

Up to 15,000 National Guard Members Could Be Deployed in DC During Inauguration

With the rising tensions leading up to the Jan. 20 inauguration, a new report reveals that up to 15,000 National Guard members could be deployed in Washington, D.C., for the event, according to senior defense officials.

The deployment is said to be a part of a rapidly expanding response following a deadly insurrection at the Capitol last week. According to *The Washington Post*, Army Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, who is the chief of the National Guard Bureau, stated in a call with reporters that about 6,000 guardsmen from six states have already arrived in the nation's capital but will expand to about 10,000 by the weekend.

The chief also said the National Guard will be armed with weapons and working with the FBI, police and other agencies following reports of the FBI warning that armed protests are being planned across our nation's capitals, beginning this week and running through Inauguration Day.

"Obviously, we're very concerned that we want our individuals to have the right to self-defense," the general said. "And so, that will be an ongoing conversation, and if the senior leadership determines that that's the right posture to be in, then that is something that we will do."

Meanwhile, two Capitol Police officers have been suspended and another has been arrested for their alleged involvement in the riot on Jan. 6, according to Rep. Tim Ryan, R-Ohio, who is chair of the House Appropriations subcommittee handling the investigation into the police response to the Capitol attack last week.

“I know that there were two people that were suspended,” Ryan said during a press call. “One was the selfie officer, and another was an officer that put a MAGA hat on that started directing some people around,” the lawmaker said. {eoa}

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