

Previously concealed by the Biden-Harris Administration's Department of Defense, the Subcommittee has uncovered statements by key personnel involved in the deployment of the D.C. National Guard to the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. **These new transcripts indicate that senior Pentagon officials unnecessarily delayed the DC National Guard response to the Capitol on January 6 due to "optics" concerns.**

The DoD IG claims that the actions at the Pentagon were "reasonable in light of the circumstances" at the Capitol on January 6, 2021. The IG also determined that "DoD officials did not delay or obstruct the DoD's response to the [U.S. Capitol Police's] [Request for Assistance] on January 6, 2021."

THE TRANSCRIPTS REVEAL OTHERWISE.

QUOTES

GENERAL MARK MILLEY, CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF:

- "[January 3, 2021] The President just says, 'Hey, look at this. There's going to be a large amount of protesters here on the 6th, make sure that you have sufficient National Guard or Soldiers to make sure it's a safe event.'" *
- "[POTUS said] 'Hey, I don't care if you use Guard, or Soldiers, active duty Soldiers, do whatever you have to do. Just make sure it's safe.'" *

CHRISTOPHER MILLER, ACTING SECRETARY OF DEFENSE:

- "The President commented that they were going to need 10,000 troops the following day... I interpreted it as a bit of presidential banter or President Trump banter that you all are familiar with, and in no way, shape, or form did I interpret that as an order or direction." *
- "[On January 6, 2021] everyone was like, 'Did you listen to the President's speech?' I'm like 'The guy speaks for 90 minutes it's like Castro or something.' No, I've got work to do." *
- "I was cognizant of the fears that the President would invoke the Insurrection Act to politicize the military in an anti-democratic manner. And, just before the Electoral College certification, 10 former Secretaries of Defense signed an op-ed piece published in The Washington Post warning of the dangers of politicizing and using inappropriately the military. No such thing was going to occur on my watch." *
- "There was absolutely -- there is absolutely no way I was putting U.S. military forces at the Capitol, period." *
- "The operational plan was this, let's take the D.C. National Guard, keep them away from the Capitol." *

CHIEF STEVEN SUND, U.S. CAPITOL POLICE:

- "I'm making an urgent request for the National Guard. We are being overrun. I gave a quick rundown of what we had going on and that officers out there are fighting for their lives. We were about to be taken over. **The representative from the Secretary of the Army said, 'I don't like the optics of National Guard standing in a line with the Capitol in the background.'**" *
- "I explained to them that the building is being breached. I need their assistance immediately. He [General Piatt] said, 'My recommendation to the Secretary of the Army is to not support the request.'" *

COMMANDING GENERAL WILLIAM WALKER, D.C. NATIONAL GUARD:

- “My thoughts are that there has to be something else at play here. Why is there such a concern about proximity to the Capitol? We hadn’t had that before.” *
- “[General Piatt said] at 2:42pm “It would not be his best military advice to send the National Guard to the U.S. Capitol at this time....Military presence could make the situation worse and the optics were bad.” *

COLONEL EARL MATTHEWS, D.C. NATIONAL GUARD:

- “The D.C. Guard could’ve gone in right away. But the Secretary of the Army did not give us the approval.”*
- “There was concern about being anywhere near the Capitol because of perception that the military would be involved, that there would be militarization of the electoral process.”*
- “We were seeing the Congress of the United States being overrun, and the Guard – and the Capitol Police, the MPD need help. We had people at the D.C. Armory who are able to help, and they’re not moving. And they’re not allowed to move. They’re not allowed to go down there.” *
- “It’d be like, if there’s a five-alarm fire and you’re telling a volunteer fire company, “Don’t go respond to the fire. Go to trees and pull cats or dogs out of trees to free up firemen to respond to the real fire.” I mean, it’s ridiculous.” *

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR MICHAEL BROOKS, D.C. NATIONAL GUARD:

- “They were ready to go, and they just couldn’t understand why they were still sitting there. Literally sitting on a bus, just waiting to drive to the Capitol and do the best they could do to support Capitol Police.” *
- “People were like, “Why weren’t you there?” We were. We were waiting.” *
- “We repeatedly told them, “We know what we’re doing. We just need you to give us the authorization” *

BRIGADIER GENERAL AARON DEAN, ADJUTANT GENERAL, D.C. NATIONAL GUARD:

- “I thought to myself, “Okay. I’m not sure why we’re concerned about optics when it comes to, you know, saving lives and preventing damage and loss of property, but okay.” *
- “The lull time between that 2:30pm call and 5 o’clock, just nothing. It was like, that’s a little odd -- very odd. It put us in a bad situation, because we wanted to respond but we couldn’t. So we were just left there waiting on word.” *

GENERAL WALTER PIATT, DIRECTOR OF ARMY STAFF:

- “What we were afraid of is that military assets would be employed without military command, and that weighed in heavily when forces were requested in support of January 6.” *

CHRISTOPHER RODRIGUEZ, D.C. HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

- “So it kind of shocked me, because we had a situation where the Metropolitan Police Department had been on the scene at the Capitol for over an hour at that point, and we couldn’t get any additional support from DoD.” *

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