECARMY/CJCS Secure Call smime.p7m

Good evening and Happy New Year!

Secretary McCarthy's SVOIP is: [redacted] B6 Thank you.

Respectfully,

[redacted] B6

Ms. [redacted] B6

[redacted] B6

101 Army Pentagon, Room [redacted] B6

Washington, DC 20310-0101

[redacted] B6

[redacted] B6

From: SD - Cables Executive Support Officer <[redacted] B6>
Sent: Friday, January 1, 2021 7:08 PM
To: [redacted] B6 CIV (USA) <[redacted] B6>; Patel, Kashyap SES SD <[redacted] B6>; Fenton, Bryan LTG SD <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 Col SD <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 COL SD <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 CAPT SD <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 CIV SD <[redacted] B6>; Gambaro, Charles BG SD <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 CIV OSD OSD (USA) <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 LtCol SD <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 CIV SD <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 CIV SD <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 CIV SD <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 CIV USARMY (USA) <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 CIV USARMY HQDA DCS G-3-5-7 (USA) <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 MAJ USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 LtCol USMC JS OCJCS (USA) <[redacted] B6>; JS Pentagon ODJS List Front Office <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 CDR USN JS OCJCS (USA) <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 CIV JS OCJCS (USA) <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 COL USARMY JS OCJCS (USA) <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6
Cc: SD - Cables Executive Support Officer <[redacted] B6>
Subject: RE: January 2: SD/SECARMY/CJCS Secure Call

Cables copies all. Standing by for confirmation of principal's secure numbers.

v/r,

[redacted] B6

Mail, USAF

[redacted] B6

SECDEF Cables

[redacted] B6

From: [redacted] B6 CIV SD <[redacted] B6>
Sent: Friday, January 1, 2021 19:02
To: Patel, Kashyap SES SD <[redacted] B6>; Fenton, Bryan LTG SD <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 Col SD <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 COL SD <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 CAPT SD <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 CIV SD <[redacted] B6>; Gambaro, Charles BG SD <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 CIV SD <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 LtCol SD <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 CIV SD <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 CIV SD <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 CIV SD <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 CIV USARMY (USA) <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 CIV USARMY HQDA DCS G-3-5-7 (USA) <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 MAJ USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[redacted] B6>; [redacted] B6 LtCol USMC JS OCJCS <[redacted] B6>

(USA) < [redacted] >; JS Pentagon ODJS Front Office < [redacted] >

[redacted] CDR USN JS OCJCS (USA) < [redacted] >; [redacted] CIV JS OCJCS (USA)

< [redacted] >; [redacted] COL USARMY JS OCJCS (USA) < [redacted] >

Cc: SD - Cables Executive Support Officer < [redacted] >

Subject: January 2: SD/SECARMY/CJCS Secure Call

Good Evening and Happy New Year,

The following event has been added to the A/SD's schedule. Please confirm your principal's SECURE number with SECDEF Cables (CC'd).

Event: SD/SECARMY/CJCS Secure Call

Date: January 2

Time: 1330-1400

Connection: SECURE Call connected by SECDEF Cables

Attendees:

- A/SD
- SECARMY
- CJCS
- SD COS
- SD SMA

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Cell Phone: [redacted]

SECDEF Front Office: [redacted]

From: USARMY Pentagon HQDA SECARMY Mailbox SECARMY Calendar[/O=EASF/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (B6)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN={B6}]

Attendees: McCarthy (B6)

Location: Residence

Importance: Normal

Subject: 1330-1400 Secure Phonecon w/ A/SD & CJCS

Start Time: Sat 1/2/2021 6:30:00 PM (UTC)

End Time: Sat 1/2/2021 7:00:00 PM (UTC)

Required Attendees: McCarthy, Ryan D HON USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)

[SVTC.msg](#)

[Re SVTC.msg](#)

[RE SVTC.msg](#)

[Re SVTC.msg](#)

[Fwd SVTC.msg](#)

[Re SVTC.msg](#)

[January 2 SD SECARMY CJCS Secure Call.msg](#)

Topic: Request for DCNG Support on 5-6 January.

To: [B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) [B6] [B6] Col
SD [B6]
Cc: Fenton, Bryan P LTG USARMY OSD OSD (USA) [B6] Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA
DAS (USA) [B6] [B6] COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA) [B6]
[B6] CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) [B6] [B6] CIV JS
OCJCS (USA) [B6] [B6] CDR USN JS OCJCS (USA) [B6]
[B6] [B6] Col USMC JS OCJCS (USA) [B6]
From: [B6] COL USARMY JS OCJCS (USA) [B6] /O=EASf/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP
[B6] /CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=[B6]
Sent: Fri 1/1/2021 9:07:36 PM (UTC)
Subject: Re: SVTC

Thanks [B6] As discussed, we'll get back to you.

V/R

[B6]
COL, USA
[B6]
Office: [B6]
Cell: [B6]
CMS: [B6]
NIPR: [B6]
[B6]

From: [B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <[B6]>
Date: Friday, January 1, 2021 at 3:59:14 PM
To: "[B6] COL USARMY JS OCJCS (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] Col
SD" <[B6]>
Cc: "Fenton, Bryan P LTG USARMY OSD OSD (USA)" <[B6]>, "Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY
HQDA DAS (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA)"
<[B6]>, "[B6] CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)"
<[B6]>
Subject: SVTC

[B6] / [B6]

Secretary McCarthy would like to conduct a secure call or SVTC with A/SD Miller and GEN Milley tomorrow afternoon to discuss Mayor Bowser and DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency's request for DCNG support for 5 and 6 January, and brief DCNG's CONOP. I'd like to propose 1330, but we will adjust based upon A/SD and CJCS availability. I'll call you both to confirm receipt. Thanks-

[B6]

v/r;

COL [B6]
[B6]
O [B6]
C [B6]

From: Walker, William J MG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <[B6]>
Sent: Friday, January 1, 2021 1:57 PM
To: McCarthy, Ryan D HON USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[B6]>; Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA
DAS (USA) <[B6]>
Cc: Dean, Aaron R II BG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <[B6]>; Maldonado, Mark A Brig Gen USAF NG DCANG
(USA) <[B6] Ryan, R Kenneth ([B6] BG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA)
<[B6]>; [B6] COL USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <[B6]>; [B6]
[B6] COL USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <[B6]>

Subject: Formal request for DCNG support on 5-6 January received

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

The Honorable Ryan D. McCarthy,
Secretary of the Army
The Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Secretary,

Sir, reference our conversation yesterday. Last night I received formal requests for DCNG support from Mayor Muriel Bowser, and Dr. Christopher Rodriguez, Director, District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency on behalf of the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department and District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Service.

Mr. Secretary, today additional mission analysis was conducted based on the formal requests [REDACTED] **B5**
[REDACTED] **B5** Sir, the formal request letters, mission analysis and my letter were sent to Ms.
[REDACTED] **B6**, Office of General Counsel this afternoon who confirmed she has them for action.

Finally Sir, U.S. Secret Service senior leaders will meet on Monday and let us know then if they will request our support for 5 and 6 January.

Mr. Secretary, I am standing by to answer any questions you may have between now and Monday. Happy New Year Sir.

Most respectfully,

MG Walker

WILLIAM J. WALKER
Major General, USA
23rd Commanding General
District of Columbia National Guard

"Protecting the Capital and Defending the Nation since 1802"

[REDACTED] **B6**

To: [B6] COL USARMY JS OCJCS (USA) [B6] [B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) [B6]
Cc: Fenton, Bryan P LTG USARMY OSD OSD (USA) [B6]; Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA) [B6] [B6] COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA) [B6] [B6] CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) [B6] [B6] DIV JS OCJCS (USA) [B6] [B6] CDR USN JS OCJCS (USA) [B6] [B6] LtCol USMC JS OCJCS (USA) [B6]
From: [B6] Col SD [O=EASF/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP ([B6])/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN= [B6]
Sent: Fri 1/1/2021 9:08:32 PM (UTC)
Subject: RE: SVTC

Thanks [B6]. Message received. We will also work it and get back to you.
V/r, [B6]

Col [B6] USAF
[B6]

B6

From: [B6] COL USARMY JS OCJCS (USA) <[B6]>
Sent: Friday, January 1, 2021 4:08 PM
To: [B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[B6]>; [B6] Col SD <[B6]>
Cc: Fenton, Bryan P LTG USARMY OSD OSD (USA) <[B6]>; Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA) <[B6]>; [B6] COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA) <[B6]>; [B6] CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[B6]>; [B6] CIV JS OCJCS (USA) <[B6]>; [B6] CDR USN JS OCJCS (USA) <[B6]>; [B6] LtCol USMC JS OCJCS (USA) <[B6]>
Subject: Re: SVTC

Thanks [B6]. As discussed, we'll get back to you.

V/R
[B6]

COL USA
[B6]

Office: [B6]
Cell: [B6]
CMS: [B6]
NIPR: [B6]

From: "[B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <[B6]>
Date: Friday, January 1, 2021 at 3:59:14 PM
To: [B6] COL USARMY JS OCJCS (USA)" <[B6]>, [B6] Col SD" <[B6]>
Cc: "Fenton, Bryan P LTG USARMY OSD OSD (USA)" <[B6]>, "Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA)" <[B6]>, [B6] COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA)" <[B6]>, [B6] CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <[B6]>
Subject: SVTC

B6

B6

Secretary McCarthy would like to conduct a secure call or SVTC with A/SD Miller and GEN Milley tomorrow afternoon to discuss Mayor Bowser and DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency's request for DCNG support for 5 and 6 January, and brief DCNG's CONOP. I'd like to propose 1330, but we will adjust based upon A/SD and CJCS availability. I'll call you both to confirm receipt. Thanks-

B6

v/r;

COL: B6

B6

B6

From: Walker, William J MG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <B6>

Sent: Friday, January 1, 2021 1:57 PM

To: McCarthy, Ryan D HON USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <B6>; Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA) <B6>

Cc: Dean, Aaron R II BG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <B6>; Maldonado, Mark A Brig Gen USAF NG DCANG (USA) <B6>; Ryan, R Kenneth (B6) BG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <B6>; COL USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <B6>; B6

B6 COL USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <B6>

Subject: Formal request for DCNG support on 5-6 January received

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

The Honorable Ryan D. McCarthy,
Secretary of the Army
The Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Secretary,

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Finally Sir, U.S. Secret Service senior leaders will meet on Monday and let us know then if they will request our support for 5 and 6 January.

Mr. Secretary, I am standing by to answer any questions you may have between now and Monday. Happy New Year Sir.

Most respectfully,

MG Walker

WILLIAM J. WALKER
Major General, USA
23rd Commanding General
District of Columbia National Guard

"Protecting the Capital and Defending the Nation since 1802"

To: [B6] Col SD [B6]; [B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA); [B6]
Cc: Fenton, Bryan P LTG USARMY OSD OSD (USA); [B6] Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA); [B6] COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA); [B6] CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA); [B6] CIV JS OCJCS (USA); [B6] CDR USN JS OCJCS (USA); [B6] LtCol USMC JS OCJCS (USA); [B6] COL USARMY JS OCJCS (USA)/O=EASF/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=[B6])
Sent: Fri 1/1/2021 9:54:39 PM (UTC)
Subject: Re: SVTC

Chairman is fine with 1330 tomorrow.

V/R

[B6]
COL, USA
[B6]
Office: [B6]
Cell: [B6]
CMS: [B6]
NIPR: [B6]
[B6]

From: "[B6] Col SD" <[B6]>
Date: Friday, January 1, 2021 at 4:08:38 PM
To: [B6] COL USARMY JS OCJCS (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <[B6]>
Cc: "Fenton, Bryan P LTG USARMY OSD OSD (USA)" <[B6]>, "Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA)" <[B6]>, [B6] COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA)" <[B6]>, [B6] CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <[B6]>, [B6] CIV JS OCJCS (USA)" <[B6]>, [B6] CDR USN JS OCJCS (USA)" <[B6]>, [B6] LtCol USMC JS OCJCS (USA)" <[B6]>
Subject: RE: SVTC

Thanks [B6] Message received. We will also work it and get back to you.
V/r, [B6]

Col [B6] USAF
[B6]
B6

From: [B6] COL USARMY JS OCJCS (USA) <[B6]>
Sent: Friday, January 1, 2021 4:08 PM
To: [B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[B6]>, [B6] Col SD <[B6]>
Cc: Fenton, Bryan P LTG USARMY OSD OSD (USA) <[B6]>, Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA) <[B6]>, [B6] COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA) <[B6]>, [B6] CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[B6]>, [B6] CIV JS OCJCS (USA) <[B6]>, [B6] CDR USN JS OCJCS (USA) <[B6]>, [B6]

B6 LtCol USMC JS OCJCS (USA) <**B6**>

Subject: Re: SVTC

Thanks **B6**. As discussed, we'll get back to you.

V/R

B6

COL, USA

B6

Office: **B6**

Cell: **B6**

CMS: **B6**

NIPR: **B6**

B6

From: "**B6** COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <**B6**>

Date: Friday, January 1, 2021 at 3:59:14 PM

To: "**B6** COL USARMY JS OCJCS (USA)" <**B6**>, "**B6** Col SD" <**B6**>

Cc: "Fenton, Bryan P LTG USARMY OSD OSD (USA)" <**B6**>, "Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA)" <**B6**>, "**B6** COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA)" <**B6**>, "**B6** CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <**B6**>

Subject: SVTC

B6 / **B6**

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B6

v/r;

COL **B6**

B6

O **B6**
C

From: Walker, William J MG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <**B6**>

Sent: Friday, January 1, 2021 1:57 PM

To: McCarthy, Ryan D HON USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <**B6**>; Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA) <**B6**>

Cc: Dean, Aaron R II BG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <**B6**>; Maldonado, Mark A Brig Gen USAF NG DCANG (USA) <**B6**>; Ryan, R Kenneth (Ken) BG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <**B6**>; **B6** COL USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <**B6**>; **B6** COL USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <**B6**>

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MG Walker

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Major General, USA
23rd Commanding General
District of Columbia National Guard

"Protecting the Capital and Defending the Nation since 1802"

[REDACTED] B6

To: [B6] CIV (USA) [B6]; [B6] CIV OSD OSD (USA)
Cc: [B6] CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) [B6]
From: [B6] CIV JS OCJCS (USA) [/O=EASF/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP
[B6] CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=[B6]
Sent: Fri 1/1/2021 9:43:42 PM (UTC)
Subject: Fwd: SVTC

[B6]

FYI.

The proposed 1330hrs below works for the Chairman. Could we look at working a secure call versus a SVTC? It would work better logistically for the Chairman.

Chairman will be at his quarters CMS phone.

Happy New Year!!

V/R,
[B6]
[B6]
[B6]

From: [B6] Col SD" <[B6]>
Date: Friday, January 1, 2021 at 4:08:38 PM
To: "[B6] COL USARMY JS OCJCS (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <[B6]>
Cc: "Fenton, Bryan P LTG USARMY OSD OSD (USA)" <[B6]>, "Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA)" <[B6]>, [B6] COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA)" <[B6]>, [B6] CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <[B6]>, [B6] CIV JS OCJCS (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] CDR USN JS OCJCS (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] LtCol USMC JS OCJCS (USA)" <[B6]>
Subject: RE: SVTC

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V/r, [B6]

Col [B6] USAF
[B6]
B6

From: [B6] COL USARMY JS OCJCS (USA) <[B6]>
Sent: Friday, January 1, 2021 4:08 PM
To: [B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[B6]>, [B6] Col SD <[B6]>
Cc: Fenton, Bryan P LTG USARMY OSD OSD (USA) <[B6]>, Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA) <[B6]>, [B6] COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA) <[B6]>, [B6] CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[B6]>, [B6] CIV JS OCJCS (USA) <[B6]>

[B6] CDR USN JS OCJCS (USA) [B6] [B6] LtCol USMC JS OCJCS (USA) [B6]

Subject: Re: SVTC

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V/R

[B6]

COL, USA

[B6]

Office: [B6]

Cell: [B6]

CMS: [B6]

NIPR: [B6]

[B6]

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Date: Friday, January 1, 2021 at 3:59:14 PM

To: "[B6] COL USARMY JS OCJCS (USA)" [B6], "[B6] Col SD" [B6]

Cc: "Fenton, Bryan P LTG USARMY OSD OSD (USA)" [B6], "Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA)" [B6], "[B6] COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA)"

[B6], "[B6] CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)"

[B6]

Subject: SVTC

[B6] [B6]

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[B6]

v/r;

COL [B6]

[B6]

O [B6]
C [B6]

From: Walker, William J MG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) [B6]

Sent: Friday, January 1, 2021 1:57 PM

To: McCarthy, Ryan D HON USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) [B6]; Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA) [B6]

Cc: Dean, Aaron R II BG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) [B6]; Maldonado, Mark A Brig Gen USAF NG DCANG (USA) [B6]; Ryan, R Kenneth ([B6] BG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA)

[B6]; [B6] COL USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) [B6] [B6]

[B6] COL USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) [B6]

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The Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

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MG Walker

WILLIAM J. WALKER
Major General, USA
23rd Commanding General
District of Columbia National Guard

"Protecting the Capital and Defending the Nation since 1802"

[REDACTED] B6 [REDACTED]

To: [B6] CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) [B6]
From: [B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)/O=EASAF/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=[B6])
Sent: Fri 1/1/2021 10:20:36 PM (UTC)
Subject: Re: SVTC
[smime.p7m](#)

We'll go with a secure call. I'll let the boss know. Thanks!

v/r;

COL [B6]
[B6]
O [B6]
C

From: [B6] CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)"
<[B6]>
Date: Friday, January 1, 2021 at 5:11:02 PM
To: [B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <[B6]>
Subject: FW: SVTC

Hi Sir and Happy New Year!

Will this be SVTC or phone call? The CJCS office is requesting secure comms from the SD Office. (See below) I have not seen a response.

Please let me know once confirmed. Thank you.

V/r

Ms. [B6]

[B6]

101 Army Pentagon, Room [B6]

Washington, DC 20310-0101

[B6] / DSN [B6]

[B6]

From: [B6] CIV JS OCJCS (USA) [B6]
Sent: Friday, January 1, 2021 4:44 PM
To: [B6] CIV (USA) [B6] [B6] CIV OSD OSD (USA) <[B6]>
Cc: [B6] CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[B6]>
Subject: Fwd: SVTC

B6

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B6

B6

B6

From: "B6 Col SD" <B6>
Date: Friday, January 1, 2021 at 4:08:38 PM
To: "B6 COL USARMY JS OCJCS (USA)" <B6>, "B6 B6 COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <B6>
Cc: "Fenton, Bryan P LTG USARMY OSD OSD (USA)" <B6>, "Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA)" <B6>, "B6 COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA)" <B6>, "B6 CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <B6>, "B6 CIV JS OCJCS (USA)" <B6>, "B6 CDR USN JS OCJCS (USA)" <B6>, "B6 LtCol USMC JS OCJCS (USA)" <dustin.j.byrum.mil@mail.mil>
Subject: RE: SVTC

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V/r, B6

Col B6, USAF

B6

B6

B6

From: [B6] COL USARMY JS OCJCS (USA) <[B6]>
Sent: Friday, January 1, 2021 4:08 PM
To: [B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[B6]>; [B6]
Col SD <[B6]>
Cc: Fenton, Bryan P LTG USARMY OSD OSD (USA) <[B6]>; Piatt, Walter E
LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA) <[B6]>; [B6] COL USARMY
HQDA CSA (USA) <[B6]>; [B6] CIV USARMY HQDA
SECARMY (USA) <[B6]>; [B6] CIV JS OCJCS (USA)
<[B6]>; [B6] nil>; [B6] CDR USN JS OCJCS (USA)
<[B6]>; [B6] LtCol USMC JS OCJCS (USA)
<[B6]>
Subject: Re: SVTC

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V/R

[B6]
COL, USA
[B6]
Office [B6]
Cell: [B6]
CMS: [B6]
NIPR: [B6]
[B6]

From: "[B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <[B6]>
Date: Friday, January 1, 2021 at 3:59:14 PM
To: [B6] COL USARMY JS OCJCS (USA)" <[B6]>;
"[B6] Col SD" <[B6]>
Cc: "Fenton, Bryan P LTG USARMY OSD OSD (USA)" <[B6]>; "Piatt, Walter E
LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA)" <[B6]>; "[B6] COL USARMY
HQDA CSA (USA)" <[B6]>; [B6] CIV USARMY HQDA
SECARMY (USA)" <[B6]>
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B6

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B6

v/r;

COL **B6**

B6

O **B6**
C

From: Walker, William J MG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <**B6**>
Sent: Friday, January 1, 2021 1:57 PM
To: McCarthy, Ryan D HON USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <**B6**>; Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA) <**B6**>
Cc: Dean, Aaron R II BG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <**B6**>; Maldonado, Mark A Brig Gen USAF NG DCANG (USA) <**B6**>; Ryan, R Kenneth **B6** BG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <**B6**>; **B6** COL USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <**B6**>; **B6** COL USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <**B6**>
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Most respectfully,

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WILLIAM J. WALKER

Major General, USA

23rd Commanding General

District of Columbia National Guard

"Protecting the Capital and Defending the Nation since 1802"

[B6]

To: Patel, Kashyap SES SD [B6]; Fenton, Bryan LTG SD [B6]; [B6] Col SD [B6]; [B6] COL SD [B6]; [B6] CAPT SD [B6]; [B6] CIV SD [B6]; Gambaro, Charles BG SD [B6]; [B6] CIV OSD OSD (USA) [B6]; [B6] LtCol SD [B6]; [B6] CIV SD [B6]; [B6] CIV SD [B6]; [B6] CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) [B6]; [B6] CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) [B6]; [B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) [B6]; [B6] CIV USARMY (USA) [B6]; [B6] DIV USARMY HQDA DCS G-3-5-7 (USA) [B6]; [B6] MAJ USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) [B6]; [B6] LtCol USMC JS OCJCS (USA) [B6]; JS Pentagon ODJS List Front Office [B6]; [B6] CDR USN JS OCJCS (USA) [B6]; [B6] CIV JS OCJCS (USA) [B6]; [B6] COL USARMY JS OCJCS (USA) [B6]

Cc: SD - Cables Executive Support Officer [B6]

From: [B6] CIV (USA)/O=EASF/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP [B6]/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=[B6]

Sent: Sat 1/2/2021 12:02:19 AM (UTC)

Subject: January 2: SD/SECARMY/CJCS Secure Call

Good Evening and Happy New Year,

The following event has been added to the A/SD's schedule. Please confirm your principal's SECURE number with SECDEF Cables (CC'd).

Event: SD/SECARMY/CJCS Secure Call
Date: January 2
Time: 1330-1400
Connection: SECURE Call connected by SECDEF Cables
Attendees:

- A/SD
- SECARMY
- CJCS
- SD COS
- SD SMA

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
[B6]

[B6]
Office of the Secretary of Defense
Cell Phone: [B6]
SECDEF Front Office: [B6]

To: McConville, James C GEN USARMY HQDA CSA (USA) B6
Cc: B6 COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA) B6 B6 MAJ USARMY HQDA CSA (USA) B6
From: B6 CW5 USARMY HQDA CSA (USA)/[O=EASF/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B6) B6
Sent: Fri 1/1/2021 11:14:51 PM (UTC)
Subject: Re: Conference Call Tomorrow w/SA
smime.p7m

On the way sir ... thanks ...

VR~
B6)

B6
CW5, GS
B6
201 Army Pentagon, Room B6
Washington, DC 20310-0200
COMM: B6 DSN: B6
NIPR: B6
B6

Follow CSA on Twitter: @ArmyChiefStaff

Like his FB Page: <https://www.facebook.com/USArmyChiefofStaff>

From: "McConville, James C GEN USARMY HQDA CSA (USA)" B6
Date: Friday, January 1, 2021 at 6:11:27 PM
To: "B6 CW5 USARMY HQDA CSA (USA)" B6
Cc: B6 COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA)" B6 @mail.mil>, "B6 B6 MAJ USARMY HQDA CSA (USA)" B6
Subject: Re: Conference Call Tomorrow w/SA

B6
I will be available; please send me the info.
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

GEN James C. McConville
40th Chief of Staff of the Army
B6
(703) B6
PEOPLE FIRST! WINNING MATTERS!

From: B6 CW5 USARMY HQDA CSA (USA)" B6
Date: Friday, January 1, 2021 at 4:51:19 PM
To: "McConville, James C GEN USARMY HQDA CSA (USA)" B6
Cc: B6 COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA)" B6 B6 MAJ USARMY HQDA CSA (USA)" B6
Subject: Conference Call Tomorrow w/SA

Happy New Year Sir!

SA would like to conduct a conference call tomorrow at 1130EST to discuss DCNG support 5-6 Jan. He understands you may be traveling and may be unavailable. Attendees are VCSA, DAS, MG Walker and BG

LaNeve.

Sir, pending your response I will send the dial-in info to you via text. Thanks!.

VR~

B6

B6

CW5, GS

B6

201 Army Pentagon, Room **B6**

Washington, DC 20310-0200

COMM: **B6** DSN: **B6**

NIPR: **B6**

B6

Follow CSA on Twitter: @ArmyChiefStaff

Like his FB Page: <https://www.facebook.com/USArmyChiefofStaff>

To: [B6] CW5 USARMY HQDA CSA (USA) [B6]
Cc: [B6] COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA) [B6] [B6] MAJ USARMY HQDA CSA (USA) [B6]
From: McConville, James C GEN USARMY HQDA CSA (USA) [/O=EASF/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP [B6] /CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=[B6]
Sent: Fri 1/1/2021 11:11:26 PM (UTC)
Subject: Re: Conference Call Tomorrow w/SA
[smime.p7m](#)

[B6]
I will be available; please send me the info.
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

GEN James C. McConville
40th Chief of Staff of the Army
[B6]

[B6]
PEOPLE FIRST! WINNING MATTERS!
From: "[B6] CW5 USARMY HQDA CSA (USA)" <[B6]>

Date: Friday, January 1, 2021 at 4:51:19 PM
To: "McConville, James C GEN USARMY HQDA CSA (USA)" <[B6]>
Cc: "[B6] COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] MAJ USARMY HQDA CSA (USA)" <[B6]>
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[B6]

[B6]
CW5, GS
[B6]
201 Army Pentagon, Room [B6]
Washington, DC 20310-0200
COMM: [B6] DSN: [B6]
NIPR: [B6]
[B6]

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Like his FB Page: <https://www.facebook.com/USArmyChiefofStaff>

To: McConville, James C GEN USARMY HQDA CSA (USA) [B6]
Cc: [B6] COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA) [B6]; [B6] MAJ USARMY HQDA CSA (USA) [B6]
From: [B6] CW5 USARMY HQDA CSA (USA) [/O=EASF/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP [B6] /CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=[B6]]
Sent: Fri 1/1/2021 10:51:17 PM (UTC)
Subject: Conference Call Tomorrow w/SA

Happy New Year Sir!

SA would like to conduct a conference call tomorrow at 1130EST to discuss DCNG support 5-6 Jan. He understands you may be traveling and may be unavailable. Attendees are VCSA, DAS, MG Walker and BG LaNeve.

Sir, pending your response I will send the dial-in info to you via text. Thanks!.

VR~

[B6]

[B6]

CW5, GS

[B6]

201 Army Pentagon, Room [B6]
Washington, DC 20310-0200

COMM: [B6]; DSN: [B6]

NIPR: [B6]

[B6]

Follow CSA on Twitter: @ArmyChiefStaff

Like his FB Page: <https://www.facebook.com/USArmyChiefofStaff>

To: [B6] CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) [B6]
From: [B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) [/O=EASFOU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (CN=RECIPIENTS/CN= [B6])]
Sent: Fri 1/1/2021 10:20:36 PM (UTC)
Subject: Re: SVTC
[smime.p7m](#)

We'll go with a secure call. I'll let the boss know. Thanks!

v/r;

COL [B6]
[B6]
O [B6]
C

From: "[B6] CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <[B6]>
Date: Friday, January 1, 2021 at 5:11:02 PM
To: "[B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <[B6]>
Subject: FW: SVTC

Hi Sir and Happy New Year!

Will this be SVTC or phone call? The CJCS office is requesting secure comms from the SD Office. (See below) I have not seen a response.

Please let me know once confirmed. Thank you.

V/r

Ms. [B6]

[B6]

101 Army Pentagon, Room [B6]

Washington, DC 20310-0101

[B6] / DSN: [B6]

[B6]

From: [B6] CIV JS OCJCS (USA) <[B6]>
Sent: Friday, January 1, 2021 4:44 PM
To: [B6] CIV (USA) <[B6]>; [B6] CIV OSD OSD (USA) <[B6]>
Cc: [B6] CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[B6]>
Subject: Fwd: SVTC

[B6]

FYI.

The proposed 1330hrs below works for the Chairman. Could we look at working a secure call versus a SVTC? It would work better logistically for the Chairman.

Chairman will be at his quarters CMS phone.

Happy New Year!!

V/R,

[B6]

[B6]

[B6]

From: "[B6] Col SD" <[B6]>
Date: Friday, January 1, 2021 at 4:08:38 PM
To: "[B6] COL USARMY JS OCJCS (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] [B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <[B6]>
Cc: "Fenton, Bryan P LTG USARMY OSD OSD (USA)" <[B6]>, "Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] COL USARMY HQDA CSA (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] CIV USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] CIV JS OCJCS (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] CDR USN JS OCJCS (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] LtCol USMC JS OCJCS (USA)" <[B6]>
 <dustin.j.byrum.mil@mail.mil>
Subject: RE: SVTC

Thanks [B6] Message received. We will also work it and get back to you.

V/r, [B6]

Col [B6] USAF

[B6]

[B6]

B6

From: [B6] COL USARMY JS OCJCS (USA) <[B6]>
Sent: Friday, January 1, 2021 4:08 PM
To: [B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <[B6]>, [B6]
Col SD <[B6]>
Cc: Fenton, Bryan P LTG USARMY OSD OSD (USA) <[B6]>, Piatt, Walter E
LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA) <[B6]>, [B6] COL USARMY
HQDA CSA (USA) <[B6]>, [B6] CIV USARMY HQDA
SECARMY (USA) <[B6]>, [B6] CIV JS OCJCS (USA)
<[B6]>, [B6] CDR USN JS OCJCS (USA)
<[B6]>, [B6] LtCol USMC JS OCJCS (USA)
<[B6]>
Subject: Re: SVTC

Thanks [B6] As discussed, we'll get back to you.

V/R

[B6]

COL, USA

[B6]

Office: [B6]

Cell: [B6]

CMS: [B6]

NIPR: [B6]

[B6]

From: "[B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <[B6]>
Date: Friday, January 1, 2021 at 3:59:14 PM
To: [B6] COL USARMY JS OCJCS (USA) <[B6]>, [B6]
Col SD" <[B6]>
Cc: "Fenton, Bryan P LTG USARMY OSD OSD (USA)" <[B6]>, "Piatt, Walter E
LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA)" <[B6]>, [B6] COL USARMY
HQDA CSA (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] CIV USARMY HQDA
SECARMY (USA)" <[B6]>
Subject: SVTC

B6

Secretary McCarthy would like to conduct a secure call or SVTC with A/SD Miller and GEN Milley tomorrow afternoon to discuss Mayor Bowser and DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency's request for DCNG support for 5 and 6 January, and brief DCNG's CONOP. I'd like to propose 1330, but we will adjust based upon A/SD and CJCS availability. I'll call you both to confirm receipt. Thanks-

B6

v/r;

COL B6

B6

O B6
C

From: Walker, William J MG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <B6>
Sent: Friday, January 1, 2021 1:57 PM
To: McCarthy, Ryan D HON USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) <B6>; Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA) <B6>
Cc: Dean, Aaron R II BG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <B6>; Maldonado, Mark A Brig Gen USAF NG DCANG (USA) <B6>; Ryan, R Kenneth B6 BG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <B6>; B6 COL USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <B6> B6 COL USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <B6>
Subject: Formal request for DCNG support on 5-6 January received

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

The Honorable Ryan D. McCarthy,
Secretary of the Army
The Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Secretary,

Sir, reference our conversation yesterday. Last night I received formal requests for DCNG support from Mayor Muriel Bowser, and Dr. Christopher Rodriguez, Director, District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency on behalf of the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department and District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Service.

Mr. Secretary, today additional mission analysis was conducted based on the formal requests and [B5] [B5] Sir, the formal request letters, mission analysis and my letter were sent to Ms. [B6] Office of General Counsel this afternoon who confirmed she has them for action.

Finally Sir, U.S. Secret Service senior leaders will meet on Monday and let us know then if they will request our support for 5 and 6 January.

Mr. Secretary, I am standing by to answer any questions you may have between now and Monday. Happy New Year Sir.

Most respectfully,

MG Walker

WILLIAM J. WALKER

Major General, USA

23rd Commanding General

District of Columbia National Guard

"Protecting the Capital and Defending the Nation since 1802"

[B6]

To: [B6] COL USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) [B6]
From: McCarthy, Ryan D HON USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)/O=EAS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP ([B6])/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=[B6]
Sent: Fri 1/1/2021 8:26:20 PM (UTC)
Subject: Fwd: Formal request for DCNG support on 5-6 January received

From: "Walker, William J MG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA)" <[B6]>
Date: Friday, January 1, 2021 at 1:57:15 PM
To: "McCarthy, Ryan D HON USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA)" <[B6]>, "Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA)" <[B6]>
Cc: "Dean, Aaron R II BG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA)" <[B6]>, "Maldonado, Mark A Brig Gen USAF NG DCANG (USA)" <[B6]>, "Ryan, R Kenneth [B6] BG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA)" <[B6]>, "[B6] COL USARMY NG DCARNG (USA)" <[B6]@mail.mil>, "[B6] COL USARMY NG DCARNG (USA)" <[B6]@mail.mil>
Subject: Formal request for DCNG support on 5-6 January received

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Secretary of the Army
The Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

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District of Columbia National Guard

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[B6]

To: McCarthy, Ryan D HON USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) [B6]; Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA) [B6]
Cc: Dean, Aaron R II BG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) [B6]; Maldonado, Mark A Brig Gen USAF NG DCANG (USA) [B6]; Ryan, R Kenneth [B6] BG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) [B6]; [B6] COL USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) [B6]; [B6] COL USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) [B6]
From: Walker, William J MG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) [/O=EASF/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (CN=RECIPIENTS/CN= [B6]
Sent: Fri 1/1/2021 6:57:13 PM (UTC)
Subject: Formal request for DCNG support on 5-6 January received

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

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Secretary of the Army
The Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

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MG Walker

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[B6]

To: McCarthy, Ryan D HON USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) [B6]; Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA) [B6]
Cc: Dean, Aaron R II BG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) [B6]; Maldonado, Mark A Brig Gen USAF NG DCANG (USA) [B6]; Ryan, R Kenneth [B6] BG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) [B6]; [B6] COL USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) [B6]; [B6] COL USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) [B6]
From: Walker, William J MG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) [/O=EASF/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (B6)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=[B6]
Sent: Fri 1/1/2021 6:57:13 PM (UTC)
Subject: Formal request for DCNG support on 5-6 January received

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

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The Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

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Most respectfully,

MG Walker

WILLIAM J. WALKER
Major General, USA
23rd Commanding General
District of Columbia National Guard

"Protecting the Capital and Defending the Nation since 1802"

[B6]

To: McCarthy, Ryan D HON USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) [B6]; Piatt, Walter E LTG USARMY HQDA DAS (USA) [B6]; LaNeve, Christopher Charles BG USARMY HQDA DCS G-3-5-7 (USA) [B6] USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) [B6]
Cc: [B6] COL USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) [B6]; [B6] COL USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) [B6]; [B6] LTC USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) [B6]
From: Walker, William J MG USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) [/O=EASF/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (CN=RECIPIENTS/CN= [B6]
Sent: Wed 1/6/2021 3:22:38 PM (UTC)
Subject: DCNG Morning Update as of 1000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

The Honorable Ryan D. McCarthy,
Secretary of the Army
The Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
Mr. Secretary,
Sir, as of 1000 this morning, there is nothing significant to report.

Traffic Control Points: [7E]

Metro stations: [7E]

QRF: [7E]

Mr. Secretary, we are in contact with MPD and Metro Transit Police leaders and both greatly appreciate our assistance.

Sir, we have liaison officers at the Whitehouse EOC (Soldiers and Airmen who work there as civilians) at MPD Headquarters (Soldiers and Airmen who are Police Officers), at the FBI Washington Field Office (Soldiers who are FBI Agents) and at the DC Fire and Emergency Management Agency Headquarters.

Sir, next update at 1200 or sooner if required.

V/R

MG Walker

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

To: Martin, Joseph M GEN USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA) [B6]
Cc: [B6] LTC USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA) [B6] MAJ USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA) [B6]
[B6] LTC USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA) [B6] SFC USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA) [B6]
[B6] MAJ USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA) [B6]
[B6] CIV USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA) [B6] SSG USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA) [B6]
[B6] Hannah, Amy E BG USARMY HQDA OCPA (USA) [B6]
[B6] COL USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA) [B6] LTC USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA) [B6]
[B6] MAJ USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA) [B6]
[B6] CW5 USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA) [B6] SSG USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA) [B6]
[B6] LTC USARMY HQDA (USA) [B6]
From: [B6] LTC USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA)/O=EASF/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=[B6])
Sent: Wed 1/6/2021 12:21:20 PM (UTC)
Subject: Snapshot of 6 January (OSD & Army media)
[6 JAN MRD Morning Report.pdf](#)
[Morning News of Note 6 Jan 2021.pdf](#)

Sir,

Army Focused Stories

- **When a stranger was hit by a car this Army medic ran to his aid and never left his side** (OCPA People Story #6)
(Task and Purpose, Jan. 5, Haley Britzky)

Not everyone would lie down in the middle of the road to keep a man who'd just been hit by a vehicle calm as they waited for help to arrive. But, not everyone is Army Sgt. 1st Class Charles Wilkinson. According to an Army press release, Wilkinson was driving home from work on the evening of Dec. 3 when he saw a young man try to cross a busy street and get "struck by a car and thrown into the center lane." Wilkinson, a flight paramedic with Detachment 1, Charlie Co., 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, Massachusetts National Guard, fell back on his hard-won experience from multiple tours downrange and leaped into action. He pulled his car to the side of the road and ran to the man's aid to protect him from oncoming vehicles, telling others nearby to call 911 and bring any blankets they may have had. "This is what we do. We put others before self and help those that cannot help themselves," Wilkinson said in the press release. "I would expect any of my soldiers to have done the same exact thing."

- **Bowser to DOJ, Pentagon: DC isn't asking federal law enforcement to assist with protests** (OCPA Readiness Story #24)
(The Hill, Jan. 5, Justine Coleman)

Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser (D) told Justice Department and Pentagon leaders on Tuesday that the city is not requesting federal law enforcement assistance with protests organized by President Trump's supporters this week. Bowser addressed a letter to acting Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen, Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy and acting Secretary of Defense Christopher Miller, in which she requested that officials notify the city and its police department if federal authorities are deployed. The mayor said federal officials did not provide this notification to the city's Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) during events last year.

"To be clear, the District of Columbia is not requesting other federal law enforcement personnel and discourages any additional deployment without immediate notification to, and consultation with, MPD if such plans are underway," she said in the letter.

- **D.C. march planned in support of #IAmVanessaGuillen Act** (OCPA People Story #4)
(KXXV-ABC (TX), Jan. 5, Thalia Brionez)

A march in Washington D.C. is planned for later this month in support of the #IAmVanessaGuillen Act. Organizers say the march is to show Congress and President-elect Biden that "we will not stop until the legislation #IAmVanessaGuillen is signed into law." The march will take place in Washington D.C. on January 21st at 1PM. "This march will be about #VanessaGuillen, #SexualViolence, #ArmedForces, and uniting for a cause that we have been needing for years," the Facebook post said.

- **US Army receives second Iron Dome battery** (OCPA Top Story #1)
(Jane's Defense Weekly, Jan. 5, Ashley Roque)

Israel has delivered the second of two Iron Dome batteries to the US Army in preparation for the service to train soldiers on how to use the weapon before potentially fielding it abroad later this year. "I am confident that the system will assist the US Army in protecting American troops from ballistic and airborne threats as well as from developing threats in the areas where US troops are deployed on various missions," Israel's Defense Minister Benny Gantz said in a 4 January announcement released by Israeli defense company Rafael. Rafael produces the weapon and the US Army placed its first order for two batteries in 2019 after lawmakers directed the service to deploy four medium-range air-defense systems to counter cruise missiles and other threats. However, the army opted to only order the first two and announced plans to pursue a different path for acquiring additional capabilities.

- **300 Michigan National Guardsmen Receive COVID-19 Vaccine** (OCA Readiness Story #1)
(Patch (MI), Jan. 5, Joey Oliver)

Three hundred members of the Michigan National Guard working on COVID-19 vaccination and testing teams have received their first round of COVID-19 vaccinations, according to a news release issued by the National Guard Tuesday. The vaccinations were administered by National Guard members who have also been supporting Michigan health care agencies at the behest of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services in the initial vaccination of medical personnel in hospitals across the state, according to the news release. The first batch of vaccines was given at the Detroit Light Guard Armory on Thursday, officials said.

- **3 Fort Bragg soldiers die overseas in 2020; officials release info about another nine who died on or off post** (OCA People Story #10)
(The Fayetteville Observer (NC), Jan. 5, Rachael Riley)

The Department of Defense announced 25 total casualties of service members who died in combat or noncombat-related incidents throughout 2020.

The Fort Bragg soldiers were deployed to Afghanistan and Syria in support of Operations Freedom's Sentinel and Inherent Resolve. Officials released information throughout the year about the deaths of other Fort Bragg soldiers who either died on post or in off-post incidents.

OSD Report Stories

- **New Arctic strategy calls for more Navy activity in the region as competition from Russia, China increases** (OSD Story #1)

Stars and Stripes Online, Jan. 5 (2003) | Caitlin M. Kenney

The U.S. Navy released its strategy Tuesday on how the service plans to become more active in the Arctic as the region opens up to more economic and military competition from Russia and China. "In the face of increasing aggressive activity in the high north from both Russia, which is an Arctic nation, and China, which claims to be a near Arctic nation, we in the United States must maintain a favorable balance of power in this region for ourselves and for our allies," Navy Secretary Kenneth Braithwaite told reporters ahead of the document's release. With more navigable waters due to melting sea ice, the Navy's strategy refers to the region as a "Blue Arctic." Russia and China, both nations mentioned in the 2018 National Defense Strategy as "great-power" competitors with the United States, have increased their military and economic presence in the Arctic in recent years due to the opening of arctic waters, the Navy said.

- **Russia's Neighbors Rebuild Defenses** (OSD Story #2)

Wall Street Journal, Jan. 6 (2000), Pg. A1 | Michael M. Phillips and James Marson

Wooden targets hide among the pine trees at the Gotland island army firing range, silhouettes depicting foreign invaders, their faces twisted with malice.

They bear no unit insignia, no flag patches. But the Swedish army recruits peppering the targets with machine-gun fire this fall knew exactly who the enemy was: Russia's 76th Guards Air Assault Division. With Russia's foreign policy growing more assertive over the past decade under President Vladimir Putin, the Swedes are bulking up defenses on Gotland. Its army expects that in the opening moments of a Russian invasion, airborne soldiers from the 76th Guards, based across the Baltic Sea, would likely parachute onto Gotland. Both sides know that whoever controls the island controls naval traffic through the southern Baltic. "We will never surrender," said Daniel Martell, sergeant major of Sweden's Gotland Regiment. "That's the message we're sending." The Cold War is back on in the frigid North.

- **White House Task Force: Give Extra Vaccine Away to Anyone Who Wants It** (OSD Story #12)

Senior officials working with the White House coronavirus task force and Operation Warp Speed are pushing for states to begin handing out some of their excess COVID-19 vaccine doses to whoever wants it, according to four individuals familiar with the matter. The plan is already in motion, with federal officials already talking to states about it. If further enacted, the shift in distribution could upend months of debate and strategizing about who should get the vaccine first. But officials argue that this first-come, first-served approach may be one of the only ways to ensure that millions of vaccine doses don't expire on the shelf. So far, 24 million doses have been allocated to states, with roughly 28 percent of those doses administered.

• **Iran tests drones in military exercise** (OSD Story #22)

Reuters, Jan. 5 (0957) | Not Attributed

DUBAI -- Iran launched exercises featuring a wide array of domestically produced drones on Tuesday, Iranian media reported, days after the anniversary of the U.S. killing of a top Iranian general by a drone strike in Iraq. Iran and the regional forces it backs have increasingly relied in recent years on drones in Yemen, Syria, Iraq and the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf. Iran's armed forces are to test combat drones used as bombers, interceptors and in reconnaissance missions in the two-day exercises in central Semnan province, the semi-official Fars news agency said. "The fingers of our heroic armed forces are on the trigger, and if enemies commit the slightest mistake, the armed forces will surely respond fiercely," said Mohammad Baqeri, chief of staff of the armed forces, quoted by state media.

MEDIA INTERVIEW FORECAST

• **PEOPLE**

o 6-8 JAN: **SMA Michael Grinston** will travel to Fort Hood to discuss "This Is My Squad" and People First priorities, and to conduct listening sessions to get feedback on changes since the investigations began. (AP will cover)

o 11 JAN: **Under Secretary James McPherson** will record an on-camera interview for social media platforms to highlight leadership lessons from his tenure.

o 12 JAN: **SMA Michael Grinston** will participate in a livestreamed AUSA Noon Report event on the Army's People First priorities, advancing a culture of trust and QoL services and reforms (register at <https://www.bigmarker.com/ausaorg/AUSA-Noon-Report-SMA-Grinston>).

Respectfully,

B6

37th Vice Chief of Staff, Army
200 Army Pentagon
Room **B6**

Teleworking

PC: **B6**

WC: **B6**

nipr: **B6**

Twitter- <https://twitter.com/VCSA37>

Facebook- <https://www.facebook.com/VCSA.USArmy/>

Army.mil- <https://www.army.mil/leaders/vcsa/>

"Every day show up and make a difference!"

(OSD Story #2)

(OCPA Modernization Story #1)

Office of Chief of Public Affairs (OCPA)
Media Assessments Team

U.S. Army News Roundup

6 January 2021 as of 0400

Daily Snapshot

Jane's Defence Weekly reported that Israel has delivered the second of two Iron Dome batteries to the U.S. Army. *Military Times* reported that National Guardsmen who supported the COVID-19 response may soon be eligible for Veterans Affairs home loan benefits. *The Honolulu Star Advertiser* reported that Hawaii National Guard personnel are receiving COVID-19 vaccinations from the back of an island-hopping C-17.

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1. US ARMY RECEIVES SECOND IRON DOME BATTERY5

(Jane's Defence Weekly, Jan. 5, Ashley Roque)

Israel has delivered the second of two Iron Dome batteries to the US Army in preparation for the service to train soldiers on how to use the weapon before potentially fielding it abroad later this year.

2. NEW LAW EXPANDS VA LOAN ELIGIBILITY FOR GUARD, COVID-19 VETS7

(Military Times, Jan. 5, Davis Winkie)

Early career National Guard troops who supported COVID-19 response this year may soon be eligible for Veterans Affairs home loan benefits, thanks to a provision in this year's Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act.

3. AIR FORCE C-17 AIRCRAFT DELIVERS COVID-19 VACCINATIONS TO HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD NEIGHBOR ISLAND TROOPS8

(Honolulu Star Advertiser, Jan 5, William Cole)

Hundreds of activated Hawaii National Guard personnel with the joint task force responding to COVID-19 are getting vaccinated, with some on neighbor islands receiving the Pfizer vaccine today from the back of a C-17 cargo aircraft making a brief stop.

BROADCAST CLIPS OF NOTE:.....10

1. FORT KNOX TO BEGIN ADMINISTERING COVID-19 VACCINE.....10

(WLKY-CBS (KY), Jan. 5)

Soldiers and first responders will be the first to be offered a chance to be vaccinated.

UPCOMING EVENTS:.....10

6-8 JAN: SMA Michael Grinston will travel to Fort Hood to discuss "This Is My Squad" and People First priorities, and to conduct listening sessions to get feedback on changes since the investigations began. (Lita Baldor from the AP will cover.)

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Office of Chief of Public Affairs (OCPA)
Media Assessments Team

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PEOPLE:10

1. WOMEN VETERANS, STUDENTS WOULD SEE EXPANDED SERVICES AND BENEFITS UNDER NEW LAW.....10

(Military Times, Jan. 5, Leo Shane III)

After a lengthy wait, President Donald Trump on Tuesday signed into law a sweeping veterans policy measure that includes new protections for women veterans, student veterans and individuals struggling with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

2. FAMILY OF FORT HOOD SERGEANT QUESTIONS ARMY'S EFFORT TO FIND HIM BEFORE HE DIED12

(Stars and Stripes, Jan. 5, Rose L. Thayer)

Police have concluded Fort Hood Sgt. Elder Fernandes was alive for up to three days between the time that he went missing and when he died by suicide, leaving the soldier's family to question the Army's efforts to find him.

3. FORT HOOD'S TOXIC CULTURE? RED FLAGS RAISED OVER MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCES, SEXUAL ASSAULTS.....16

(Fox News, Jan. 5, Hollie McKay)

The public outrage at Guillén's murder forced an independent review of the base, led by a five-member civilian team. The findings found a "deficient climate" at Fort Hood, as well as an "ineffective implementation of the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) program that resulted in a pervasive lack of confidence, fear of retaliation, and significant underreporting of cases, particularly within the enlisted ranks."

4. D.C. MARCH PLANNED IN SUPPORT OF #IAMVANESSAGUILLEN ACT20

(KXXV-ABC (TX), Jan. 5, Thalia Brionez)

A march in Washington D.C. is planned for later this month in support of the #IAmVanessaGuillen Act.

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(The Associated Press, Jan. 5, Staff Writer)

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(Task and Purpose, Jan. 5, Haley Britzky)

Not everyone would lie down in the middle of the road to keep a man who'd just been hit by a vehicle calm as they waited for help to arrive. But, not everyone is Army Sgt. 1st Class Charles Wilkinson.

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(Military Times, Jan. 5, Karen Jowers)

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Walmart and an Army reservist have reached an agreement to settle his claims regarding paid military leave that could ultimately pay up to \$14 million to thousands of Guard and Reserve members.

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(The Washington Post, Jan. 5, Hannah Denham and Jacob Bogage)

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(Army Times, Jan. 5, Todd South)

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(The Fayetteville Observer (NC), Jan. 5, Rachael Riley)

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(The Associated Press, Jan. 5, Staff Writer)

The remains of some U.S. military personnel who died during World War II and were buried anonymously in the Philippines have been returned to Hawaii to try to determine their identities.

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(Stars and Stripes, Jan. 6, Matthew Keeler)

All U.S. military personnel inbound for South Korea must abide by a new requirement to present proof of a negative coronavirus test upon their arrival starting Friday, according to U.S. Forces Korea.

13. RUSSIAN AGGRESSION SPURS NEIGHBORS TO REBUILD DEFENSES36

(The Wall Street Journal, Jan. 5, Michael M. Phillips and James Marson)

A U.S. Army Green Beret team is stationed full-time in Sweden to help the country’s 22,000-strong Home Guard—part-time citizen-soldiers—plan sabotage, ambush and other operations to disrupt any attempted occupation.

14. US CAVALRY UNIT TAKES UP POSITION IN LITHUANIA40

(Stars and Stripes, Jan. 5, Staff Writer)

A Fort Hood-based cavalry officially began an eight-month mission in Lithuania, focused on deterring Russian aggression in the region, as it uncased its colors at a ceremony this week, Lithuanian and U.S. officials said.

15. AFTER STONEWALLING CLAIMS, BIDEN TEAM TO CONSULT WITH TOP GENERALS OVERSEAS41

(Military.com, Jan. 5, Richard Sisk)

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The Pentagon has set up interviews this week between President-elect Joe Biden's defense policy team and U.S. commanders in Afghanistan, Africa and South Korea. The move comes after Biden claimed that the Trump administration was stonewalling the transition process.

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(Politico PRO, Jan. 5, Connor O'Brien)

The National Defense Authorization Act mandates the removal of Confederate names from Defense Department-owned property within three years and tasks an eight-member commission with developing a plan to carry it out.

17. COOPER CALLS IN NATIONAL GUARD TO PICK UP VACCINE ROLLOUT44

(The Associated Press, Jan. 5, Staff Writer)

Gov. Roy Cooper announced Tuesday that he's calling in the North Carolina National Guard to help accelerate COVID-19 vaccinations in a state that's been near the bottom of states in doses administered so far.

18. 300 MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARDSMEN RECEIVE COVID-19 VACCINE.....44

(Patch (MI), Jan. 5, Joey Oliver)

Three hundred members of the Michigan National Guard working on COVID-19 vaccination and testing teams have received their first round of COVID-19 vaccinations, according to a news release issued by the National Guard Tuesday.

19. TOKYO RECORDS SECOND HIGHEST DAILY COVID TOTAL; US BASES COUNT ANOTHER 34 CORONAVIRUS CASES45

(Stars and Stripes, Jan. 5, Joseph Ditzler)

Japan's capital city posted its second-highest one-day coronavirus total Tuesday, less than a week after setting its pandemic record.

20. TRUMP ADMINISTRATION SPEEDS UP PLAN TO DELIVER COVID SHOTS IN PHARMACIES47

(Politico, Jan. 5, Rachel Rouben)

The decision was made at Camp David, where HHS Secretary Alex Azar convened a meeting with federal health and Operation Warp Speed officials to discuss vaccines and therapeutics in the administration's waning days. Participants included Paul Ostrowski, OWS' head of supply, production and distribution; Moncef Slaoui, OWS' vaccine chief; and General Gustavo Perna, the chief operating officer of Operation Warp Speed.

21. NEW IN 2021: HOW WILL THE GUARD HELP WITH COVID-19 VACCINE DISTRIBUTION?48

(Army Times, Jan. 5, Davis Winkie)

In 2021, the National Guard will be assisting with coronavirus vaccine distribution in at least 26 states, according to senior Guard officials.

22. GOV. HOGAN ANNOUNCES STEPS TO SPEED UP MARYLAND VACCINATIONS48

(The Associated Press, Jan. 5, Brian Witte)

Starting Wednesday, the Republican governor said the National Guard will begin to dispatch emergency vaccination support teams across the state to help local health departments to expand vaccination capacity. Each team will have 14 guard members to help provide logistical support for vaccination clinics.

23. WISCONSIN MOBILIZES NATIONAL GUARD AND CITY APPROVES EMERGENCY RESOLUTION AHEAD OF CHARGING DECISION IN POLICE SHOOTING OF JACOB BLAKE.....50

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(CNN, Jan. 5, Brad Parks and Madeline Holcombe)

The National Guard has been mobilized in Wisconsin ahead of anticipated protests following the Kenosha County District Attorney's announcement that he will not charge the officer who shot Jacob Blake.

24. BOWSER TO DOJ, PENTAGON: DC ISN'T ASKING FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TO ASSIST WITH PROTESTS51

(The Hill, Jan. 5, Justine Coleman)

Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser (D) told Justice Department and Pentagon leaders on Tuesday that the city is not requesting federal law enforcement assistance with protests organized by President Trump's supporters this week.

25. CT NATIONAL GUARD SENDING THREE TO WASHINGTON D.C. FOR INAUGURATION52

(CT Post (CT), Jan. 5, Jordan Fenster)

Three members of Connecticut's National Guard, experts on weapons of mass destruction, will head to Washington D.C. as part of a multistate force preparing for possible civil unrest during Joe Biden's inauguration.

26. PLANNING FOR TRUMP'S TENSE FINAL DAYS.....53

(The Washington Post, Jan. 6, David Ignatius)

As President Trump's supporters gather in Washington for what could be several days of violent protests, senior government officials appear confident that the chaotic situation can be handled by the D.C. police, federal law-enforcement agencies and the National Guard - without requiring any use of regular-duty military troops.

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27. ARMY SAYS "SKY'S THE LIMIT" WITH NEW ARMORED INFANTRY CARRIER.....54

(Warrior Maven, Jan. 5, Kris Osborn)

The sky may be the limit, regarding U.S. Army thinking about what its new armored infantry carrier might be in terms of shape, size, weapons, armor configuration sensors, and other technical parameters.

28. NEW IN 2021: ARMY'S ROBOTIC COMBAT VEHICLE GOES ROLLING ALONG55

(Army Times, Jan. 5, Todd South)

Ongoing tests of the Army's Robotic Combat Vehicle this year will expand the vision of what the service wants to do with its vehicle and even dismounted formations.

TOP STORIES:

1. US Army receives second Iron Dome battery

(Jane's Defence Weekly, Jan. 5, Ashley Roque)

Israel has delivered the second of two Iron Dome batteries to the US Army in preparation for the service to train soldiers on how to use the weapon before potentially fielding it abroad later this year.

"I am confident that the system will assist the US Army in protecting American troops from ballistic and airborne threats as well as from developing threats in the areas where US troops are deployed on various missions," Israel's Defense Minister Benny Gantz said in a 4 January announcement released by Israeli defense company Rafael.

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Rafael produces the weapon and the US Army placed its first order for two batteries in 2019 after lawmakers directed the service to deploy four medium-range air-defense systems to counter cruise missiles and other threats. However, the army opted to only order the first two and announced plans to pursue a different path for acquiring additional capabilities.

The army received its first Iron Dome battery in September 2020 and plans to train soldiers on how to use the weapon before they are potentially ready to deploy the capability in the October timeframe.

Once fielded by the army, they will include “US communications, voice and data inside [to] allow our operators to be able to communicate securely with the right folks that are supposed to be communicating”, Brigadier General Brian Gibson, the head of the army’s Air and Missile Defense Cross-Functional Team, told reporters in August 2020. However, the Iron Dome radar would still be used under this tentative plan.

“We have every intent to not allow Iron Dome to be a standalone weapon system,” the one-star general added. “We won’t allow it to not have US voice communications that are secure and data communications that we can provide to our operators.

“Part of the efforts we do here will not be initially integrating IBCS [Integrated Battle Command System], but will be bringing in the current command-and-control nodes, some of those command and control systems, so that the Iron Dome battery shares a common operational picture with some of the systems we have fielded today,” Maj Gen Rasch added.

Looking to when the IBCS is ready for fielding, army leaders have said they want to ensure that Iron Dome components, namely the launcher and interceptor, are compatible with their vision for an enduring Indirect Fire Protection Capability Increment 2 (IFPC Inc 2) capability and that they can be fully integrated into the system.

To help determine this path, the service is hosting a “shoot-off” in the third quarter of fiscal year 2021 at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, to compare different capabilities.

“During this phase, vendors will be responsible for providing launcher and missile flight simulations for their proposed solutions to the US government to assess performance against all IFPC Inc 2 [Indirect Fire Protection Capability Increment 2] threats,” the army wrote in the market survey. “Additionally, vendors will be provided [with] access to US government facilities to conduct kill-chain software integration of their proposed solution into the IAMD [integrated air and missile defense] architecture using US government [hardware-in-the-loop] capabilities prior to executing the live-fire shoot-off.”

US Army plans call for using IFPC Inc 2 equipped forces in operational support areas at the corps and division levels to bridge the gap between tactical, short-range air defense capabilities and strategic ones such as the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system and Patriot.

IFPC Inc 2 is anticipated to include a mobile, ground-based weapon system to provide 360° protection to fixed and semi-fixed assets from subsonic cruise missiles (CMs), group 2 and 3 unmanned aerial systems, rockets, artillery, and mortars (RAMs), and other aerial threats. The service’s Sentinel A3/A4 radar will act as the sensor, while the IBCS will provide the mission command functionality.

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The service has not disclosed which companies are participating in the upcoming shoot-off but Maj Gen Rasch noted last year that a “couple” of competitors are interested in participating, including one with Iron Dome components.

By evaluating an Iron Dome launcher and interceptors in this manner, the service could potentially field the two systems it has and still test the components without spending additional dollars.

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2. New law expands VA loan eligibility for Guard, COVID-19 vets

(Military Times, Jan. 5, Davis Winkie)

Early career National Guard troops who supported COVID-19 response this year may soon be eligible for Veterans Affairs home loan benefits, thanks to a provision in this year’s Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act.

President Donald Trump signed the legislation on Jan. 5, narrowly avoiding an accidental “pocket veto.” Had he not signed it today, the measure would not have become law unless the new Congress passed similar legislation.

When the legislation becomes law, Guard troops who have served at least 90 days of qualifying Title 32 active duty service, including a stint of at least 30 days, will be newly eligible for the loan. The expanded eligibility is applied retroactively, too.

Tens of thousands of Guard members logged qualifying service in 2020 as part of the nationwide COVID-19 response. At the mission’s peak on May 12, 47,100 Guard troops were on Title 32 orders for pandemic response, according to National Guard Bureau data shared with Military Times.

National Guard troops could only become eligible for the VA loan benefit in one of two ways, according to the VA website: 90 days of federal active-duty service or six years of retirement-creditable service in the Guard or another reserve component of the military. Only Title 10 orders — which come in the event of a federal mobilization for deployment — counted towards the 90 day threshold, though.

Now that has changed.

The bill is “Congress’ recognition that the benefits gap [between full-time National Guard duty and active duty] is no longer appropriate,” said John Goheen, communications director for the National Guard Association of the United States, in a phone interview with Military Times. He argued that the benefits need “to be more reflective of what the nation is asking of its guardsmen and reservists.”

NGAUS previously made the home loan eligibility expansion a legislative priority for the group, which advocates on behalf of Guard troops on Capitol Hill. A bipartisan group of legislators had introduced a bill seeking to expand eligibility earlier this year.

“VA is ready to ensure that members of the National Guard who qualify with expanded eligibility requirements will have access to their home loan benefits,” said Susan Carter, director of the VA’s office of media relations.

“Practically speaking, the change means that thousands more National Guard personnel will qualify for the VA home loan,” said Dr. Dwight Stirling, CEO of the Center for Law and Military Policy and a

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former California National Guard judge advocate general. “Full-time National Guard service is fundamentally no different from federal service.

While the VA did not have an estimate of how many Guard troops would become newly eligible for the benefit, the Congressional Budget Office projected that “roughly 2,000 more [Guard troops] would obtain loan guarantees over the next 10 years.”

Does my Title 32 service make me eligible for the VA loan?

According to the legislation, qualifying Title 32 service must have been active-duty periods completed under sections 316, 502, 503, 504, or 505 of the federal law. At least one of the periods of service must have been for more than 30 days, as well.

Most of this year’s National Guard COVID-19 response has been under Title 32 502(f) orders, with tens of thousands of troops surpassing the 90-day threshold necessary to qualify under the new legislation, and thousands more logging at least 31 days.

Time spent on orders for initial military training does not count even under the new law, but other schools do count, so long as the orders were issued under the applicable sections of Title 32.

The eligibility expansion also means that periods of annual training orders — most of which are under section 503 of Title 32 — can count towards the VA loan, as long as the service member has completed at least one order of more than 30 days.

For example, under the new law, a Guard member who has completed an 89-day Title 32 order for coronavirus response — as some did, due to a political kerfuffle over extending Title 32 authorizations in summer 2020 — is eligible for the VA home loan benefit if they have completed even one day of annual training in their career.

“Those shorter training periods would count towards the 90-day threshold,” said Samantha Gonzales, director of strategic communications for the House Veterans Affairs Committee, in an email to Military Times.

VA officials told Military Times that they would allow troops to document their shorter periods of service — for which they frequently do not receive discharge papers — using documents such as retirement point statements and copies of “applicable military orders.”

“VA will evaluate all available information related to eligibility,” said Carter, director of VA’s Office of Media Relations, in an email to Military Times shortly before Trump signed the bill. “If HR7105 is signed, VA is prepared to quickly provide guidance to staff to make [eligibility] determinations for members of the National Guard”

“Members of the National Guard can visit <https://www.va.gov/housing-assistance/home-loans/eligibility/> for information on eligibility,” she added. “The site will be updated after the bill is enacted.”

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3. Air Force C-17 aircraft delivers COVID-19 vaccinations to Hawaii National Guard neighbor island troops

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(Honolulu Star Advertiser, Jan 5, William Cole)

Hundreds of activated Hawaii National Guard personnel with the joint task force responding to COVID-19 are getting vaccinated, with some on neighbor islands receiving the Pfizer vaccine today from the back of a C-17 cargo aircraft making a brief stop.

“These are all people who were activated to support the state” coronavirus effort, said Hawaii Guard spokesman Jeff Hickman.

The C-17 out of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam — also crewed by Hawaii Guard members — stopped on Hawaii island, Kauai and Maui today with medical teams onboard to vaccinate those among the 150 to 200 joint task force members on the neighbor islands.

“They stop the plane. They don’t even turn off the engines and then they crank out the 150 to 200 (vaccinations) per island,” Hickman said. “They come on, get their vaccination and they do their waiting period back in one of the buildings at the airfield. And then the plane closes back up and goes to the next location.”

Approximately 800 Hawaii Guard members remain on active duty to help the state with COVID-19 efforts. Among those flying aboard the C-17 today are Hawaii Army and Air National Guard medics.

“They are only giving the vaccinations to Guardsmen, but I guess there are plans in the future for them to assist the (state) Department of Health with vaccinating civilians,” Hickam said. “So this is not really a practice run, but I guess this is the first chance they get giving the vaccine before they help civilians.”

Hickman said there’s “no word yet” on when that will happen. “Right now things are still being planned.”

The majority of the joint task force citizen soldiers — about 350 — are on Oahu. Some have received the vaccine with more inoculations scheduled for Wednesday, Hickman said.

Hawaii National Guard leadership also will be getting the vaccine.

Tripler Army Medical Center, the military distribution point for the Pfizer vaccine in Hawaii, received an initial small quantity of the vaccine on Dec. 15.

The medical center has since received additional shipments, said spokeswoman Mackenzie Walsh. This week Tripler is starting to administer second doses of the Pfizer vaccine to front-line health care providers.

“There has been no shortage of volunteers to receive the vaccine as (it is) being distributed and administered across several branches to include the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard and Hawaii National Guard,” Walsh said.

Allocation decisions are made by accounting for unique supply chain considerations, including the need for ultra-cold bulk storage capabilities for the Pfizer vaccine.

Tripler posted Instagram video showing Hawaii National Guard members picking up the vaccine today from Tripler for transport on the C-17, as well as Guard troops on the Big Island walking up the back ramp of the cargo jet to get their vaccination.

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BROADCAST CLIPS OF NOTE:

1. Fort Knox to begin administering COVID-19 vaccine

(WLKY-CBS (KY), Jan. 5)

<http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=7352240c-3063-4108-b63a-1bfea5c6dcf6>

Soldiers and first responders will be the first to be offered a chance to be vaccinated.

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

6-8 JAN: SMA Michael Grinston will travel to Fort Hood to discuss “This Is My Squad” and People First priorities, and to conduct listening sessions to get feedback on changes since the investigations began. (Lita Baldor from the AP will cover.)

- 11 JAN: Under Secretary James McPherson will record an on-camera interview for social media platforms to highlight leadership lessons from his tenure.

- 12 JAN: SMA Michael Grinston will participate in a livestreamed AUSA Noon Report event on the Army’s People First priorities, advancing a culture of trust and QoL services and reforms (register at <https://www.bigmarker.com/ausaorg/AUSA-Noon-Report-SMA-Grinston>).

PEOPLE:

1. Women veterans, students would see expanded services and benefits under new law

(Military Times, Jan. 5, Leo Shane III)

After a lengthy wait, President Donald Trump on Tuesday signed into law a sweeping veterans policy measure that includes new protections for women veterans, student veterans and individuals struggling with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The measure was approved by Congress in mid-December but, due to the size of the bill, wasn’t delivered to the White House until Christmas Eve. Trump signed the measure into law Monday afternoon, just a few hours before the deadline to finalize the bill.

White House officials did not offer an explanation for the delay, which had caused concern among some veterans advocates. The measure is more than 337-pages long, and larger bills typically take more time for review before final action by the president.

In a statement, Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee Chairman Jerry Moran, R-Kan., praised the legislation as a chance to “provide support for every corner of our veteran community.”

“I applaud President Trump for signing this important legislation into law to invest in the GI Bill and provide economic opportunities for veterans,” he said. “Equally as important, this bill improves care and reduces barriers for women veterans, so they can have greater access to the benefits they have earned and

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expands resources for veterans hardest hit by this pandemic, whether that be financial hardship or limited access to community resources for homeless veterans.”

Trump’s signature makes the measure — named for former Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee Chairman Johnny Isakson and former House committee Chairman Phil Roe — likely one of the last bills to become law under his term in office.

But the wide-ranging effects of it could be felt for years to come.

Deborah Sampson Act

The omnibus measure includes the Deborah Sampson Act, legislation pending for four years which would enact a series of reforms at the Department of Veterans Affairs aimed at improving services for women veterans.

That includes a mandate for VA leaders to create “an anti-harassment and anti-sexual assault policy” and designate officials to take responsibility for any related complaints.

Advocates have pushed for those changes for years, but the issue has taken on extra importance in recent months following a department inspector general report which criticized VA leaders for working to discredit a House staffer who reported a sexual assault at the Washington, D.C., VA Medical Center in September 2019.

At least 21 members of Congress (all Democrats) have called for VA Secretary Robert Wilkie to resign in reaction to the report. Wilkie has insisted the department responds to sexual misconduct claims in an appropriate manner.

The bill also includes \$20 million for retrofitting health care facilities “to make it safer and easier for women veterans to get care” and a requirement that department officials make permanent an Office of Women’s Health within the Veterans Health Administration to oversee all women’s health programs.

Department leaders would also be required to establish care standards at all medical centers to ensure that facilities are inspected and improvements are made to benefit female patients.

It also mandates that every VA facility have at least one women’s health primary care provider and authorize a new \$1 million annual program for a women veterans health care residency program.

The measure would allow, for the first time, veterans filing military sexual trauma benefits claims to request a female medical provider for any related exams. And it would expand military sexual trauma counseling at VA to former members of the National Guard and reserves, who are eligible now only if they are currently serving.

Education reforms

Several veterans education bills — including the Protect the GI Bill Act and the Pandemic Assistance for Student Veterans Act — were included in the final measure.

The latter deals with the effects of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic on student veterans. It extends emergency authorities for VA to ensure that changes in class schedules and locations related to the coronavirus outbreak do not reduce payouts for any veterans currently receiving GI Bill benefits.

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It would also ensure that students will not lose benefits or eligibility if their schools close or suspend classes due to coronavirus concerns. Students who withdraw from a school for pandemic-related reasons can also retain their remaining months of GI Bill eligibility.

And the measure waives time limits for Montgomery GI Bill and Veteran Readiness and Employment benefits, to ensure they do not lapse while pandemic restrictions remain in place.

The Protect the GI Bill Act focuses on deceptive advertising practices aimed at student veterans. It would penalize schools found violating advertising rules, and would create an eligibility review for schools facing financial penalties or potential closures.

Students whose schools are closed or lose eligibility to receive federal funding could see their GI Bill benefits fully restored under the measure, in an effort to keep education officials' mistakes from punishing student veterans.

The measure would also completely phase out the Montgomery GI Bill program by 2030. That benefit has largely been overtaken by the more generous post-9/11 GI Bill in recent years.

Other provisions

Lawmakers included several provisions related to job retraining programs. One would triple the available funding for the VET TEC Program, aimed at helping transitioning service members gain technology skills, from \$15 million annually to \$45 million.

Another initiative would create new VA grants for organizations that specialize in providing transition services for troops or spouses. Those services include resume assistance, interview training, job recruitment work and other related services. That program will be coordinated with the Department of Labor.

Labor officials will also work with VA and Defense Department leaders on a comprehensive new study examining the military's Transition Assistance Program, to find potential challenges and improvements.

The measure provides new financial assistance programs for homeless veterans, including new payouts to individuals dealing with housing support related to pandemic complications.

And it would create a new VA Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs to advise department leaders on matters relating Native American veterans.

For surviving spouses receiving dependency indemnity compensation benefits, the new bill will lower the age that those individuals can remarry without incurring penalties from 57 to 55.

Most of the provisions in the legislation will be implemented in coming months. Veterans groups have praised the measure as provisioning important reforms for the community and closing several gaps in medical care and benefits for veterans.

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2. Family of Fort Hood sergeant questions Army's effort to find him before he died

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(Stars and Stripes, Jan. 5, Rose L. Thayer)

Police have concluded Fort Hood Sgt. Elder Fernandes was alive for up to three days between the time that he went missing and when he died by suicide, leaving the soldier's family to question the Army's efforts to find him.

"What we do know is that had they put out the proper alerts, there was a real good opportunity to get him on [Aug. 19]," said Lenny Kesten, an attorney hired by Fernandes' family to uncover answers about the soldier's final days.

The 23-year-old Fernandes was released from Fort Hood's Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center on Aug. 17, a week after he had admitted himself to the hospital for suicidal ideations. Fernandes' supervisor, a staff sergeant, drove him from the hospital to a residence in Killeen. The soldier, who served as a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialist, was not heard from again, according to the Temple Police Department's death investigation report released last week.

On Aug. 25, a railroad employee found the soldier's body near a stretch of tracks in Temple. Police determined Fernandes died by suicide.

"They dumped him on the side of the road. Then he went missing and they didn't do anything," Kesten said. "It's such a disservice to a soldier, to any human being."

However, officials from Fernandes' unit, the 1st Cavalry Division, have said they began looking for the soldier "within hours" -- on and off the base.

The family wants to know exactly what the Army did and when, Kesten said. He believes those details are in files that the Fort Hood detachment of the Criminal Investigation Command, known as CID, has yet to release.

Chris Grey, the spokesman for CID, said the case file is being finalized and redacted. When complete, "copies of the investigation will be made available to authorized recipients," he said.

Congress also sent a request for the CID file as part of an ongoing congressional investigation into the deaths of several soldiers this year who were assigned to Fort Hood. Subpanels of the House committees on oversight and armed services are leading the investigation and have received some documents and communications related to Fernandes "on a rolling basis," said a senior Democratic committee aide speaking on the condition of anonymity.

But they have not received the CID report or the investigation that will determine any misconduct or negligence and could impact the family's benefits, the aide said.

"The subcommittee is focused on conducting as thorough of an investigation as possible in order to do right by the victims' families and to ensure the investigation's findings and recommendations help to improve the future command climate at Fort Hood and other installations throughout the Army. The investigation will certainly continue in the 117th Congress," the aide said.

While Fernandes' family awaits information from Fort Hood, the investigation report from Temple police provides a glimpse into how the soldier spent his final days by reviewing phone data and interviewing a local resident who encountered the soldier.

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From Aug. 17 to Aug. 20, Fernandes continued to turn his cellphone on and off multiple times to check his messages, according to Temple police. Meanwhile, he traveled about 30 miles east, on foot or possibly by hopping onto a train car, until he reached an area of railroad tracks in Temple tucked between a golf course and a butcher shop, according to police.

Along the way, he purchased a barbecue lunch in Harker Heights and a witness saw him resting near Interstate 14 in Nolanville, according to police. On Aug. 20, police determined Fernandes either turned off his phone for the final time or its battery ran out.

Temple police found the phone Aug. 25 alongside his body, which was hanging from a tree branch at least seven feet above the ground near the railroad tracks. The last voicemail was from his mother on Aug. 17. She was concerned he hadn't called her after he was released from the hospital.

Police also found more than \$450 in cash, extra clothing, sunscreen, potato chips and two bottles of water with Fernandes' body. An autopsy found his system clear of drugs or alcohol.

Fernandes' case gained national media attention and followed the disappearance and death in April of Fort Hood Spc. Vanessa Guillen, which also gained national attention. In both cases, the soldiers said they faced unwanted sexual attention, according to reports from Fort Hood officials and the families of the soldiers.

Guillen's family said she was sexually harassed, but was too afraid to report to her chain of command. She died April 22 when another soldier, Spc. Aaron Robinson, hit her with a hammer in an arms room on the base. The family said Robinson was Guillen's harasser, but Fort Hood investigators said they have not found any evidence to support that allegation.

Fort Hood officials first announced Guillen was missing on April 24. After more than two months, her remains were found near a river miles from Fort Hood. Robinson died by suicide the following day when approached by local law enforcement in Killeen.

Fernandes, however, did report a sexual assault in May. He was moved into a new unit and the allegations were found unsubstantiated by a polygraph test, Kesten said. The investigation took a week.

Throughout the spring and summer, Fernandes, who is from Brockton, Mass., began to exhibit concerning behavior, according to Kesten, Temple police and officials from the 1st Cavalry Division, which held a news conference Aug. 26 about the soldier.

Fernandes married his friend's sister in April to allow him to move out of the barracks. The marriage was one of convenience and the couple didn't have a real relationship, Kesten said.

He also rented an apartment, but never moved in and spent many nights sleeping in Killeen motels or on the streets, Kesten said. During a field exercise in early August, he acted out in such a way that his unit took his weapon, but never took him to seek treatment.

While training, Fernandes showed signs of "psychological issues and upon returning to the unit, he broke down and tried to go AWOL from the military," according to the police report. Police also stated a staff sergeant encouraged Fernandes to admit himself into the hospital.

On Aug. 11, Fernandes followed that advice. He had a friend drive him to the hospital, where he checked in and stated he would kill himself if he had to stay in the Army, Kesten said.

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“When he checked in, he reported for the previous three days he had been AWOL living on the street. He couldn’t stay in the Army and if he had to go back he was going to kill himself. He told them he was married and in the process of divorce,” Kesten said. “They had him for six days and when they released him, they didn’t know where he was going.”

Fernandes cleared all protocols and was deemed fit for duty by medical providers, according an Aug. 26 news release from the 1st Cavalry Division.

Upon his release, a staff sergeant, whose name was redacted from the police report, drove Fernandes to his car, but it wouldn’t start. So, at Fernandes’ request, the sergeant drove Fernandes to a friend’s house and left him standing outside.

But Fernandes never made it inside. His friend’s wife was home and expecting Fernandes, but she said she never heard him knock on the door, according to police.

A month before Fernandes went missing, Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy appointed five civilians to the Fort Hood Independent Review Committee. The committee arrived at Fort Hood five days after Fernandes was found dead.

“We had some deep concerns [about the Fernandes case],” Chris Swecker, lead member of the committee, said Dec. 9 during a congressional hearing about the group’s report. He said he reviewed Fernandes’s CID file and received a briefing on the case.

The handling of the case, including the use of a polygraph to clear the suspect, was an example of how Fort Hood’s criminal investigators were inexperienced and ill-equipped, he said.

The Fort Hood CID has 35 agents investigating cases. But the committee found only three or four had more than two years of experience. Instead, the base was a “training ground” for new agents, Swecker said.

“I just don’t personally have faith in polygraph. We felt like that should not be the sole criteria in exonerating somebody on sexual harassment. But again, we sort of go back to the conundrum of CID in terms of rapid investigations, experienced investigators and that sort of thing,” he said.

Because Fernandes was last seen in Killeen, that city’s police department led the search efforts, though Kesten questions why Fernandes’s unit didn’t contact CID to begin an investigation on Aug. 18 when he missed the morning formation.

“You would think every bell in the world would go off,” he said.

When Fernandes’ family began calling, they were told the Army wouldn’t look for him until he was missing for 30 days.

“The Army released a press release saying they immediately began searching as soon as he didn’t show up for work, which I don’t believe for a minute. They began searching when mom got there [Aug. 19],” Kesten said.

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Fort Hood and Killeen police entered Fernandes into the missing persons database on Aug. 19, according to Temple police. It wasn't until after 9 p.m. the following day that the 1st Cavalry Division released a plea to the public to look for the soldier.

By then, there were already at least two opportunities identified by Temple police where Fernandes was seen by other people.

On Aug. 18, Fernandes had lunch at a restaurant in Harker Heights, the city just east of Killeen. Police did a geographic search for Fernandes's cellphone at some point in their investigation and this area was where police conducted the last search for him. The Temple report is not clear when Killeen police identified the area or when the search occurred.

The following day, the witness in Nolanville, a small town near Harker Heights, noticed Fernandes on his land near the highway at about 5 p.m. "laying down under a shade tree" and resting his head on a backpack. The man offered Fernandes a ride somewhere, but the soldier declined and said he was "not really headed anywhere."

Only after news reports that Fernandes' body was found, did the man realize who he had seen and reported the encounter to police. He was able to describe Fernandes' clothing and backpack accurately, confirming to police that he had seen the soldier.

On Aug. 25 just after 5:30 p.m., nearly a week after that interaction in Nolanville, a BNSF Railway Company employee stopped while inspecting the tracks in Temple to pick up some golf balls along the rails. He noticed what he thought to be a man standing along the tracks, near a ravine, according to police.

The railroad employee told police that he decided the man might need water, so he approached him. As he got closer, he realized the man was hanging from a rope and dead. Police said evidence showed Fernandes had been dead at least four to five days.

The railroad employee said he was in the same location on Aug. 20 but he had not seen Fernandes.

Based on the Fort Hood review committee's report, the Army has already announced changes to its missing persons policy and put in place guidelines for units to follow within the first hours of identifying a soldier as missing.

It's difficult for Fernandes's parents to be satisfied by these changes because the Army continues to keep secret much of what happened to their son, Kesten said.

"The actions of the Army to me are awful. For CID and the Army not to brief the family on everything they did and instead to actively hide it – it's awful," Kesten said, referring to the case file that CID has not released. "It's no way to treat a service member."

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3. Fort Hood's toxic culture? Red flags raised over mysterious disappearances, sexual assaults (Fox News, Jan. 5, Hollie McKay)

The disappearance of Vanessa Guillén, a 20-year-old soldier at the sprawling Texas Army base of Fort Hood last April, captured headlines across the world.

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After 10 torturous weeks and growing fears that another soldier who had sexually harassed her was involved, Guillén's dismembered, burned body parts were unearthed from a box by a river. That fellow soldier, her suspected killer, died by suicide as police inched closer to him.

But critics of the military installation vow there is much more to it. Last year, more than 30 soldiers associated with Fort Hood died – 11 were deemed suicides and five homicides.

The public outrage at Guillén's murder forced an independent review of the base, led by a five-member civilian team. The findings found a "deficient climate" at Fort Hood, as well as an "ineffective implementation of the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) program that resulted in a pervasive lack of confidence, fear of retaliation, and significant underreporting of cases, particularly within the enlisted ranks."

But the review unveiled Tuesday also details deep concerns about the culture at the base, which has a population of over 60,000, including nearly 37,000 service members.

"The murder of Specialist Vanessa Guillén shocked our conscience and brought attention to deeper problems," stated Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy.

Beyond sexual harassment, the committee's findings also cast a disturbing light on the "ad hoc approach" to soldiers who do not show up for duty. They are automatically labeled "Absent Without Official Leave" (AWOL), with few resources dedicated to finding them or learning why they're missing. Guillén was listed AWOL even though her car keys and military identification were still inside the garrison, her car was in the parking lot, and there was no activity on her bank accounts.

"In the civilian world, people are treated not as AWOL, but as missing persons. Our military is not second-class citizens," Natalie Khawam, the Guillén's attorney, told Fox News. "This needs to be the year of the military. Who wants to join if cases are mishandled, and there is a real abuse of power and discretion?"

The report also pointed to a lack of experience and high turnover within the ranks of the Criminal Investigation Department, leading to problems with launching sufficient investigations.

As it stands, there are more than 1,000 deserters wanted by the U.S. Army and it remains unclear explicitly what is being done to determine their fates. Ten months before Guillén disappeared, Pvt. Gregory Morales also vanished from Fort Hood. His body was unintentionally recovered a few miles from the base in June, during the search for Guillén. He had been listed as AWOL in August 2019 and later as a deserter.

However, for his mother, Kim Wedel, her life in Oklahoma halted as she pleaded for assistance and answers from Fort Hood's Army Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

"If any other business had this many glaring problems, leadership would be gone. Why did it take an investigation to see that the CID was understaffed and overwhelmed? There was a lack of response from CID, and they certainly didn't know what to do with me as a mom calling all the time," Wedel told Fox News.

The Killeen Police Department is heading the investigation into Morales' death, in which foul play is suspected, according to local reports.

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"The Army didn't care enough to see there was a problem," Wedel asserted. "I still haven't really heard from anyone down there. My son will never be at the forefront, and it is shocking how many parents like us are out there. People don't just disappear because they choose to."

Scott Weinhold, 24, a veteran of Fort Hood, went fishing with friends from the base in February 2019. He disappeared and his body was eventually found at Temple Lake Park along with that of his friend and fellow soldier. His death was ruled a drowning with hypothermia.

There was one survivor, but according to his New Hampshire-based mother, Jennifer Florin, she has never been given proper access to him and she is left to piece together her son's final hours.

Florin also claimed that there were threats of arrest from Fort Hood leaders during their initial search for their son, pertaining to being in waters belonging to the base.

But what was worse, Florin said, was having to buy her own flag, then learning that officials were not permitted to attend because of a back-up at the crematory. The family needed to return to the East Coast.

"It was just one slap in the face after another; it was horrific," she said. "I would like to see a complete investigation that isn't only focused on sexual trauma because there are a lot more issues at that base. It needs drastic oversight. We thought we had to be worried about sending our children to foreign soil, but it turns out we have to be more worried about them here."

Indeed, problems have plagued Fort Hood through multiple administrations, according to family members torn by grief and frustration.

The family of Fort Hood Army Cpl. Christopher Ferguson said his death in March 2007 is steeped in mystery and they are still in pain almost 14 years later.

"We got a call one night that he had been drunk, and got into an accident and had fallen several stories from a balcony and landed on the top of his head," his sister, Christina McDonald recalled.

On the flight from Ohio, she envisioned her brother wrapped like a mummy in bandages at the hospital. "Only he just looked as though he was sleeping, minimal scratches, no broken bones," she said.

Ferguson, who McDonald described as "very straight-edged and never drank or smoked or got into trouble," was on life support and never regained consciousness. But nothing, she said, that she was being told about the off-base gathering at a fellow Fort Hood soldier's apartment that night ever made sense.

She noted that she later found her brother's camera, complete with photographs at the apartment that night of people who had vowed that they were never there. When she pushed for an independent medical examination, she was told it seemed more like her brother had been hit, "and his brain was jarred."

The official cause of death was "undetermined" but ruled an accident years later, McDonald said. She said there is neither closure nor clarity.

But victims and skeptics of the installation's leadership have long bemoaned that for years, answers and transparency were challenging to come by.

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That same year, 2007, 20-year-old Spc. Kamisha Block deployed to Iraq with a military police unit from Fort Hood, but was shot and killed just weeks later by Staff Sgt. Paul Brandon Norris. Block's younger sister Shonta said he later killed himself.

Both Block and Norris were members of the 401st Military Police Company and believed to have been in a secret relationship; it was prohibited under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. But it turned tragic in a war zone more than 7,000 miles away.

At the time, the distraught Block family – at their home in Vidor, Texas – were informed that Block died from a friendly fire gunshot through the heart. Yet after viewing the body at a local funeral home, Shonta questioned the official cause of death.

"When I saw her, I said, 'Mom, that's not her hair' – there was a fake bun glued to her head. Her head had been blown out at the back," Shonta told Fox News, stressing that the body showed multiple bullet wounds rather than only one, as they had been informed. "My family never got answers."

With her advocacy, the Army re-opened the case in 2018 to investigate an allegation that someone was ordered to destroy medical records related to the case. It was closed again in 2020, on the grounds that "no credible information was found to substantiate the allegations."

"The Army opened it and handed it right back to CID," Shonta lamented.

However, change could be coming.

Since the review, McCarthy has ordered the firing, suspension, or re-assignment of 14 of Fort Hood's senior leadership – a number of whom were part of CID. It marks one of the most significant punitive actions ever executed by the service.

The independent committee also put forth 70 recommendations "relating to areas including SHARP; Fort Hood Criminal Investigation Command (CID); missing Soldier protocols; and the installation's crime prevention and public relations efforts."

"In response to the findings of the independent review, the Secretary of the Army signed a directive clarifying expectations and responsibilities of unit commanders and Army law enforcement authorities focused on the first 48 hours after a Soldier fails to report for duty," an Army spokesperson told Fox News. "When one of our teammates does not report for duty, we now change their duty status to 'absent-unknown' and take immediate action to find them."

The spokesperson also emphasized that "the challenges at Fort Hood forced us to take a critical look at our systems, our policies, and ourselves."

"While the independent review focused on the command climate and culture at Fort Hood, the findings contained in the committee's report impact the entire Army and more than 1.2 million Soldiers," the representative continued. "In response, we created the People First Task Force to analyze the findings and recommendations in the report, develop a plan of action to address issues identified by the committee, and reevaluate current policy and programs."

The Task Force will present its recommendations to Army leadership as quickly as possible for Army senior leaders' review and implementation.

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Under McCarthy's direction, the military also is running its own investigation into Fort Hood, and further disciplinary measures could be taken.

However, many soldiers and families connected to Fort Hood told Fox News that the personnel changes were merely cosmetic, and they feared "business as usual" when the spotlight faded.

Jennifer Norris, an Air Force veteran and military crime analyst who has focused on Fort Hood issues since 2016, said in order to look forward, one also must look back.

"The deaths ruled a suicide – they need to be investigated. Why did they take their lives? Were those deaths properly investigated? Was it really a suicide, or was it a murder? Everything needs to be questioned," she added. "We can't just pretend the last 20 years didn't happen."

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4. D.C. march planned in support of #IAmVanessaGuillen Act
(KXXV-ABC (TX), Jan. 5, Thalia Brionez)

A march in Washington D.C. is planned for later this month in support of the #IAmVanessaGuillen Act.

Organizers say the march is to show Congress and President-elect Biden that "we will not stop until the legislation #IAmVanessaGuillen is signed into law."

The march will take place in Washington D.C. on January 21st at 1PM.

"This march will be about #VanessaGuillen, #SexualViolence, #ArmedForces, and uniting for a cause that we have been needing for years," the Facebook post said.

Guillen, 20, was bludgeoned to death at Fort Hood by Spc. Aaron Robinson, who shot himself in the head on July 1 as police were trying to take him into custody. The soldier was missing for months before her remains were found.

Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy and other officials at the Pentagon released the findings of an independent review of leadership on Fort Hood in response to her murder in December.

He suspended or relieved several leaders and soldiers at Fort Hood after an internal investigation revealed "major flaws" in leadership at the base.

The review committee found a deficient climate at Fort Hood, including ineffective implementation of the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) program that resulted in a pervasive lack of confidence, fear of retaliation, and significant underreporting of cases, particularly within the enlisted ranks.

The committee recommended improvements for overall SHARP program structure.

"Army Values, Leadership, and the Sexual Harassment and Assault Response Program known as SHARP has accusation of failure and it has been going on for years, and now it has been proven by the death of 20 year-old Specialist Vanessa Guillen," the march organizers said.

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"The law within the U.S Army is leaving soldiers unprotected like Vanessa Guillen, because the only reason the U.S Army cares about is their image. It easier to just let it go under the rug than to face the problems."

The march organizers are calling for the people to use their voice to spread awareness.

Details of the march will be coming out soon, according to organizers.

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5. New adjutant general appointed for West Virginia National Guard

(The Associated Press, Jan. 5, Staff Writer)

Brig. Gen. Bill Crane has been installed as adjutant general of the West Virginia National Guard.

A change of command virtual ceremony was held Monday at the state Capitol in Charleston.

Crane replaces Maj. Gen. James Hoyer, who retired to take on a new role at West Virginia University.

The 6,500-member state National Guard has been instrumental in carrying out coronavirus testing events statewide and, lately, vaccination clinics.

The Guard's state response also has included producing and distributing personal protective equipment, disinfecting vehicles and facilities, and virus prevention training for businesses, long-term care facilities, medical practices and residents.

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6. When a stranger was hit by a car this Army medic ran to his aid and never left his side

(Task and Purpose, Jan. 5, Haley Britzky)

Not everyone would lie down in the middle of the road to keep a man who'd just been hit by a vehicle calm as they waited for help to arrive. But, not everyone is Army Sgt. 1st Class Charles Wilkinson.

According to an Army press release, Wilkinson was driving home from work on the evening of Dec. 3 when he saw a young man try to cross a busy street and get "struck by a car and thrown into the center lane."

Wilkinson, a flight paramedic with Detachment 1, Charlie Co., 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, Massachusetts National Guard, fell back on his hard-won experience from multiple tours downrange and leaped into action. He pulled his car to the side of the road and ran to the man's aid to protect him from oncoming vehicles, telling others nearby to call 911 and bring any blankets they may have had.

"This is what we do. We put others before self and help those that cannot help themselves," Wilkinson said in the press release. "I would expect any of my soldiers to have done the same exact thing."

While waiting for paramedics to arrive, Wilkinson laid down next to the man in the road and talked to him, keeping the man alert and calm as he asked his name, and checked to make sure he could move all of

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his extremities. Before long, first responders arrived and took the man to the hospital. He has since returned home after “multiple surgeries,” the Army release says, and is “doing well.”

Wilkinson said he only did what he was “trained to do,” but 1st Lt. Patrick Foley with Detachment 1, Charlie Company, 3rd battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment said in the release that Wilkinson is “a true professional soldier.”

“This is just one instance that shows the kind of character he has,” Foley said. “He is a great guy, and we’re lucky to have him on the team.”

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7. Walmart changes military leave policy, agrees to pay up to \$14 million for reservists’ claims
(Military Times, Jan. 5, Karen Jowers)

Walmart and an Army reservist have reached an agreement to settle his claims regarding paid military leave that could ultimately pay up to \$14 million to thousands of Guard and Reserve members.

The proposed settlement, if approved by the court, could include more than 7,000 current and former Walmart employees who have taken military leave since October 2004, according to court documents. Walmart has also changed its policy as of Jan. 1, to increase the paid military leave benefit during shorter-term military duties.

The settlement could also potentially have an impact on other employers, said Kevin Hollinger, legislative director for the Reserve Officers Association.

The reservist, Nickolas Tsui, of Dracut, Mass., alleges Walmart violated his rights under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, known as USERRA. Tsui, who is currently employed at a Sam’s Club store operated by Walmart in Hudson, New Hampshire, alleges that Walmart violated his USERRA rights by not providing fully paid leave when he took short-term military leave — leave that lasts 30 consecutive days or fewer.

The lawsuit was filed Dec. 31 in the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts, the same day attorneys for Tsui and for Walmart filed a joint notice of a proposed class action settlement.

Tsui has worked for Walmart since May 2009, and joined the Army Reserve in April 2014. Since then, he has routinely taken short-term military leave for his duties as a reservist, and hasn’t received any paid leave from Walmart, according to court documents.

Under USERRA, employers aren’t specifically required to pay Guard and Reserve members while they are performing military duties, although a number of employers, including Walmart, do. But this case revolves around another aspect of USERRA, which requires military leave to be treated no less favorably than any other forms of comparable leave that an employer provides to its employees, according to the complaint. “By providing fully paid leave to associates who take jury duty leave, bereavement leave, and other comparable forms of leave, Walmart was obligated by USERRA... to do the same for its associates who take short-term military leave,” according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit notes that, since 2017, for most types of military leave of at least four days, Walmart has paid its employees the difference between their pay at Walmart and their military pay, commonly known as

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differential pay. But Walmart has never provided fully paid leave to employees who have taken short-term military leave of three days or less, according to the lawsuit.

“I’m pleased that Walmart and Sam’s Club were willing to resolve this issue for me and thousands of other associates who take leave to fulfill their military commitments,” said Nickolas Tsui, in a press release issued by his attorneys. He said the company’s change in its leave policy “emphasizes the company’s commitment to me and other associates who are proud to serve our country.”

As part of the settlement, Walmart has implemented a new policy, effective on Jan. 1, that provides fully paid leave for employees who take up to 30 days of military leave in a calendar year. When the employee takes more than 30 days of military leave in a calendar year, the employee may be eligible for differential pay for the additional days of military leave—the difference between their Walmart pay and their military pay, if their Walmart pay is greater than their military pay—for up to 12 months.

In a statement in the press release, a senior vice president at Walmart said the company had been looking at how they can enhance their military leave policy.

“We are pleased to be providing these extra military leave benefits in connection with this settlement,” said Adam Stavisky, senior vice president for U.S. benefits at Walmart, in the announcement. “We have a history of supporting our members of the military and veterans, and over the last seven years alone have hired more than 320,000 veterans and military spouses. We remain committed to their success with Walmart.”

Walmart denies liability or wrongdoing of any kind associated with the allegations, and Walmart officials contend the litigation isn’t appropriate for class-action treatment, according to court documents. But officials agree that, for purposes of the settlement, they won’t oppose the court’s certification of the settlement class to include thousands of other Walmart employees.

Attorneys have identified more than 7,000 current and former employees who could be eligible for payments under the proposed settlement, based on short-term military leave between 2004 and 2020, but there are additional people for whom Walmart doesn’t have records, according to court documents. The minimum amount available for the payments is \$10 million; the ceiling is \$14 million.

According to documents outlining the proposed settlement, the payments will be based on the calendar years when the employee took short-term military leave. The employees will receive a pro rata share of the total, and the amount will depend on how many claims are filed and how many years of short-term military leave are verified. For example, the current estimate is a \$1,200 payment for each year of military leave. If the total approved claims exceed \$14 million, there would be a prorated reduction in the \$1,200 payment for each calendar year. If there are fewer claims, there would be a prorated increase in the payment so that the total amount awarded would reach \$10 million. But with that \$1,200 estimated payment, attorney fees and other costs are expected to reduce the payment to about \$775 for each year of military leave for those eligible, according to court documents.

If the settlement is approved by the court, information will be sent to those who potentially qualify to submit a claim. A website has been identified for more information about submitting claims when the process begins, but it is not currently active.

This isn’t the first time the argument regarding comparable leave policies has been made, said Hollinger, of the Reserve Officers Association. It’s of national interest, he added, because of the wide reach of

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Walmart and the large number of Walmart employees. Walmart employs more than 1.5 million people in the U.S.

While the settlement may not have the same impact that a court opinion might, its effects will likely spill over into other companies, and other reservists may have a valid argument for similar treatment, Hollinger said.

“I believe this is more of a fair employment case than a USERRA case,” Hollinger said, because of the comparison to benefits provided by corporations during short term leaves of absence. He also emphasized that Walmart “has shown their ability to hire and treat reservists very well throughout time. Walmart has supported Reserve and National Guard members.”

Hollinger, who retired from the Army National Guard as an E7 in 2020, recalled his own experience as a Walmart employee in 1996 when he joined the Army. “They were more than helpful,” he said, allowing him to take time off for MEPS, and allowing his recruiter to come into the store and use office space for him to sign the needed paperwork.

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8. USPS delays could hit Georgia military, overseas ballots

(The Washington Post, Jan. 5, Hannah Denham and Jacob Bogage)

Thousands of ballots cast by Georgians overseas or from international military installations are navigating mail slowdowns, casting anxiety over the only votes permitted to arrive after the polls close Tuesday in the state’s pivotal Senate runoff elections.

More than 18,000 overseas and military voters returned ballots for the Nov. 3 general election, out of the 26,418 voters who were registered and automatically received absentee ballots for the runoff, according to Federal Voting Assistance Program data. The Georgia Secretary of State’s Office declined to say how many new voters have registered since November.

Though that voting bloc represents a small percentage of Georgia’s 7.2 million registered voters, according to the Secretary of State’s Office data, election analysts say it’s enough to influence outcomes in the two dead-heat races and, ultimately, control of the U.S. Senate, during an especially polarizing election season marked by record voter turnout and campaigns that have raised hundreds of millions of dollars.

But the hoops that overseas and military voters have to jump through to vote securely from abroad have been complicated by pandemic lockdowns and curfews and mail delays in various countries, as well as Postal Service delays on the U.S. side of the mail chain. Some voters have resorted to paying extra for express delivery through private mail carriers, checking their ballot trackers daily and calling their local elections offices to make sure their ballots arrived. In some cases, ballots mailed a month ago still haven’t shown up.

Susan Dzieduszycka-Suinat, president and chief executive of Overseas Vote, part of the nonprofit U.S. Vote Foundation, said she’s doubtful that the steps the U.S. Postal Service has taken to expedite the delivery of mail-in ballots will be enough for overseas ballots to make it in time.

“We’ll see if that matters,” she said in an interview with The Post. “I just can’t imagine that the debacle in the post office didn’t have an impact.”

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The runoff was triggered after no candidate captured at least 50 percent of the vote in November. Now Republican incumbent Sens. Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue are locked in tight races with their respective Democratic challengers, the Rev. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff at a time when political dynamics in the South are in flux and after the Peach State helped elevate a Democrat into the White House for the first time in 28 years.

The runoff also comes as President Trump's desperate phone call to overturn his loss to President-elect Joe Biden continues to reverberate. On Saturday, he pressed Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to "find" enough votes to flip the race, citing meritless claims of election fraud.

Trump specifically referenced the importance of military voters to his campaign during that call, and Republicans are banking on a good turnout from them for the runoff. The nonmilitary voters — most of whom live abroad for family and employment, according to FVAP data — tend to sway progressive, buoying Democratic hopes.

Both are affected by delays within the U.S. Postal Service — which is grappling with coronavirus-related staffing shortages and residual holiday season package volumes — on top of already onerous steps to cast votes that will either return control of the Senate to Republicans and Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), or a 50-seat to 50-seat tie with Democrats, with Vice President-elect Kamala D. Harris able to cast tie-breaking votes.

"The significance of the overseas and military vote as decisive in Georgia's election cannot be denied," Dzeduszycka-Suinat said. "I still marvel over the fact that the candidates still don't seem to realize that our numbers could impact their elections. I'm waiting for the candidates to address our constituency, meet with overseas and military voters and speak to our concerns. We are weighing in on these elections and now it is undeniable that we can sway the outcome of these tight elections."

Military and overseas voters automatically received absentee ballots for the runoff election if they received one for the general election, but new voters had to sign up by Dec. 7. All of those mail-in ballots must be postmarked by Tuesday and received by Friday to be counted.

Service members abroad, and their families, use the mail service at their bases, the Military Postal Service Agency, which operates under the U.S. Postal Service. Peter Graeve, chief of plans and policy for the Military Postal Service Agency, told *The Post* in August that ballots returned by service members, their family and military contractors overseas between Sept. 1 and Dec. 8 would be treated as express mail.

Devine Davis recently left her role as a U.S. Army sergeant to travel and now lives with her family in Cuenca, Ecuador, where mail service has been suspended because the country is grappling with the pandemic and financial setbacks. This was the first election season in which she did not vote through the Military Postal Service Agency. She said she relied on shipper DHL for the general and runoff elections, paying the discounted price of \$25 to send each ballot to Columbia County, Ga.

"We were hearing about voter suppression and a lot of ballots being rejected. The time frame was very tricky for us because it definitely takes longer for our stuff to get the United States," Davis said. "It's a lot of work to make sure our vote counts."

According to Georgia postal workers and mail agency data filed in federal court, mail-in ballot processing for the runoff has run smoothly statewide.

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The Postal Service reported on-time ballot processing scores of 96 to 98 percent in the Atlanta postal district, the area responsible for more than 40 percent of the state's mail-in ballot requests, since Dec. 29. Postal and election administration experts say the agency should process 97 percent of ballots on-time based on past performance.

Figures in the Gulf Atlantic postal district, which serves the region just south of Atlanta and all points east, are just as strong.

Voting rights advocates are encouraged by those results, particularly after the dismal scores the Postal Service recorded before the general election. On Election Day, the Atlanta district processed only 81.3 percent of ballots on time, meaning nearly 2 in 10 were potentially caught in postal facilities after the state's ballot-acceptance deadline.

Nationwide, at least 150,000 ballots in the Nov. 3 vote — including 1,706 in postal districts that cover Georgia — were caught in U.S. Postal Service processing facilities and not delivered by Election Day, according to agency data. The Postal Service also struggled to track 6,624 mailed ballots in those districts, meaning they were recorded entering processing facilities but not exiting them, due to haphazard expediting procedures.

For the Senate runoff races, the Postal Service faces even stronger headwinds than in November. The surging coronavirus pandemic has flattened the agency's workforce, with close to 19,000 postal workers in the U.S. off the job as of Jan. 1 after contracting the virus or close contact to it, according to the American Postal Workers Union. In Atlanta, nearly 2,500 of the district's 15,000 workers were out because of the virus, local labor leaders said.

Meanwhile, the agency continues to struggle with an avalanche of package deliveries from the holiday season that have clogged up the mail stream, leaving prescription medications, bills, and even local newspapers sitting undelivered in postal facilities. The Postal Service delivered only 70.6 percent of first-class mail items on time during the week of Dec. 12, the most recent data available, compared with better than 95 percent during the same period last year. (The Postal Service does not release data on package performance.)

On Dec. 28, the Postal Service initiated specific measures to expedite mailed ballots leading up to the Georgia runoff election, including processing them as priority mail express, sorting them separately at the processing plants to move them through more quickly and transporting them directly to boards of election to meet the state's deadlines for domestic and overseas voters.

"The Postal Service remains fully dedicated to fulfilling our vital role in the nation's electoral process — it has been our No. 1 priority for the past eight months," agency spokeswoman Martha Johnson said in an email. "That dedication never wavered, and we took all steps necessary to deliver Election Mail timely and securely. We are equally committed to the timely and secure delivery of Election Mail for the Georgia runoff."

Marylouise Serrato, executive director for American Citizens Abroad, which advocates for legislative issues impacting U.S. citizens living and working overseas, said it's critical that this constituency votes — especially because they have to pay U.S. taxes, no matter where they live.

"It is their voice into Congress," she said. "The overseas vote does make a difference, can make a decision in tight elections, and their vote is counted."

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Vote From Abroad, a nonpartisan voter support tool run by Democrats Abroad, encouraged voters to send in ballots by government-run postal mail by Nov. 30. For those mailing their ballots in December, the organization's advice was to use a courier service to avoid mail delays. Both UPS and FedEx encouraged customers to pay attention to their state deadlines when mailing ballots through their services.

Representatives from both Democrats Abroad and Republicans Overseas said their organizations were deluged with requests from voters seeking advice for securing their ballots for the November election. Leading up to the runoff, the organizations continued with voter education efforts but found election officials and voters seemed more familiar and confident navigating the system leading up to Jan. 5.

Wendy Gaylord, who lives in Melbourne, forked over \$77.13 to send her runoff ballot through FedEx's expedited delivery to ensure it would circumvent Australia's flight restrictions and arrive in DeKalb County, Ga., on time.

Laura Merton, a dual citizen living in Toronto, hasn't lived in the U.S. since 1982. This year, she said, her general election ballot took a month to arrive in Chatham County, Ga., so she sent her runoff ballot a month early through a private carrier, paying \$22.04, because she was worried about Postal Service slowdowns. According to the county's ballot tracker, her ballot arrived on time but hasn't been officially counted.

"Voting isn't easy, but I feel like I would walk over coals all the way to Savannah if necessary," she said. "Even though I haven't lived in Georgia for a long time, my sense of being an American citizen traces right back to my childhood years in Savannah. Even now."

Kevin Lee dropped off his ballot the first week of December, mailing it from the United Kingdom through the government-run postal service for about a dollar. But the ballot tracker shows it hasn't made it yet to the Cobb County registrar and he can't get in touch with an election official.

"I am worried that my runoff ballot won't be received, even though the general election ballot was," he said in an email. "While the process was manageable from my end, I feel that being allowed to fax or scan and email would make the process more accessible and efficient for most absentee voters."

Like other county electorates, Cobb County Elections and Registration has been wrestling with high mail-in ballot volume to scan, process and verify, which takes time. Janine Eveler, the director of Cobb County Elections and Registration, said in an email that her office has been opening and scanning ballots since Dec. 21.

"The postal service is not in my control, but of course I want every valid vote to count," she said.

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9. Navy SEAL pleads guilty in strangulation death case of Army Green Beret staff sergeant (Army Times, Jan. 5, Todd South)

A third defendant charged in the strangulation death of a Green Beret staff sergeant while deployed to Mali in 2017 has agreed to plead guilty.

Navy Chief Special Warfare Operator Tony E. DeDolph has agreed to plead guilty to some of the charges against him, while others are being dismissed as part of a pre-trial agreement, his attorney told Military Times.

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“This agreement will end the contested charges, allowing SOC DeDolph to accept responsibility for those offenses he can and mitigate most of the concerns over classified material present in the case,” attorney Phillip Stackhouse wrote in an email response to queries about his client’s status.

Stackhouse added that his client “never intended to injure” Staff Sgt. Logan Melgar in the hazing incident at the offsite residence where he and at least three other U.S. military members surprised Melgar while he was sleeping, restrained him and DeDolph, a former professional mixed martial arts fighter, put him in a chokehold that unexpectedly killed him.

“The fact that SSG Melgar’s death was not intentional may not lessen the righteous feelings of grief by family and friends, but perhaps the resolution of this case will further help them find closure and peace,” Stackhouse wrote.

DeDolph had faced charges following the June 4, 2017, incident that included conspiracy, assault, hazing, obstruction of justice, burglary, involuntary manslaughter and felony murder.

Stackhouse did not clarify the exact charges his client would plead to in his initial response to queries. But the Daily Beast has reported from sources familiar with the plea deal that DeDolph will plead guilty to involuntary manslaughter, obstruction of justice and hazing. The agreement between DeDolph, his attorney and the prosecution will see the felony murder and burglary charges dismissed.

He will also agree not to profit from the case, which includes earning money from his experience with SEAL Team 6, the media outlet reported.

Two others charged in the incident have already pleaded guilty.

Fellow SEAL Navy Chief SWO Adam C. Matthews and Marine Raider Staff Sgt. Kevin Maxwell Jr. both pleaded guilty and agreed to testify on behalf of the prosecution in the upcoming trials.

A fourth co-defendant, Marine Raider Gunnery Sgt. Mario Madera-Rodriguez, still faces charges and has a trial date scheduled for Feb. 1 at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.

All four men and others loosely connected to the case were in Mali for counterterrorism operations related to the U.S. Embassy in the country.

Matthews was the first to plead and laid out many details of the incident.

“I cannot describe how sorry I am for the death of Staff Sgt. Melgar,” Matthews testified in a military courtroom in Virginia in May 2019.

“I’ve carried the weight of Staff Sgt. Logan Melgar’s death every minute of every day since that night in Mali,” Matthews said. “I am tormented by my complacency at a time when my teammates required guidance and the situation required bold, decisive action. This was my fault and I accept total responsibility for the consequences of my poor decision.”

Matthews faced the same charges as DeDolph but ultimately pleaded guilty to conspiracy, unlawful entry, hazing, obstruction of justice and assault with battery.

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Matthews was sentenced to one-year confinement and a bad conduct discharge. Maxwell pleaded guilty in June 2019 to negligent homicide, hazing and making false official statements. He was sentenced to four years in prison.

Both testified that they, along with DeDolph and Madera-Rodriguez, planned together to break into Melgar's room, duct tape him and video record him in a sexually embarrassing scenario.

Matthews had been in Bamako, Mali, only 24 hours before the incident, having arrived for what was planned to be the first of three site visits to the country. In the first few hours after his arrival, DeDolph told him that he and others had problems with Melgar they wanted to correct.

During an all-night session of bar hopping, Matthews testified at the May 2019 hearing, the SEALs, Raiders and an unnamed British special operations forces member hatched a plan to break into Melgar's room as he slept, subdue him, duct tape him and video the affair to embarrass him.

At around 5 a.m. June 4, 2017, DeDolph reportedly woke an Army Special Forces sergeant first class, who was the team leader over Melgar's detachment to ask his permission to conduct the hazing. Matthews testified that the sergeant agreed to the hazing but didn't want to participate and went back to sleep.

The four men then used a sledgehammer at around 5 a.m. to break open Melgar's door and surprise him as he slept, according to testimony from the two co-defendants.

He awoke immediately, and DeDolph, a former professional mixed martial arts fighter, pounced on Melgar, putting him in a choke hold; the other men secured his arms and legs and began to duct tape him, according to testimony.

Within seconds of being put in the choke hold, Melgar stopped breathing. The men later told investigators they immediately began trying to render lifesaving aid, which included a field-expedient tracheotomy. But Melgar later died at a nearby medical facility.

All of this allegedly was in retaliation for a perceived slight and ongoing tension between Melgar and the other men.

Witnesses at the May 2019 hearing for Matthews testified that Melgar was fed up with "juvenile" behavior of the SEALs and Marines and couldn't wait to conclude his deployment — scheduled to end in a few weeks — and return home.

Within minutes of Melgar's death, there was a plan to hide what had really happened. Matthews testified that they agreed he and DeDolph would "own it" and not mentioned the Marine involvement.

The SEALs lied to investigators, telling them that they'd been doing hand-to-hand combat training. They also claimed Melgar was intoxicated and once put in a submission hold he stopped breathing.

But Melgar's friends soon told investigators that the staff sergeant didn't drink alcohol. His wife, at home in the United States, later told them her husband wasn't comfortable with how some of his fellow special operators were behaving on the deployment but he didn't share details.

A combination of various commands have overseen the investigation. It moved from AFRICOM to special operations for all three services along with a shift from first the Army investigating and handing it

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over to the Navy once the Marines and SEALs involvement was confirmed. There was no public acknowledgement of the case until months after Melgar had died.

The four defendants were not charged until September 2018, more than a year after Melgar's death.

DeDolph and Madera-Rodriguez did have trial dates in early 2020 that were moved twice due to COVID-19 restrictions before both sides in the DeDolph case reached the current plea agreement.

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10. 3 Fort Bragg soldiers die overseas in 2020; officials release info about another nine who died on or off post

(The Fayetteville Observer (NC), Jan. 5, Rachael Riley)

Three Fort Bragg soldiers died while deployed overseas in 2020, according to the Department of Defense.

Four Fort Bragg soldiers died while deployed in 2019.

The Department of Defense announced 25 total casualties of service members who died in combat or noncombat-related incidents throughout 2020.

The Fort Bragg soldiers were deployed to Afghanistan and Syria in support of Operations Freedom's Sentinel and Inherent Resolve.

Staff Sgt. Ian Paul McLaughlin

Staff Sgt. Ian Paul McLaughlin, 29, of Newport News, Virginia, was killed Jan. 11, 2020, by an improvised explosive device in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Pfc. Miguel Angel Villalon, 21, of Joliet, Illinois, was killed in the same incident.

McLaughlin and Villalon were soldiers who were part of the B Company, 307th Airborne Engineer Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.

McLaughlin joined the Army in 2012, according to the 82nd Airborne Division public affairs office.

In 2016, he was assigned to the 307th Airborne Engineer Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, where he served as a horizontal construction engineer and later as a squad leader.

McLaughlin is survived by his wife and four children.

McLaughlin's mother, Glenna Carroll, told a Virginia television station he will be remembered as a dedicated father, husband and son.

"It's a tremendous loss for all of us," Carroll said. "His whole world was his children and his wife."

Pfc. Miguel Angel Villalon

Villalon joined the Army in 2018.

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After completing basic combat training and advanced individual training in 2019 at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, he was assigned to the 307th Airborne Engineer Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, where he served as a combat engineer.

Villalon is survived by his mother of Chicago and father of Brownsville, Texas.

George Allen taught Villalon at East Aurora High School. Villalon was captain of the physical fitness team and a member of the drill team in the Navy Junior ROTC program, said Allen, who was a teacher in the program for 18 years.

“He wasn’t looking for another rank or another award,” Allen said. “He was looking to be helpful and to be part of the team.”

Sgt. Bryan Cooper Mount

Mount, 25, from St. George, Utah, died July 21 as the result of a vehicle rollover accident while conducting reconnaissance operations, July 21 in Eastern Syria.

Mount was assigned to 1st Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.

Mount joined the Army in January 2016 and came to Fort Bragg in June 2016.

He was a three-time volunteer on his second combat deployment, said Maj. Gen. Christopher Donahue, the commander of the 82nd.

He also deployed with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team in 2017 during Iraq’s liberation of Mosul from the Islamic State.

Lt. Col. Val Moro, commander of 1st Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, said those who served with Mount will mourn his loss.

“His care-free, easygoing personality made him approachable and well-loved,” Moro said. “If you had a problem, you could count on Bryan to help.”

Mount is survived by his wife and parents.

On-post deaths or off-post accidents and incidents

Officials released information throughout the year about the deaths of other Fort Bragg soldiers who either died on post or in off-post incidents.

They are:

- Master Sgt. Nathan Goodman, 36, of Hope Mills, died Jan. 14, 2020, in a free-fall training exercise near Eloy, Arizona.

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Goodman was in the 3rd Special Forces Group's 2nd Battalion, according to the statement. He was promoted to master sergeant in July, becoming an operations "team" sergeant for a Special Forces Operational Detachment-Alpha, officials said.

Goodman was born in Pasadena, California, but grew up near Chicago and enlisted in July 2002 and transferred to the Army National Guard in 2005.

He attended Special Forces Assessment and Selection and graduated as a Special Forces engineer sergeant in October 2007, being assigned to the 19th Special Forces Group's 2nd Battalion.

He returned to active duty in 2010 and was assigned to his current unit. In 2016, he was reassigned to 1st Special Warfare Training Group as a senior instructor, then chief instructor

Goodman completed four deployments to Afghanistan, one to Iraq, two to Africa, and one to Kyrgyzstan, the statement said.

He was promoted to master sergeant in July 2019, becoming an operations "team" sergeant for a Special Forces Operational Detachment-Alpha, officials said.

- Pfc. Jean Cruz De Leon, 20, of Marrero, Louisiana, was killed in a Sept. 9 training accident when his parachute malfunctioned, according to a statement released by the 82nd Airborne Division.

He was participating in an airborne training operation at Fort Stewart, Georgia.

Cruz De Leon was an infantryman assigned to the division's Company A, 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

He was a three-time volunteer who enlisted in the Army in May 2019 and reported to his first duty assignment at Fort Bragg in October.

- Sgt. David Eugene Hughes Jr., 32, of Fresno, California, died when his motorcycle ran off the road and hit a utility pole Sept. 4 in Fayetteville.

Hughes was an unmanned aerial vehicle operator assigned to the A Troop, 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division.

He served as an Army sergeant for almost seven years and was deployed three times with one combat tour in Iraq.

Hughes is survived by a wife and three children, local news outlets near his hometown reported.

- Sgt. 1st Class Nikyisha T. Boyd, 35, of Kissimmee, Florida, died Nov. 9, from injuries suffered during a traffic accident, officials said.

Born in New York City on April 27, 1985, Boyd enlisted in the Army from Tampa, Florida, in 2004 as a psychological operations specialist.

Boyd spent the majority of her career assigned to the 4th and 8th Psychological Operations Groups at Fort Bragg, officials said.

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As a psychological operations specialist, Boyd deployed eight times, including tours to Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Qatar, the Philippines and Lithuania.

- Pvt. Caleb Smither, 19, of Lubbock, Texas, died Jan. 28, 2020, in his barracks room on Fort Bragg. Details of Smither's death have not been released.

Smither enlisted in the Army in May 2019 and was stationed at Fort Bragg in December 2019.

He repaired construction equipment and was assigned to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, a Fort Bragg news release said.

- Pvt. Jamie Wyatt Boger, of Ohio, was found unresponsive in his barracks room on March 16, officials said in a news release.

The cause of his death is under investigation by the Fort Bragg Criminal Investigation Division.

Boger was a student of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School.

He enlisted in the Army on March 12, 2019, as an x-ray Special Forces candidate.

In August 2019, he reported to the Special Warfare Center and School as a student who was part of the Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group, officials said.

He was assigned to the Special Warfare Medical Group in October 2019, for medical rehabilitation of a training injury, officials said.

- Spc. Terrance Salazar, 24, of Pleasanton, Texas, was found unresponsive in his room Nov. 11 and could not be revived, a spokesman for the 82nd Airborne Division said

Officials said foul play was not suspected.

Salazar was an infantryman assigned to 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

He joined the Army in April of 2018 and arrived at Fort Bragg in October of 2018.

- Spc. Enrique Roman-Martinez, 21, of Chino, California, was last seen May 22 while camping with fellow soldiers near Mile Marker 46 on South Core Banks.

Roman-Martinez's partial remains were later found May 29, after washing up on Shackleford Banks Island, which is part of the Cape Lookout National Seashore.

The Army Criminal Investigation Command is investigating the death as a homicide, as an autopsy report states he was decapitated.

A \$25,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for Roman-Martinez's murder.

Roman-Martinez joined the Army in September 2016. He was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg in March 2017 after completing airborne school at Fort Benning, Georgia.

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He was a human resource specialist in the 82nd Airborne Division's 37th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

- Master Sgt. William J. LaVigne II, 37, was found dead near a Fort Bragg training area close to the body of Army veteran Timothy J. Dumas, 44, Dec. 2.

LaVigne died of multiple gunshot wounds and was "shot by (an) unknown person," his death certificate states.

The cause of death is listed as homicide and the case is being investigated by the Army Criminal Investigation Command.

After releasing news of his death, LaVigne's unit focused on his military service, which included multiple deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq in support of the Global War on Terrorism while assigned to U.S. Army Special Operations Command.

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11. Unidentified US Troops Who Died in Philippines Returned to Hawaii

(The Associated Press, Jan. 5, Staff Writer)

The remains of some U.S. military personnel who died during World War II and were buried anonymously in the Philippines have been returned to Hawaii to try to determine their identities.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency recently conducted an "honorable carry" ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for about 40 sets of unidentified remains, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported Monday.

The repatriation from the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial was one of the agency's large disinterment projects, and the remains will be examined at a lab at Hickam for possible identification by forensic anthropologists and others.

The agency, which has an annual budget of \$169 million and hundreds of personnel in Hawaii, investigates, recovers and identifies missing Americans from past wars.

The agency said it made 120 identifications in the fiscal year ending in September, with 82 from WWII, 36 from the Korean War and two from the Vietnam War. The agency recorded 218 identifications in 2019, its highest yearly total.

During WWII, thousands of U.S. and Filipino service members were sent to prisoner of war camps.

In March 2018, a team of eight Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency personnel spent 13 days at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial disinterring 20 graves of unidentified prisoners of war killed in the Cabanatuan POW Camp.

Between November 2019 and January 2020, 55 exhumations were conducted at the Manila cemetery, where some headstones read, "Here rests in honored glory a comrade in arms known but to God."

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In 2016, the Army granted permission to exhume six graves at Manila American Cemetery, resulting three years later in the identification of Army Sgt. Cread Shuey of Norton, Kansas, who died in September 1942.

Shuey and others were reburied several times amid attempts to identify the service members, but commingling of remains and limited identification technology hampered the efforts. Shuey was identified in 2019 using dental, anthropological and mitochondrial DNA analysis.

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READINESS:

12. South Korea requires travelers prove negative test following threat of new coronavirus strain
(Stars and Stripes, Jan. 6, Matthew Keeler)

All U.S. military personnel inbound for South Korea must abide by a new requirement to present proof of a negative coronavirus test upon their arrival starting Friday, according to U.S. Forces Korea.

South Korea will require all foreign travelers to present proof of a negative polymerase chain reaction, or PCR, coronavirus test taken within 72 hours before their departure for South Korea, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced Dec. 31.

USFK has asked the government to delay until Jan. 15 the requirement for U.S. citizens subject to the status of forces agreement, but until it receives a response the requirement is in effect, USFK spokeswoman Jacqueline Leeker told Stars and Stripes in an email Tuesday.

USFK passed the word to its personnel in a news release Monday.

“The Republic of Korea government’s new testing requirements will impact both Patriot Express and commercial flights,” Leeker said.

The Patriot Express is a government-contracted passenger air service between the U.S. and its bases in the Pacific.

Of nearly 500 cases of the coronavirus reported by USFK during the pandemic, the majority of them, 464, were individuals arriving in South Korea on either the Patriot Express or commercial flights into Incheon International Airport. That number includes service members, Defense Department civilians and dependents.

The move by South Korea comes as the nation grapples with a rising coronavirus caseload. The country reported its highest numbers in December: 27,117 new cases and 391 deaths, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center.

South Korean public health officials announced Dec. 28 that it had detected the first individuals infected with a coronavirus variant linked to an increase in cases in the United Kingdom.

However, USFK has kept the coronavirus at bay through a regime of mandatory testing and 14-day quarantine for new arrivals and confirmed cases.

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Japan on Dec. 28 imposed a similar requirement for proof on resident foreigners entering the country, but U.S. military personnel are not required to present proof of a negative test upon arrival, a spokesman for U.S. Forces Japan said Dec. 30.

Col. Robert Firman said no changes were made to regulations governing U.S. personnel governed by the status of forces agreement. Like USFK, the U.S. command in Japan has the same testing and quarantine requirements for its people entering the country, he said.

USFK is contacting U.S. commands, asking them to individually update anyone with orders for assignments in South Korea.

The Army began testing overseas travelers in late August, while other service branches have only required random testing.

“A negative test prior to travel has already been an Army directive for quite some time but will be a new requirement for personnel in the other services,” said Leeker.

Short-term travelers who are not affiliated with the Defense Department will be required to quarantine at a government-designated facility at their own expense for 14 days, according to the U.S. Embassy in Seoul’s website.

The nightly cost at these facilities could range from \$100-\$150 per night, prices are set by Korean authorities.

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13. Russian Aggression Spurs Neighbors to Rebuild Defenses

Sweden has overturned decades of its own defense and foreign policy to strengthen its military and tighten ties with the U.S.

(The Wall Street Journal, Jan. 5, Michael M. Phillips and James Marson)

Wooden targets hide among the pine trees at the Gotland island army firing range, silhouettes depicting foreign invaders, their faces twisted with malice.

They bear no unit insignia, no flag patches. But the Swedish army recruits peppering the targets with machine-gun fire this fall knew exactly who the enemy was: Russia’s 76th Guards Air Assault Division.

With Russia’s foreign policy growing more assertive over the past decade under President Vladimir Putin, the Swedes are bulking up defenses on Gotland. Its army expects that in the opening moments of a Russian invasion, airborne soldiers from the 76th Guards, based across the Baltic Sea, would likely parachute onto Gotland. Both sides know that whoever controls the island controls naval traffic through the southern Baltic.

“We will never surrender,” said Daniel Martell, sergeant major of Sweden’s Gotland Regiment. “That’s the message we’re sending.”

The Cold War is back on in the frigid North.

Russia’s expansive military and political appetites are alarming countries along the former frontiers of the Soviet Union, from Finland to Romania. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization has deployed four battle

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groups—nearly 5,000 troops—to Poland and the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. In 2018, Norway hosted NATO’s largest military exercise since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Sweden’s response is especially dramatic, overturning decades of its own defense and foreign policy. While the country maintained a careful neutrality between the U.S. and Soviet Union during the Cold War, this time around Stockholm is tightening ties with Washington. This fall, the Swedes rubbed that partnership in Moscow’s face by spotlighting joint U.S.-Swedish commando exercises previously kept secret.

“We no longer can rule out a military attack on Sweden,” said Karin Olofsdotter, Sweden’s ambassador in Washington. “It’s not likely in any way, but it can’t be ruled out.”

Last month, Sweden’s parliament authorized the biggest increase in military spending in 70 years, including a 50% expansion of the country’s armed forces, to 90,000 troops in 2025 from 60,000 today. In 2018, the army resurrected its Cold War-era Gotland Regiment, which had been deactivated in 2005, and now the troops regularly train to repel Russian invaders. The army plans to add another battalion, artillery units and logistical capabilities to its forces on the island.

A U.S. Army Green Beret team is stationed full-time in Sweden to help the country’s 22,000-strong Home Guard—part-time citizen-soldiers—plan sabotage, ambush and other operations to disrupt any attempted occupation.

During the Cold War, Sweden kept upward of 700,000 men and women under arms. After the implosion of the Soviet Union, Sweden dismantled much of its military and turned the attention of what remained to peacekeeping, expeditionary ventures and counterterror operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Mali and elsewhere. The Swedes even conducted small joint military exercises with Russians in the far north.

Then came a series of moves that appeared to signal Russia’s intention to retain a buffer of friendly states along its borders. First there was the military intervention in Georgia in 2008. Then in 2014 Russia seized Crimea from Ukraine and flooded the country’s east with covert operatives and mysterious soldiers whose uniforms bore no insignia. Now Moscow is propping up the authoritarian leader of Belarus, who has faced months of street protests.

“You get the impression they could be pushing one or two countries at a time,” said Johan Lagerlöf, head of strategy and security policy at the Swedish Ministry of Defense.

As a younger man, Mr. Lagerlöf was an artillery officer assigned to the Finnish border, with orders to cut Soviet supply lines if the time came.

Now he’s seeing Russian warplanes infringe on Swedish airspace and Russian warships venture into Swedish waters. Two Russian vessels entered Swedish seas near Gothenburg in September, according to the Swedish military.

“They’re more and more provocative in the air and elsewhere,” said Brig. Gen. Anders Löfberg, commander of Swedish Special Operations Command. Russian pilots fly too close. Russian ships cruise too near, “trying to bully” Baltic nations friendly to the West, he said.

The Russians deny any aggressive intent. “These invented anti-Russia phobias are due in no small measure to deliberate external pressure on Stockholm, primarily from the North Atlantic alliance,” a Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokeswoman, Maria Zakharova, said this fall.

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The ministry said in a written statement, “The degradation of the military-political situation in the North Baltic region, until recently one of the most stable in this respect in Europe, is taking place against the backdrop of NATO’s increasing military presence in the immediate vicinity of Russia’s borders.”

From Moscow’s perspective, the statement said, “there are currently no problems in the North Baltic region requiring a military solution.”

Russia has advanced ground-to-air missiles in Kaliningrad, an isolated Russian territory wedged between Lithuania and Poland. Should war come, the Swedes expect Russian marines from Kaliningrad to assault Gotland after the airborne attack.

Russian troops rehearsed amphibious landings in August, prompting the Swedes to rush fresh troops to Gotland. The Russian show of force followed a series of joint naval exercises this summer between Sweden and NATO.

Any act is open to suspicion. Swedes took offense when, a few years ago, a Russian television station broadcast a video mocking the masculinity of the Swedish military, set to the music of Abba. More recently, a Russian Orthodox church went up adjacent to the airport in Västerås, Sweden. “What’s it doing so close to a militarily sensitive site?” asked Gudrun Persson, a Russia expert at the Swedish Defense Research Agency.

Russia briefly occupied Gotland in 1808 during the Finnish War with Sweden. A Russian detachment of some 2,000 men soon fled before a larger Swedish force. Still, at war’s end, Russia had cleaved Finland from eastern Sweden and added the Grand Duchy of Finland to its empire.

Now, with climate change shrinking the ice cap in the Arctic, Russia is laying claim to key shipping routes along its northern coast.

In response to Russia’s resurgence in the area, the Swedes dusted off old Cold War military plans and reinstated the draft. Sweden is a member of the European Union, but not of U.S.-led NATO. Norway, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania belong to the alliance, in which an attack on one member is considered an attack on all. Finland isn’t part of the alliance.

NATO membership isn’t on the table for Sweden, partly because Stockholm knows the Russians would see the move as deeply threatening.

Stockholm, however, has signed a series of defense understandings with the U.S., Norway and Finland in recent years. The Swedes and Finns have joint war plans on the shelf just in case.

The Gotland Regiment, local Home Guard soldiers and Sweden’s small commando force expect to resort to guerrilla tactics against any occupiers.

Many Home Guard soldiers keep working dogs and weapons at home. One day a year, members wear their uniforms to their civilian jobs to remind the public of their role responding to security threats.

In 2018, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency sent every household in the country a 20-page brochure titled, “If crisis or war comes.” All of Swedish society, from individuals to companies to the central bank, participate in defense exercises. Civilians are encouraged to keep at least a week’s worth of food and water at the ready.

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Even Crown Princess Victoria, the heir to the throne, completed basic military training in 2003. She is often pictured wearing camouflage on visits to army units, clutching a rifle on a marine shooting range or helping commandos blast their way into a building.

The Swedes see their strategy as their best shot at resisting the kinds of tactics Russia used in Ukraine, a combination of disinformation, cyberattacks, economic pressure, covert military operations and proxy warfare through local pro-Moscow militias.

“We want to send the message that if anyone has the bad idea of trying to attack Sweden in any way, they must be aware that Swedish special forces will do their utmost to resist and make their lives miserable,” said Gen. Löfberg. “We will do it alone, or together with partners.”

For several weeks this fall, an American Green Beret team worked with Gotland’s Home Guard detachment to practice resistance operations, a plan that leans heavily on the part-time soldiers’ intimate knowledge of the area. In one training scenario, a Home Guard soldier tapped his network of friends and family to find a mock enemy infiltrator; the soldier’s brother reported by cellphone that the man was hiding in the backyard.

“At least we’ll have a defense,” said Col. Mattias Ardin, commander of the Gotland Regiment. “It won’t be a new Crimea.”

Moscow periodically warns Sweden not to get too cozy with the West.

“The threats and risks are mounting,” Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said at a news conference after meeting his Swedish counterpart in Moscow last year. He cited “NATO’s unprecedented plans to move towards our borders and involve neutral countries—like Sweden and Finland—in its military exercises.”

Along with the increase in troops, Sweden’s latest defense plan boosts annual military spending by more than \$3 billion, a 40% hike, in the next five years.

“Their stated strategy,” said Kenneth Howery, the U.S. ambassador in Stockholm, “is hold out as long as possible and hope help arrives.”

In a break from past secrecy, this fall the Swedish Armed Forces allowed The Wall Street Journal to observe aspects of two-week joint exercises between Swedish special forces and commandos from Stuttgart-based U.S. Special Operations Command-Europe.

The first such commando exercises took place in 2018, with one 12-man Green Beret team representing the U.S. Last year the U.S. brought Green Berets, a Navy guided-missile destroyer, fighter jets, advanced helicopters, an aerial refueling plane, transport aircraft, Navy SEALs, high-speed coastal attack boats and Air Force commandos trained to call in airstrikes.

U.S. helicopters and American and Swedish fighter jets flew in close formation across the Baltic to Estonia, where German planes replaced the Swedish escorts. The U.S. warplanes planned to drop bombs on a military firing range in Estonia—the former Soviet republic turned NATO member—but weather forced cancellation of the display.

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The Swedes “have come to the realization that being quiet and not advertising capabilities has no deterrent value,” said one U.S. officer involved in the training.

During one training exercise, a U.S. Special Forces team flew by helicopter from Estonia to Muskö, a Swedish naval base built in a vast network of underground docks and tunnels, for a rendezvous with Swedish commandos and Home Guard soldiers.

Over several days, they traveled back roads in civilian vehicles and cruised the Stockholm archipelago in high-speed patrol boats hunting for an enemy command-and-control vessel. They dodged enemy maritime patrols, evaded enemy search dogs and sidestepped civilian deer hunters stalking through the mock combat zone.

The Swedish and American commandos spotted the enemy ship docked at a civilian harbor and called in a simulated Tomahawk missile strike from the USS Ross, a destroyer. Swedish Home Guard soldiers extracted the Americans by boat and hid them in a cabin until a U.S. helicopter picked them up.

“It’s not just another exercise—we’re worried,” Gen. Löfberg, the Swedish special-forces commander, said he told Gen. Richard Clarke, commander of U.S. Special Operations Command, during a closed-door meeting.

On Gotland, Swedish military commanders are putting clerks, drivers, radio operators, supply soldiers and other back-office troops through live-fire combat exercises in which they move through the woodlands to destroy enemy armored vehicles and kill enemy paratroopers.

Said Lt. Col. Ulf Hamberg, commander of the regiment’s 1st Battalion: “Everybody fights.”

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14. US cavalry unit takes up position in Lithuania

(Stars and Stripes, Jan. 5, Staff Writer)

A Fort Hood-based cavalry officially began an eight-month mission in Lithuania, focused on deterring Russian aggression in the region, as it uncased its colors at a ceremony this week, Lithuanian and U.S. officials said.

The 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment took up position in Lithuania along with its heavy weaponry, including Abrams tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles.

Having a U.S. military presence in the region was key to deterring Russian aggression against the former Soviet Republic, said Lithuanian Defense Minister Arvydas Anusauskas, who, along with U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania Robert Gilchrist, attended the ceremony Monday in Pabrade, around 30 miles northeast of Vilnius and six miles from the border with Belarus.

When the unit arrived in Lithuania on Dec. 4, Anusauskas said Lithuania would welcome a permanent U.S. military presence on its soil, saying it would strengthen “the security of the entire eastern flank of NATO.”

“We are prepared to host U.S. forces and provide all conditions they need to carry on with training cycles and completion of tasks,” he said at the time.

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The Army has, since 2019, been sending a battalion-sized element to Lithuania for most of their nine-month deployments, adding fire power near the heavily militarized Russian exclave of Kaliningrad, which is wedged between Lithuania and its southern neighbor, Poland.

The 2nd Battalion is part of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division rotation in Europe, which is expected to last through the summer. The majority of the regiment's force is anchored in Poland, but smaller elements are spread out along NATO's eastern flank.

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15. After Stonewalling Claims, Biden Team to Consult with Top Generals Overseas

(Military.com, Jan. 5, Richard Sisk)

The Pentagon has set up interviews this week between President-elect Joe Biden's defense policy team and U.S. commanders in Afghanistan, Africa and South Korea. The move comes after Biden claimed that the Trump administration was stonewalling the transition process.

In a statement Friday, the Defense Department said that the Biden team would consult with Army Gens. Austin "Scott" Miller, commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan; Stephen Townsend, head of U.S. Africa Command; and Robert Abrams, commander of U.S. Forces Korea.

Biden's team will also have access to top officials of the National Guard Bureau and Assistant Secretary for Acquisition Kevin Fahey, and will hold roundtables with several assistant secretaries and deputy assistant secretaries of defense, including those for special operations and low intensity conflict, the DoD said.

In prepared remarks Dec. 28, Biden complained that Trump administration political appointees were setting up "roadblocks" to a smooth transition, especially at the DoD and the Office of Management and Budget.

"All of it makes it harder for our government to protect the American people," he said, calling the alleged lack of cooperation "nothing short of irresponsibility."

"We need to make sure nothing is lost in the handoff between administrations," Biden said as he prepares to take on defense issues including climate change; the border wall; the rise of China; and the drawdown of U.S. troops in Afghanistan, Somalia and Iraq.

The meetings with Miller, Townsend and Abrams could set a tone for the new administration once Biden is inaugurated Jan. 20.

Under executive orders issued by President Donald Trump, Miller has been tasked with reducing the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan from 4,500 to 2,500 by Jan. 15, despite increased attacks by the Taliban. Townsend is overseeing the withdrawal of most of the 700 to 800 U.S. troops in Somalia to neighboring countries. And Abrams is caught up in the continuing dispute between the Trump administration and Seoul over how much South Korea should contribute to maintain the presence of 28,500 U.S. troops there.

The DoD has repeatedly pushed back on the Biden transition team's complaints of a lack of cooperation.

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In the statement Friday, the department said that the Biden team has been provided with 168 interviews with more than 400 officials since Nov. 23. In addition, 194 requests for information have been met, and the Biden team has been provided with more than 6,000 pages of documents, according to the DoD.

However, Jake Sullivan, the former State Department official tapped by Biden to be his national security adviser, on Sunday renewed the charge that the Defense Department "has dragged its feet" in the transition process. The issue is with political appointees at the Pentagon and not with the career professionals, he said on CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS program.

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16. The Pentagon has 3 years to strip Confederate names from bases. Here's what comes next (Politico PRO, Jan. 5, Connor O'Brien)

Lawmakers' rebuke of President Donald Trump's efforts to tank annual defense policy legislation last week has paved the way for a years-long process to remove the names of Confederate leaders from military bases and scrub other monuments to the secession.

But there are still unanswered questions about the nascent process, which must kick off by March, including who will ultimately pick the new names of bases, who will serve on the panel and whether President-elect Joe Biden could preempt some of the panel's work with a speedier executive action of his own after Inauguration Day.

The National Defense Authorization Act mandates the removal of Confederate names from Defense Department-owned property within three years and tasks an eight-member commission with developing a plan to carry it out.

The provision became law last week after lawmakers overrode Trump's veto of the defense bill, H.R. 6395 (116).

Public scrutiny has centered on the 10 Army bases that are named for Confederate leaders — including major installations such as Fort Bragg in North Carolina and Fort Benning in Georgia — but the review will assess myriad other military property that honor the Confederacy, including a pair of Navy ships, buildings and other memorials.

The missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville, for instance, is named for a Confederate victory in the Civil War, and the oceanographic survey ship USNS Maury is named for Matthew Fontaine Maury, who served in the Confederate Navy. The U.S. Naval Academy and U.S. Military Academy have also faced calls from lawmakers to rename buildings that honor officers who served in the Confederacy, including a barracks at West Point named for Robert E. Lee.

Despite bipartisan support in the House and Senate for renaming bases and removing other Confederate honors — and the inclusion of similar provisions in both chambers' defense bills — the effort became one of the most contentious aspects of negotiations on the legislation. The Senate bill included a three-year renaming process, authored by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), while the House initially adopted a one-year process, sponsored by Reps. Anthony Brown (D-Md.) and Don Bacon (R-Neb.).

Proponents saw removing the racist relics as a must-have in a year marked by racial unrest in the U.S. Trump, however, opposed renaming bases, equating removing Confederate leaders' names with rewriting history.

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Bipartisan majorities in the House and Senate handily overrode Trump's veto, ensuring the bill became law for a 60th consecutive year and that the renaming process will soon kick off.

Here's how it will work:

The process: The legislation mandates the removal of Confederate names, symbols, monuments and other honors from Defense Department property — including bases, buildings, streets, ships, aircraft, weapons and equipment — within three years and tasks the eight-member panel with carrying it out. The bill exempts Confederate grave markers from the review.

The commission is charged with developing criteria for identifying Confederate monuments and recommending procedures for renaming the property and gathering input from local communities.

The bill does not explicitly task the commission with coming up with new names for bases, buildings or other property that's selected for renaming, though a Senate aide said the panel has the latitude to do so. The aide added that if the panel doesn't wade into the issue, the Army secretary or defense secretary have the authority to kick off a process to come up with new names.

The panel is required to brief the House and Senate Armed Services Committees on its progress by Oct. 1.

The commission must present a written report by Oct. 1, 2022, that details the assets that will be removed or renamed, the criteria used to select them, the local input gathered and the costs associated with the removals and renamings. The Pentagon will have until early 2024 — three years after the bill's enactment — to implement the commission's plan.

The panel: The eight members of the panel must be appointed by the Pentagon and congressional leaders within 45 days of the defense bill's enactment.

The defense secretary is tasked with appointing half the panel members. The four leaders of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees — Reps. Adam Smith (D-Wash.) and Mike Rogers (R-Ala.) and Sens. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) and Jack Reed (D-R.I.) — each must appoint one panelist.

The panel must then hold its first meeting within two months of the bill becoming law.

The money: Lawmakers authorized a \$2 million operating budget for the commission and its activities, which was offset from the Army operations and maintenance account for fiscal 2021.

Leaders of the House Appropriations Committee separately allocated \$1 million to cover expenses for the Army to rename installations and other assets in annual defense spending legislation that passed over the summer. A compromise full-year spending package that became law last month, however, did not set aside any money specifically for the renaming effort.

What will Biden do: The new law doesn't foreclose the possibility that Biden's incoming administration could move to rename the bases sooner.

Biden has expressed support for removing the names of Confederate leaders from military installations, but hasn't indicated if he'll go beyond what lawmakers agreed on to move faster.

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17. Cooper Calls in National Guard to Pick up Vaccine Rollout

(The Associated Press, Jan. 5, Staff Writer)

Gov. Roy Cooper announced Tuesday that he's calling in the North Carolina National Guard to help accelerate COVID-19 vaccinations in a state that's been near the bottom of states in doses administered so far.

Cooper said ensuring vaccines are given to individuals "is our top priority right now."

"We will use all resources and personnel needed. I've mobilized the NC National Guard to provide support to local health providers as we continue to increase the pace of vaccinations," Cooper said in a tweet. Dozens of states also are getting vaccine assistance from their guard units.

Nearly 108,000 people in North Carolina had received their first dose as of Tuesday morning, according to data from the state Department of Health and Human Services, while almost 500 people had received a second dose.

The first-doses total is less than 1% of the state's population. And data as of Monday accumulated by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ranked North Carolina as sixth worse among the states in per capita first-dose vaccinations.

Hospital workers were the first in line to receive doses and some remain unvaccinated due to limited supply. Several counties will soon begin administering doses to elderly people 75 years or older.

Although North Carolina health officials have been slow to get doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines into residents' arms, there are similar problems in other states.

Federal health officials had hoped that 20 million doses would be shipped and distributed by the end of December, but they fell short of that. The CDC said Tuesday that more than 17 million doses had been distributed, and 4.8 million people had received a first dose.

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18. 300 Michigan National Guardsmen Receive COVID-19 Vaccine

(Patch (MI), Jan. 5, Joey Oliver)

Three hundred members of the Michigan National Guard working on COVID-19 vaccination and testing teams have received their first round of COVID-19 vaccinations, according to a news release issued by the National Guard Tuesday.

The vaccinations were administered by National Guard members who have also been supporting Michigan health care agencies at the behest of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services in the initial vaccination of medical personnel in hospitals across the state, according to the news release. The first batch of vaccines was given at the Detroit Light Guard Armory on Thursday, officials said.

"Providing vaccines to our members really allows us to go on the offense against COVID-19 in the fight for Michiganders," U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Paul Rogers, the adjutant general, and director of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, said in a statement. "Michigan National Guard Airmen and

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Soldiers take the responsibility of protecting their communities very seriously, and offering the COVID-19 vaccination will enable them to safely and effectively continue this mission throughout the state."

The National Guard is expected to receive 20 percent of the Department of Defense's COVID-19 vaccinations, officials said. The receipt of the immunization is voluntary, however. The Michigan National Guard vaccination plan is similar to the plan for civilians; first, to frontline health care workers, like Guard members of the COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Teams, followed by those members that have duties that do not allow them to work from home.

"I'm excited to receive the vaccine because it will allow me to continue on with my duties on a CVTT without the distraction of worrying about getting really sick in the future," U.S. Army Cpl. Lance King, who is serving with the Michigan National Guard's COVID-19 Task Force Spartan, said in a statement. "Volunteering to receive the shot was no different than volunteering to get any other vaccine that is there to protect me."

The Michigan National Guard is continuing to partner with MDHHS, providing COVID-19 testing teams, antigen testing and testing training, contact tracing teams and support to long-term care facilities and food banks. Since March, Michigan has deployed more than 1,100 guard personnel to assist in the fight against COVID-19, according to a news release. Nationwide, there are more than 20,300 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen supporting COVID-19 missions.

"Being able to provide the COVID-19 vaccine to our military community who are out there supporting Michigan is a very positive move toward eradicating this disease," Rogers said.

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19. Tokyo records second highest daily COVID total; US bases count another 34 coronavirus cases (Stars and Stripes, Jan. 5, Joseph Ditzler)

Japan's capital city posted its second-highest one-day coronavirus total Tuesday, less than a week after setting its pandemic record.

The U.S. military in Japan reported another 34 new infections as of 6 p.m. Tuesday, although some cases date back to Dec. 25.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government reported 1,278 new patients with COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus, according to public broadcaster NHK. The number of seriously ill patients reached 111, the highest ever in the city, according to NHK. Tokyo reached its one-day record of 1,337 new patients on Thursday.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga may announce a state of emergency in Tokyo and three surrounding prefectures later this week. The declaration would allow prefectural governors more authority to regulate business hours and reduce the risk of the virus spreading.

In South Korea, all foreign travelers arriving after noon Friday must provide proof of a negative PCR test for the coronavirus within 72 hours of their departure for the peninsula, according to a news release from U.S. Forces Korea. Japan instituted a similar measure Dec. 28.

"Airlines will not board passengers without this negative PCR test result," according to USFK.

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The command said USFK personnel must adhere to the test requirement until the South Korean government clarifies the matter.

In northeastern Japan, Misawa Air Base reported five people have tested positive this week for COVID-19.

Three people immediately quarantined themselves after the base publicized a cluster of COVID-19 cases associated with two local restaurants, according to a spokesman for the base.

Contact tracing identified two more people with the coronavirus on Tuesday, 35th Fighter Wing spokesman Maj. Cody Chiles told Stars and Stripes by phone.

A limit on movement on and off the base set to expire midnight Tuesday was extended to midnight Thursday, according to a base press release Wednesday. Base personnel are restricted to essential activities while contact tracers do their work. Group numbers are capped at 10, no indoor dining at restaurants is allowed and essential purchases only are permitted.

The restaurants – Off the Wall and Black Sheep – provided base public health authorities with information to help with contact tracing, Chiles said.

Yokosuka Naval Base, south of Tokyo, on Tuesday reported its Chili's restaurant would close until further notice for cleaning and sanitizing after an employee there contracted the coronavirus, according to a base Facebook post.

The base Personnel Support Detachment closed its ID lab until Monday, “out of an abundance of caution,” after a lab employee came in contact with a COVID patient, according to a Facebook post Tuesday.

Naval Air Facility Atsugi reported eight new COVID-19 patients since Dec. 25 and one before that date, base spokesman Sam Samuelson told Stars and Stripes by phone Tuesday. Three tested positive while quarantined; four, including a base employee, developed COVID-19 symptoms; one tested positive after arriving at a Tokyo airport; and one was discovered by contact tracers, according to a base Facebook post.

U.S. Army Japan at Camp Zama, southwest of Tokyo, on Tuesday reported six new coronavirus patients discovered between Saturday and Dec. 29, according to an Army news release.

Five individuals were already in quarantine after arriving in Japan. The sixth individual was also quarantined and was tested by Japanese health authorities after arriving Saturday.

Yokota Air Base, the headquarters in western Tokyo of U.S. Forces Japan, reported seven new coronavirus patients tested positive between Tuesday and Dec. 29, according to a Facebook post.

Four were still in quarantine after arriving from the U.S.; one was already isolated as a close contact. The remaining two were “identified and quarantined” by public health authorities but the base provided no further information. The base has eight active cases.

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni reported two new coronavirus patients Tuesday, according to a Facebook post. One was already in quarantine as a close contact, the other was not isolated, according to the base.

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On Okinawa, Kadena Air Base reported four newly infected individuals Tuesday. A family of three became ill with COVID-19 symptoms while in quarantine after traveling outside of Japan. The fourth is an Army and Air Force Exchange employee who became ill, stopped working and self-isolated, according to the base.

The person's workplace was cleaned and an unspecified number of close contacts quarantined.

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20. Trump administration speeds up plan to deliver Covid shots in pharmacies

The move comes after federal officials have faced fierce criticism for the slow pace of immunizations. (Politico, Jan. 5, Rachel Roubein)

The Trump administration late Tuesday said it's accelerating a plan to begin offering coronavirus shots in pharmacies — a move that comes after federal officials faced fierce criticism for the slow pace of immunizations.

Within the next two weeks, Operation Warp Speed, the federal government's vaccine accelerator, estimates 3,000 to 6,000 pharmacies could begin administering Covid-19 shots, according to a senior HHS official. The administration announced in November that it would work with major pharmacy chains and independent community pharmacies to distribute vaccines but didn't lay out a timetable.

"I don't think the average American is accustomed to going to their local hospital to get a vaccine," the senior official said on Tuesday. "What we're doing is just putting this into what we would call the more standard distribution channel that most Americans are accustomed to, which is the corner pharmacy."

The effort comes after the administration fell far short of its oft-stated goal to vaccinate 20 million Americans by the end of December. Absent a national plan, states had been deploying their own measures, such as threatening steep fines for hospitals that don't use up all of their shots and calling on retired health care workers and dentists to staff vaccination sites.

Nearly 40,000 pharmacies — such as Costco, Rite Aid and Walmart — are involved in the program, though only several thousand will start receiving vaccines in two weeks. Over the next few days, Operation Warp Speed officials plan to make recommendations on which two or three pharmacy chains should start receiving vaccines in each jurisdiction, though the decision is ultimately up to the states.

Federal officials are also encouraging states to move beyond front-line health workers to other priority groups, such as non-essential workers or older adults, if they have vaccines going unused on shelves.

The public-private partnership is launching earlier than expected, said Mitchel Rothholz, the immunization policy lead for the American Pharmacists Association.

"It doesn't mean that people aren't going to be able to step up and be ready," Rothholz said, adding that the move could speed up immunizations.

The decision was made at Camp David, where HHS Secretary Alex Azar convened a meeting with federal health and Operation Warp Speed officials to discuss vaccines and therapeutics in the administration's waning days. Participants included Paul Ostrowski, OWS' head of supply, production

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and distribution; Moncef Slaoui, OWS' vaccine chief; and General Gustave Perna, the chief operating officer of Operation Warp Speed.

In a statement, Michael Pratt, an Operation Warp Speed spokesperson, said the meeting was aimed at providing additional support and recommendations to "certain jurisdictions to increase vaccinations and reporting."

Though federal officials have said the pharmacy program is intended to help ensure vaccine access in medically underserved areas, public health experts say it could wind up bypassing low-income and minority populations hardest hit by the pandemic that lack standalone pharmacies and those in grocery stores. The experts have suggested a broader mix of distribution sites, including schools and churches in addition to pharmacies, hospitals and clinics.

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21. New in 2021: How will the Guard help with COVID-19 vaccine distribution?

(Army Times, Jan. 5, Davis Winkie)

In 2021, the National Guard will be assisting with coronavirus vaccine distribution in at least 26 states, according to senior Guard officials.

"Currently, governors in 26 states and territories are planning to use the National Guard in some capacity for Covid-19 vaccine distribution," said Nahaku McFadden, the National Guard Bureau's media operations chief, in a Dec. 14 telephone press conference.

Of those 26 states, 11 plan to exclusively assist with the administrative and logistics processes necessary to push the vaccine to healthcare providers. Ohio's National Guard, for example, is only unloading and repackaging vaccine shipments for transport to inoculation sites, explained Army Maj. Gen. John Harris Jr., the state's adjutant general, in the Dec. 14 press call.

National Guard personnel will be administering vaccines in at least 15 states, NGB spokesman Wayne Hall told Military Times. That number may change, though, based on whether more vaccines obtain emergency use authorization from the Food and Drug Administration. That would increase the supply of available vaccine, and potentially the need for the Guard, said Ohio's Harris in the press conference.

Seven of the states whose respective National Guards are administering the vaccine are also assisting with the logistics of distribution, said Hall.

Some 20,000 National Guard troops remained on duty fighting the COVID-19 pandemic as of Dec. 14, said McFadden, the NGB media operations chief.

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22. Gov. Hogan announces steps to speed up Maryland vaccinations

(The Associated Press, Jan. 5, Brian Witte)

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan announced steps on Tuesday to speed up vaccinations against COVID-19 to "get more shots into more arms."

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Hogan said 270,150 doses of the vaccine have been put directly in the hands of frontline vaccinators in the state over the last three weeks. However, as of Tuesday, only 76,916 people have been vaccinated so far, or about 1.3% of the state's population.

"While none of us are thrilled with the pace of this rollout over the first couple of weeks, I can assure you that it is improving every day," Hogan said at a news conference.

The governor said 11,553 people were vaccinated in the state on Tuesday, the highest number so far.

Starting Wednesday, the Republican governor said the National Guard will begin to dispatch emergency vaccination support teams across the state to help local health departments to expand vaccination capacity. Each team will have 14 guard members to help provide logistical support for vaccination clinics.

Hogan also said there has been uneven data reporting of vaccinations that have been administered so that the state can determine where help is needed. The governor said he is issuing an executive order to require all providers to report data to the state within 24 hours after vaccines have been administered. The data will be made public.

Hogan said any facility that has not administered at least 75% of its total first doses may have future allocations reduced until they can speed up vaccinations.

"Any provider that has excess doses will be required to notify their local health department so that those doses can be reallocated," he said.

The governor also said he expects Maryland will get about 72,000 vaccine doses a week for the foreseeable future.

Hogan underscored that the vaccination process is a "massive undertaking" that will take months. At the current pace, Hogan said, the state would expect to have 1.8 million doses by the end of May for about 30% of the state's population.

Earlier Tuesday, the University of Maryland Medical System announced it had administered second dose Pfizer COVID-19 vaccinations to five system employees: two physicians, a nurse, a respiratory therapist and an environmental service worker. They had received their first doses on Dec. 14 and were among the first in Maryland to be vaccinated.

Under Maryland's vaccination plan, the state is now in Phase 1A to vaccinate health care workers, residents and staff of nursing homes and first responders. Hogan said the state has expanded priority populations in this phase. Vaccinations will soon be underway for correctional officers, law enforcement agencies, and front line judiciary staff. Overall, Phase 1A includes more than 500,000 state residents.

An expanded Phase 1B will include all Marylanders age 75 and older, special needs group homes, high-risk inmates, developmentally disabled populations, continuity of government vaccinations, as well as teachers, child care, and education staff. Phase 1B includes an estimated 860,000 Marylanders. Based on the current pace of allocation, the state expects to fully enter Phase 1B by late January.

The governor also outlined a new Phase 1C to include all Marylanders ages 65-74, and workers in other critical sectors, including grocery stores, public transit, agriculture production, and manufacturing. Phase 1C includes an estimated 772,000 Marylanders. Based on the current pace of allocation, the state expects to fully enter Phase 1C by early March.

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Hogan noted an updated Phase 2 will include Marylanders ages 16-64 who are at increased risk of COVID-19 illness due to co-morbidities, as well as essential workers in critical utilities and other sectors. Overall, Phase 2 includes an estimated 1.1 million Marylanders.

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23. Wisconsin mobilizes National Guard and city approves emergency resolution ahead of charging decision in police shooting of Jacob Blake

(CNN, Jan. 5, Brad Parks and Madeline Holcombe)

The National Guard has been mobilized in Wisconsin ahead of anticipated protests following the Kenosha County District Attorney's announcement that he will not charge the officer who shot Jacob Blake.

Kenosha County District Attorney Michael Graveley made the announcement on Tuesday, during which he also said there will be no charges for the other two officers involved in the incident, which took place in August of 2020. Blake will also not face charges, Graveley said.

Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers said Monday that he was mobilizing 500 National Guard troops ahead of the decision at the request of local officials.

"Our members of the National Guard will be on hand to support local first responders, ensure Kenoshans are able to assemble safely, and to protect critical infrastructure as necessary," Evers said in the statement.

Blake was shot seven times in the back by a White Kenosha police officer, Rusten Sheskey, responding to a call about a domestic incident on August 23, 2020. Blake survived the shooting but was left paralyzed from the waist down.

Disturbing video of the incident led to mass protests in Kenosha as well as across the US.

In an op-ed published in the Kenosha News on December 27, Mayor Antaramian and Police Chief Daniel Miskinis said they were prepared for possible protests following the announcement.

"What we do know is that regardless of the decision, people will have differing opinions and strong emotions about it. That is everyone's right. Whether you agree or disagree, we ask that you express your opinions peacefully and lawfully," the officials wrote.

On Tuesday, Kyle Rittenhouse pleaded not guilty to all charges against him during a virtual arraignment held via Zoom. Rittenhouse, 17, faces charges of fatally shooting two men, Joseph Rosenbaum and Anthony Huber, and wounding another, Gaige Grosskreutz, during protests following the police shooting of Blake.

Rittenhouse also is charged with possession of a dangerous weapon while under the age of 18, a misdemeanor, according to court records.

An attorney for Rittenhouse, Mark Richards, has argued that Rittenhouse acted in self-defense.

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24. Bowser to DOJ, Pentagon: DC isn't asking federal law enforcement to assist with protests (The Hill, Jan. 5, Justine Coleman)

Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser (D) told Justice Department and Pentagon leaders on Tuesday that the city is not requesting federal law enforcement assistance with protests organized by President Trump's supporters this week.

Bowser addressed a letter to acting Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen, Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy and acting Secretary of Defense Christopher Miller, in which she requested that officials notify the city and its police department if federal authorities are deployed.

The mayor said federal officials did not provide this notification to the city's Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) during events last year.

"To be clear, the District of Columbia is not requesting other federal law enforcement personnel and discourages any additional deployment without immediate notification to, and consultation with, MPD if such plans are underway," she said in the letter.

The mayor pointed to incidents in 2020 when MPD "was expected to perform the demanding tasks of policing large crowds while working around unidentifiable personnel deployed in the District of Columbia without proper coordination."

"Unidentifiable personnel – in many cases, armed – caused confusion among residents and visitors and could become a national security threat with no way for MPD and federal law enforcement to decipher armed groups," she wrote.

During the Black Lives Matter protests last summer, military personnel, at least some of whom were not wearing identifiers, extended the perimeter around the White House in the days after law enforcement and demonstrators clashed in the area.

Bowser indicated that MPD "is prepared" for the demonstrations over the next few days and has coordinated with its federal partners, specifically the U.S. Park Police, U.S. Capitol Police and U.S. Secret Service. She noted that these agencies "regularly have uniformed personnel protecting federal assets" in the city.

She also referenced her activation of the D.C. National Guard on Monday, saying the troops will work with the police department. The D.C. National Guard said about 340 members will be activated to assist the city and address the expected protests.

The mayor's letter to officials comes as at least four pro-Trump demonstrations are planned for Tuesday and Wednesday when Congress is slated to meet to approve the Electoral College certification of President-elect Joe Biden's win. Congress's official meeting is Wednesday.

The protests intend to support the effort of dozens of Republican lawmakers to challenge the Electoral College results.

But the effort is unlikely to be successful because Democrats control the House and several Republicans in the Senate have said they will not support the attempt.

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25. CT National Guard sending three to Washington D.C. for inauguration

(CT Post (CT), Jan. 5, Jordan Fenster)

Three members of Connecticut's National Guard, experts on weapons of mass destruction, will head to Washington D.C. as part of a multistate force preparing for possible civil unrest during Joe Biden's inauguration.

The U.S. Senate and House are set Wednesday to certify the Electoral College votes that gave the former vice president a clear win over President Donald Trump.

Trump is expected to attend protests, and has encouraged his supporters to attend. Authorities are also preparing for possible clashes at the inauguration in part because Trump has not conceded the election.

Several groups are expected to protest in the nation's capital on Wednesday, including the far-right Proud Boys, as well as Permits Women For America First, the Eighty Percent Coalition and The Silent Majority.

"Big protest in D.C. on January 6th," the president said on Twitter. "Be there, will be wild!"

The three Connecticut residents are part of a much larger force intended to be there for the inauguration, National Guard Capt. David Pytlik said.

"A lot of different states are sending people down," he said. "This just happens to be what we're providing."

The mayor of Washington D.C. requested the forces to augment local National Guard troops. That request was approved by Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy.

Pitnick declined to identify the three service members being sent down before their deployment due to "operational security" concerns, but said they would be aiding the local civil support team.

"Their unit is there for weapons of mass destruction surveillance and advising," he said.

Sen. Chris Murphy Tuesday issued a reminder to McCarthy, Acting Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen and Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher Miller that a law passed last week requires any federal officers and members of the armed forces to identify themselves while doing any crowd control.

"Last June, Americans watched as President Trump and former Attorney General Bill Barr deployed unidentifiable federal officers in riot gear to crack down on peaceful demonstrators exercising their constitutional rights in cities across the country," he said. "This lack of identification made it impossible for citizens to distinguish between legitimate law enforcement and dangerous private vigilantes, or hold accountable enforcement personnel who engaged in abusive conduct."

Pytlik, though, said the three National Guard members heading to Washington from Connecticut would not be acting as civilian police. "They're not there in any sort of law enforcement capacity," he said.

There are currently 3,600 guardsmen in Connecticut's Army National Guard and 1,400 airmen who are members of the Air National Guard.

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26. Planning for Trump's tense final days

(The Washington Post, Jan. 6, David Ignatius)

As President Trump's supporters gather in Washington for what could be several days of violent protests, senior government officials appear confident that the chaotic situation can be handled by the D.C. police, federal law-enforcement agencies and the National Guard - without requiring any use of regular-duty military troops.

"I can see no situation where the cops can't handle it," said one official familiar with preparation for Wednesday's pro-Trump marches, adding that "the introduction of the military in the next 72 hours would be irreparably damaging to the country." This official said top leaders of both parties shared this opposition to use of the uniformed military to quell civil strife.

Worries about Wednesday's gathering have been fueled by Trump's call for demonstrations - "will be wild," he tweeted - to protest Congress's expected certification of the electoral college victory of President-elect Joe Biden. Some officials feared that if the protests led to violent confrontations, Trump might seek to invoke the Insurrection Act to maintain order and protect the 74 million supporters he falsely contends have been fraudulently disenfranchised by Biden's victory.

The protests could indeed get nasty, and the next few days may be very disorderly. But officials, led by some senior members of the administration, have worked hard to prevent a worst-case scenario in which Trump might seek to overturn the election result by deploying the uniformed military and imposing martial law.

Planning for this week's protests has been coordinated by an interagency team headed by acting attorney general Jeffrey A. Rosen and acting defense secretary Christopher C. Miller, joined by the secretaries of homeland security and interior and backed by Gen. Mark A. Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy. The team has been in regular contact and has drawn up detailed, written rules of engagement to avoid mistakes that might inflame the situation.

The FBI estimates that the protesters who assemble at the Ellipse and other march sites Wednesday will total 10,000 to 20,000 - well below the 50,000 to 100,000 touted on some pro-Trump websites. To keep order, the D.C. government can call on about 3,800 members of its police force, supplemented by thousands of officers from the Capitol Police, the U.S. Park Police, the Federal Protection Service and other units.

Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) has also requested help from 350 members of the D.C. National Guard. The civilian overseeing the guard will be McCarthy, a widely respected former aide to then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates. The forces dealing with peaceful protests won't be allowed to use helicopters or fixed-wing aircraft, riot shields or lethal weapons. "There is no need to present an impression of anticipating violence," one official said.

Confidence that the D.C. and federal police plus National Guard can handle the situation is based partly on experience. The D.C. police force here has managed crowd control with more than 100,000 demonstrators in the past, one official said. To manage the crowds, control points will be established near the main march sites with police officers joined by the guard.

A final reason for confidence is that officials anticipate that left-wing counterprotesters from antifa and Black Lives Matter will mostly stay off the streets. That would lessen the likelihood of confrontations that

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could escalate into bloodshed and serious disorder, which might encourage Trump to invoke the Insurrection Act.

One flash point Wednesday may be the U.S. Capitol, where legislators will be meeting to certify the electoral college results. Protesters who gather initially at the Ellipse, near the White House, may then march down Pennsylvania Avenue, in the reversal of the usual inaugural parade route, and converge on the Capitol.

More than 500 Capitol Police will protect the building, but the situation could be inflamed if pro-Trump members of Congress emerge and make inflammatory speeches. Officials warn that if protesters try to "storm" the Capitol, as some have pledged, they will be arrested.

The flash point could come after dark Wednesday, if small bands of Proud Boys and other extremists go looking for trouble. One scenario weighed by contingency planners is that if 20,000 protesters gather overall, perhaps 1,000 would disperse after dark in roving bands of a dozen or so. Even in that situation, officials expect that the planned force would be adequate.

In Trump's effort to retain power, some officials feared he might use a foreign conflict with Iran as an additional pretext. But several officials said Tuesday that Iran doesn't appear to seek a direct confrontation in Trump's final days; Iranian-backed militias in Iraq could threaten Americans there, but U.S. forces are well positioned to protect personnel. The Pentagon's plan seems to be to watch carefully, avoid provocation and react to any attack with a deliberate, calculated response.

As the Trump administration nears its end, senior administration officials have a delicate task. They want to seem supportive of Trump's dream of somehow reversing the election outcome. But they know that any open attempt to subvert the transition could be illegal - and might subject them to future legal prosecution.

In these last tense days, these administration officials are caught between entertaining Trump's fantasies of retaining power and managing the reality that he lost.

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MODERNIZATION:

27. Army Says "Sky's the Limit" With New Armored Infantry Carrier

(Warrior Maven, Jan. 5, Kris Osborn)

The sky may be the limit, regarding U.S. Army thinking about what its new armored infantry carrier might be in terms of shape, size, weapons, armor configuration sensors, and other technical parameters.

After several years of review, exploration, and detailed analysis of various industry offerings and emerging technologies, the question of just what precisely a next-generation armored vehicle should consist of ... may remain wide open. The expanding of the technical and development aperture pertains to the ongoing Army effort to build a new replacement for its decades-old Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

"The US Army has removed formal requirements in its final request for proposals for the Optionally Manned Fighting Vehicle. The idea is to be as open as possible with companies, proposing no requirements to give them as much "latitude" as possible to innovate to solve the service's problems," a statement from Army Futures Command said.

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The goal of the approach is clear and straightforward. ... innovation.

“We are not going to put a nail in a single requirement until we have to,” Brig. Gen. Richard Coffman, director of the U.S. Army Futures Command’s Next-Generation Combat Vehicle Cross-Functional Team, said Dec. 18 during a virtual news conference. “That allows the industry to continue to innovate.”

This concept opens the doorway into a wide sphere of possibilities regarding pressing technologies such as lightweight armor composites, AI-enabled sensors, guided or course-correcting ammunition, air and ground drone command and control systems, and unprecedented cannon attack and targeting innovations.

Where might innovation most be needed? One immediate thought is for industry, academia, and weapons innovators to explore ways of resolving or reconciling a paradox or contradiction built into future armored vehicle considerations. Can a vehicle be built with the right mix between the seemingly opposite attributes of speed, expeditionary warfare capacity, and maneuverability versus survivability? Perhaps lightweight composite armor materials have progressed to the point wherein Abrams-like levels of heavy armor survivability can be achieved at much lighter weight? Perhaps not? Calculating, examining, and making these kinds of developmental tradeoffs encompasses the delicate blending of scientific promise with creativity and the realm of the possible.

For example, many future armored vehicle developers have for years looked toward active protection systems, high-speeds and maneuverability, and elaborate, long-range sensor systems to detect, track, and eliminate attack threats. Perhaps a vehicle fast enough to maneuver into combat advantageous positions might have less of a need for heavy armor?

Perhaps a new generation of AI-enabled long-range sensors and targeting systems, coupled with manned- unmanned teaming or an ability to operate drones, might succeed in keeping armored vehicle crews alive amid heavily mechanized warfare? Maybe an armored vehicle can reach the necessary level of combat functionality by operating at a safe standoff distance while controlling a small fleet of attack and reconnaissance drones? However, given the longer and longer ranges at which guided enemy weapons such as missiles or even cannon fire can travel, the prospect of operating at a safe standoff distance is certainly becoming much more complicated, if not challenged.

Therefore, despite some of the mobility and speed restrictions associated with platforms such as the Abrams tank, many maintain that heavy armor is here to stay .. as it can still provide a wide range of unparalleled advantages in warfare.

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28. New in 2021: Army’s Robotic Combat Vehicle goes rolling along
(Army Times, Jan. 5, Todd South)

Ongoing tests of the Army’s Robotic Combat Vehicle this year will expand the vision of what the service wants to do with its vehicle and even dismounted formations.

This past fall, the Army announced that it will pursue light, medium and heavy versions of the RCV. The light version’s fielding could be as early as 2023 with the medium and heavy versions to follow one year after the other.

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Early experiments in 2018 and 2019 focused on soldiers controlling the vehicle from a near but remote location for maneuvers and even complex operations such as breaching. Those evolved from single-vehicle “robot wingman” style tests to platoon-sized efforts and are expected to see company-sized attempts soon.

In November, soldiers with A Company, 1st Battalion of the 28th Infantry took four light versions of the RCV along on dismounted, rifle platoon exercises at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Those included movement to contact, attacks and defense. They did side-by-side comparisons, running the drills without robots in standard formations and again with the robots.

They also had a few more tools to use alongside the RCVs — including a tethered drone, counter-drone jammer, smoke obscuration module and a Common Remotely Operated Weapon System with both an M240 machine gun and Javelin missile.

The RCV got a taste of amphibious operations, too, when it “swam” across Victory Pond at Fort Benning to test its abilities in water crossings.

Soldier feedback on maneuverability and capability were positive, but it did have trouble keeping up with dismounted soldiers in dense vegetation, according to the Army.

These vehicles are seen as more than just gear mules and potential extended fires for the platoon-size force.

Brig. Gen. Ross Coffman, who directs the Army’s Next Generation Combat Vehicle Cross Functional Team, also said that exercises such as the November rifle company maneuvers will help inform Army formations and employment.

That’s because the service is looking at how to best restructure their basic fighting unit – the Brigade Combat Team – as they gear up for division-level and Corps-level combat.

Paradoxically, that might mean a lighter but more mobile and faster infantry footprint.

The Army shifted some of its infantry BCTs to Stryker BCTs starting in 2018 and continued that move by bulking up its formations, transforming some Stryker teams to Armor brigades.

What that means is that IBCTs, or their eventual replacement, will have to keep up with more mechanized and mobile options with more vehicles and likely more robots in the ranks.

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SOCIAL MEDIA OBSERVANCES:

- 11 JAN: Human Trafficking Awareness Day
- 16 JAN: Desert Storm Air War Begins (1991)
- 18 JAN: Martin Luther King Day
- 20 JAN: Inauguration Day
- 26 JAN: National Spouses Day
- 28 JAN: Data Privacy Day

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- 30 JAN: Tet Offensive (1968)

JANUARY DIGITAL MEDIA STRATEGY:

B5

Message

From: Martin, Joseph M GEN USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA) [/O=EASF/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP
[REDACTED] B6]/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=[REDACTED] B6
Sent: 1/5/2021 10:32:33 PM
To: [REDACTED] B6] LTC USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA) [REDACTED] B6
Subject: RE: INFO SPOTREP: MG Jones brief to NCR Delegation
Attachments: smime.p7m

Thanks [REDACTED] B6

Army Strong!

VR,
Vice

Joseph M. Martin
GEN, USA
37th Vice Chief of Staff

From: [REDACTED] B6] LTC USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA) <[REDACTED] B6 >
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 5:13 PM
To: Martin, Joseph M GEN USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA) [REDACTED] B6] >
Cc: [REDACTED] B6] COL USARMY HQDA VCSA (USA) [REDACTED] B6
Subject: INFO SPOTREP: MG Jones brief to NCR Delegation

Good evening Sir,
FYSA, below is the SPOTREP from today's engagements between MG Jones (MDW CDR) and members of the DC delegation - REP Beyer (D-VA) and REP Norton (D-DC) to discuss the Presidential Inauguration.

BLUF: The engagements were positive, **REP Beyer and REP Norton appreciated being briefed two weeks before the inauguration so their offices can appropriately respond to constituents to help reduce potential RFIs and inquires.** Both members asked questions about the DCNG support to civil authorities, MG Jones was able to educate them on the logistical support MDW will provide (GSA vehicles) and ensure both members understood Title 10 forces will not be used. **During the conversation REP Beyer stated he is going to support the waiver for GEN(Ret.) Austin to be SECDEF.**

Additional Information:

-Engagements were scheduled to ensure NCR delegation received information on Inauguration plan and potential impacts to their district so they can educate constituents if they receive complaints. **The NCR delegation expressed frustration following the Salute To America celebrations in 2019 and 2020 because they were not given prior notification of impacts to their district.**

-REP Beyer said his former Chief of Staff, Tonya Bradsher, is going to join President Elect Biden's NSC.

-REP Beyer and his staff asked MG Jones if any military equipment will be staged in their district and if there will be an increase in helicopter flights supporting the inauguration.

MG Jones explained only ceremonial military equipment supporting the Old Guard, Army Band, etc. will be in the district. He also informed REP Beyer's staff the number of military flights will not increase. REP Beyer's staff was appreciative to hear this and said it will be helpful if they receive constituent complaints.

-REP Beyer's MLA asked for details on the lead federal agency during the Inauguration.

MG Jones gave an overview of the responsibilities of Secret Service, FBI, Capitol Police, DC National Guard, and the MDW. He re-emphasized the MDW does not have any security responsibilities.

-During his briefing MG Jones gave an overview of the traditional events that are being canceled or reduced due to COVID. This includes the military parade that is still planned with ~300 participants (less than typical ~2,000).

Keep Positive, Stay Healthy!

Army Strong!

V/r,

[Redacted] B6

LTC, GS

[Redacted] B6

(O) [Redacted] B6

(M) [Redacted] B6

[Redacted] B6

Personal Cell [Redacted] B6

Pentagon [Redacted] B6

NIPR: [Redacted] B6

[Redacted] B6

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