

**MEDIA UPDATE:** Jan. 19

*If links are broken in the body of the email, please see the attached pdf for links.*

—HEADLINES— *Scroll down for full stories and links.*

***Coverage for Alaska National Guard mobilization for Presidential Inauguration support***

**1. Alaska National Guardsmen deploy to D.C. for inauguration \*Front page coverage\***

*Anchorage Daily News by Morgan Krakow/Jan. 18*



Airmen and Soldiers from the Alaska National Guard prepare to depart from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson on Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021, to assist with Wednesday's inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden in Washington, D.C. Approximately 80 Alaska Guardsmen volunteered and most of them will be transported by a KC-135 Stratotanker from the Alaska Air National Guard's 168th Wing at Eielson Air Force Base on a direct seven-hour flight to Joint Base Andrews in Maryland. The flight was delayed until Monday. (Bill Roth / ADN)



Guardsmen are seated on a KC-135 Stratotanker from the Alaska Air National Guard's 168th Wing as they prepare to depart from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson on Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021, to assist with Wednesday's inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden in Washington, D.C. The flight was delayed until Monday. (Bill Roth / ADN)

Around 80 Alaska National Guard members volunteered to assist with Wednesday's inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden in Washington, D.C., and were expected to travel to the capital Monday.

The guardsmen were to fly Monday from Alaska to Joint Base Andrews in Maryland southeast of Washington, according to a written statement from Lt. Col. Candis Olmstead.

On Jan. 6, a violent mob overtook the U.S. Capitol building, clashing with and overpowering police in an encounter that sent lawmakers fleeing and resulted in the deaths of five people. This week, as the U.S. House of Representatives voted to impeach President Donald Trump for his role in inciting the riot, hundreds of National Guard troops were inside and outside the Capitol while thousands more continued streaming into the city.

More than 20,000 National Guard troops from all 50 states and three U.S. territories are anticipated in D.C. by inauguration day, The Washington Post reported this week. Major security measures are being implemented across the capital, including a closure of the National Mall to the public for almost a week. The Post reported that by Wednesday, it's likely there will be more National Guard troops in Washington than spectators for the event.

"This is about ensuring the safety and security of all Americans attending next week's presidential inauguration," Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy said in a prepared statement. "A contingent of Alaska's National Guard volunteered to join their fellow Guardsmen from around the country, in the nation's capital, to help ensure a peaceful transition."

Olmstead wrote that troops nationwide will help the District of Columbia National Guard with crowd management, traffic control, communications, logistics, medical support and public affairs.

*Editor's note: This story was changed to reflect the fact that the departure was delayed til Monday, Jan. 18.*

**Link:** <https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/military/2021/01/16/members-of-the-alaska-national-guard-headed-to-washington-ahead-of-inauguration/>

## **2. Alaska National Guard to provide assistance for presidential inauguration**

*Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs by Lt. Col. Candis Olmstead/Jan. 17*

Airmen and Soldiers of the Alaska National Guard are scheduled to depart here on Jan. 17, headed to the National Capital Region to assist the District of Columbia National Guard and federal civilian authorities with the 59th Presidential Inauguration.

Approximately 80 Alaska Guard members volunteered, and most of them will be transported by a KC-135 Stratotanker from the Alaska Air National Guard's 168th Wing, Eielson Air Force Base on a direct seven-hour flight to Joint Base Andrews, Maryland.

National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from across the states and territories will augment the District of Columbia National Guard to provide crowd management; traffic control in and around the Capitol, National Mall and White House; as well as communications, logistical, medical, and public affairs support.

Enduring partnerships with local, state and federal agencies, built on trust and performance, directly contribute to the National Guard's success in homeland response.

"This is about ensuring the safety and security of all Americans attending next week's presidential inauguration," said Governor Mike Dunleavy. "A contingent of Alaska's National Guard volunteered to join their fellow Guardsmen from around the country, in the nation's capital, to help ensure a peaceful transition."

Activating volunteers and scheduling aircraft to deploy to the East Coast from Alaska requires extensive logistical planning and coordination, and this request to support was expedited in only two days.

"Our Soldiers and Airmen are ready to come to the state's or nation's call," said Maj. Gen. Torrence Saxe, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, and commissioner for the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. "Always ready, always there is ingrained in us; we are ready to serve in times of need."

The National Guard is home to a wide variety of capabilities that can seamlessly integrate with interagency partners to enhance inauguration support capabilities.

Military involvement in the Presidential Inauguration dates back 232 years to when members of the U.S. Army, local militias (the modern-day National Guard), and Revolutionary War veterans escorted George Washington to New York City -- the seat of government for his inauguration ceremony. The National Guard and other military units have continued this tradition of inaugural support ever since.

Volunteer Guard members will be part of an event that supports the peaceful transition of power and ensure the safety and well-being of their fellow Americans.

**Link:**

<https://www.army.mil/article/242478/alaska-national-guard-to-provide-assistance-for-presidential-inauguration>

### **3. Volunteers With Eielson's 168th Wing, Other Alaska Guard Units Helping With Inauguration**

*KUAC - Fairbanks by Tim Ellis/Jan. 18*

An air tanker and crew based at Eielson Air Force Base flew out Sunday with 47 members of the Alaska National Guard who've volunteered to support Wednesday's presidential inauguration in Washington, D.C.

An Alaska Guard news release says the Eielson-based 168th Wing refueling tanker flew directly from Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson to Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, just outside of D.C.

"When we initially put out the request to soldiers and airmen if they want to do this, we had a very big response from our membership," said the Alaska Guard's Major Brian Fuchs. "They absolutely want -- especially my security forces and my military police -- they want to get out there and they want to do their job."

The Guard members aboard the tanker were security personnel with the 168th Wing. They joined their counterparts with the 176th Wing, based at JBER, and members of the Alaska Guard's 297th Regional Support Group.

Fuchs said they're helping manage security and logistics and other tasks at the inauguration, such as "supporting law enforcement, and checkpoints, and helping move people through the National Mall and the parade route."

Fuchs told a Guard public affairs officer at JBER that the 80 Guard members who volunteered for the mission came from all around Alaska including "soldiers and airmen from Fairbanks, from the Mat-Su Valley, from Fort Greely area -- just, all over."

Alaska's volunteers will join some 25,000 other Guard members from other states for the 58th presidential inauguration, which is scheduled to begin at noon Wednesday.

**Link:** <https://fm.kuac.org/post/volunteers-eielson-s-168th-wing-other-alaska-guard-units-helping-inauguration>  
**KTOO Link:** <https://www.ktoo.org/2021/01/18/alaska-national-guard-members-head-to-washington-d-c-to-help-with-security-for-biden-inauguration/>

### **4. DC National Guard Commander On Security Ahead of Inauguration**

*KURV710 News Talk by JSALINAS/Jan. 18*

The D.C. National Guard commanding general says they're taking "no chances" preparing for Joe Biden's inauguration Wednesday.

Major General William Walker says there's about 21-thousand Guardsmen on the ground in DC as of this morning, roughly three times more than the average for a presidential inauguration.

Walker says today's fire near the Capitol is just an example of how serious they're taking security efforts, with the Capitol placed on lockdown for some time while authorities figured out what was going on.

**Link:** <https://www.kurv.com/dc-national-guard-commander-on-security-ahead-of-inauguration/>

## **5. FBI vetting Guard troops in DC amid fears of insider attack**

*Associated Press by Lolita C. Baldor/Jan. 17*

U.S. defense officials say they are worried about an insider attack or other threat from service members involved in securing President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration, prompting the FBI to vet all of the 25,000 National Guard troops coming into Washington for the event.

The massive undertaking reflects the extraordinary security concerns that have gripped Washington following the deadly Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol by pro-Trump rioters. And it underscores fears that some of the very people assigned to protect the city over the next several days could present a threat to the incoming president and other VIPs in attendance.

Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy told The Associated Press on Sunday that officials are conscious of the potential threat, and he warned commanders to be on the lookout for any problems within their ranks as the inauguration approaches. So far, however, he and other leaders say they have seen no evidence of any threats, and officials said the vetting hadn't flagged any issues that they were aware of.

"We're continually going through the process, and taking second, third looks at every one of the individuals assigned to this operation," McCarthy said in an interview after he and other military leaders went through an exhaustive, three-hour security drill in preparation for Wednesday's inauguration. He said Guard members are also getting training on how to identify potential insider threats.

About 25,000 members of the National Guard are streaming into Washington from across the country — at least two and a half times the number for previous inaugurations. And while the military routinely reviews service members for extremist connections, the FBI screening is in addition to any previous monitoring.

Multiple officials said the process began as the first Guard troops began deploying to D.C. more than a week ago. And they said it is slated to be complete by Wednesday. Several officials discussed military planning on condition of anonymity.

"The question is, is that all of them? Are there others?" said McCarthy. "We need to be conscious of it and we need to put all of the mechanisms in place to thoroughly vet these men and women who would support any operations like this."

In a situation like this one, FBI vetting would involve running peoples' names through databases and watchlists maintained by the bureau to see if anything alarming comes up. That could include involvement in prior investigations or terrorism-related concerns, said David Gomez, a former FBI national security supervisor in Seattle.

Insider threats have been a persistent law enforcement priority in the years after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. But in most cases, the threats are from homegrown insurgents radicalized by al-Qaida, the Islamic State group or similar groups. In contrast, the threats against Biden's inauguration have been fueled by supporters of President Donald Trump, far-right militants, white supremacists and other radical groups. Many believe Trump's baseless accusations that the election was stolen from him, a claim that has been refuted by many courts, the Justice Department and Republican officials in key battleground states.

The insurrection at the Capitol began after Trump made incendiary remarks at the Jan. 6 rally. According to McCarthy, service members from across the military were at that rally, but it's not clear how many were there or who may have participated in the breach at the Capitol. So far only a couple of current active-duty or National Guard members have been arrested in connection with the Capitol assault, which left five people dead. The dead included a Capitol Police officer and a woman shot by police as she climbed through a window in a door near the House chamber.

Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, chief of the National Guard Bureau, has been meeting with Guard troops as they arrive in D.C. and as they gather downtown. He said he believes there are good processes in place to identify any potential threats.

"If there's any indication that any of our soldiers or airmen are expressing things that are extremist views, it's either handed over to law enforcement or dealt with the chain of command immediately," he said.

The insider threat, however, was just one of the security concerns voiced by officials on Sunday, as dozens of military, National Guard, law enforcement and Washington, D.C., officials and commanders went through a security rehearsal in northern Virginia. As many as three dozen leaders lined tables that ringed a massive colour-coded map of D.C. reflected onto the floor. Behind them were dozens more National Guard officers and staff, with their eyes trained on additional maps and charts displayed on the wall.

The Secret Service is in charge of event security, but there is a wide variety of military and law enforcement personnel involved, ranging from the National Guard and the FBI to Washington's Metropolitan Police Department, U.S. Capitol Police and U.S. Park Police.

Commanders went over every aspect of the city's complicated security lockdown, with McCarthy and others peppering them with questions about how the troops will respond in any scenario and how well they can communicate with the other enforcement agencies scattered around the city.

Hokanson said he believes his troops have been adequately equipped and prepared, and that they are rehearsing as much as they can to be prepared for any contingency.

The major security concern is an attack by armed groups of individuals, as well as planted explosives and other devices. McCarthy said intelligence reports suggest that groups are organizing armed rallies leading up to Inauguration Day, and possibly after that.

The bulk of the Guard members will be armed. And McCarthy said units are going through repeated drills to practice when and how to use force and how to work quickly with law enforcement partners. Law enforcement officers would make any arrests.

He said Guard units are going through "constant mental repetitions of looking at the map and talking through scenarios with leaders so they understand their task and purpose, they know their routes, they know where they're friendly, adjacent units are, they have the appropriate frequencies to communicate with their law enforcement partners."

The key goal, he said, is for America's transfer of power to happen without incident.

"This is a national priority. We have to be successful as an institution," said McCarthy. "We want to send the message to everyone in the United States and for the rest of the world that we can do this safely and peacefully."

**Link:** <https://apnews.com/article/biden-inauguration-joe-biden-capitol-siege-ap-top-news-857bacc273e16ff82dc9fefed1242ae8>

**To include:**

*Alaska Highway News:* <https://www.alaskahighwaynews.ca/fbi-vetting-guard-troops-in-dc-amid-fears-of-insider-attack-1.24268720>

*The Mercury News:* <https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/01/17/fbi-vetting-guard-troops-in-dc-amid-fears-of-insider-attack/>

*CP24:* <https://www.cp24.com/world/fbi-vetting-all-25-000-national-guard-troops-guarding-biden-inauguration-fearing-insider-attack-1.5270924>

*The Black Wall Street Times:* <https://theblackwallstimes.com/2021/01/17/fbi-vetting-federal-guard-troops-inside-d-c-amid-fears-of-insider-attack/>

*The New Orleans Advocate:* [https://www.nola.com/news/politics/national\\_politics/article\\_cff9b61a-5997-11eb-8db3-23a80f1a975c.html](https://www.nola.com/news/politics/national_politics/article_cff9b61a-5997-11eb-8db3-23a80f1a975c.html)

*NJ.com:* <https://www.nj.com/politics/2021/01/fbi-vetting-national-guard-troops-coming-into-washington-dc-amid-fears-of-insider-attack.html>

## **6. Guard troops pour into Washington as states answer the call**

*Associated Press by Lolita C. Baldor/Jan. 16*

By the busload and planeload, National Guard troops were pouring into the nation's capital on Saturday, as governors answered the urgent pleas of U.S. defense officials for more troops to help safeguard Washington even as they keep anxious eyes on possible violent protests in their own states.

Military leaders spent chunks of Thursday evening and Friday calling states in an unprecedented appeal for more National Guard troops to help lock down much of the city in the days before President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration. In dribs and drabs, governors responded, some agreeing to send an extra dozen, 100 or even 1,000, while others said no.

The calls reflect fears that violent extremist groups are targeting the city in the wake of the deadly insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6. The threats range from armed insurgents to possible attempts to plant explosive devices at so-called soft targets. But as Washington begins to resemble an armed camp, with more than 25,000 Guard due in the city by early next week, concerns about violence at state capitals has grown.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown said she turned down the federal request to send at least 100 more National Guard troops to D.C. "I didn't think that we could safely fill that commitment," Brown said. Oregon has already agreed to send 30 to Washington, but state leaders are worried about violence at the state capitol in Salem.

Others agreed, setting off a dizzying torrent of military flights and convoys into the region.

“The peaceful transfer of power is a central tenet of American democracy, and Connecticut stands ready to aid in the protection of our country.” said Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont, who had initially approved sending 100 Guard and on Friday agreed to send 200 more.

All told, more than 130 U.S. Air Guard flights in the past 72 hours have carried at least 7,000 Guard troops to Joint Base Andrews in Maryland, according to U.S. officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal numbers. Thousands more are in buses and military trucks, thundering up highways toward Washington.

Army Gen. Dan Hokanson, chief of the National Guard Bureau, called adjutants general around the country, and others, such as Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy, called governors to seek help. McCarthy praised the states, saying defense and military officials are keenly aware of the threats they also are facing.

“The governors and the TAGs have been great. They helped us a lot,” McCarthy told The Associated Press. “That’s the thing — that in the midst of a really horrible situation you’re seeing the greatness of this country, everybody coming together and help each other get through this.”

What began in early January as a routine deployment of about 350 members of the D.C. National Guard to help with expected protests exploded over the past two weeks into a vastly greater operation to protect the inauguration and the U.S. Capitol, and to shut down access to the city and many of its historical monuments.

As protesters stampeded their way into the Capitol on Jan. 6, only a bit more than 100 National Guard were scattered around the city, guarding checkpoints and Metro entrances. Hours later, five people were dead, the Capitol was in shambles and all 1,100 of D.C.’s Guard had been activated.

By the next day, as information came in about more violence being planned, requests went out for 6,200 Guard members from the surrounding states.

By Thursday night, as law enforcement and defense officials poured over maps and staged security drills, they concluded they would need at least 25,000 to adequately lock down the Capitol grounds and a wide swath of D.C., including the National Mall. And they agreed that the bulk of those Guard will be armed.

At that point, the new round of calls to the state governors and military leaders began.

Many governors were willing to help, but they made it clear that their own state capitals were their priority. Some agreed to send more, while others couldn’t. And the numbers varied widely.

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf doubled his initial commitment of 1,000 to 2,000. Other states were able to scrape up an additional dozen.

After reviewing the threats to its own state, Minnesota decided it could significantly increase its contribution and will send 850 Guard rather than the 130 initially tapped to go, according to the state’s adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Shawn Manke.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine had already agreed to send 700. On Friday, he announced he’d be sending 300 more — even as he ordered nearly 600 to secure the Ohio statehouse in Columbus. Similarly, North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper initially agreed to send 200 Guard, and on Friday spokesman Ford Porter said the state will send 100 more. Iowa first said it was sending 250 and now the number is 265.



The vast military response comes as Congress and law enforcement authorities are trying to figure out how the U.S. Capitol was overrun so dramatically on Jan. 6. Leaders of four committees in the Democratic-controlled House sent a letter Saturday requesting briefings and documents from the FBI and other federal agencies as part of their review of the insurrection.

The appeals for more of America's citizen soldiers also underscore the Pentagon's limits on the use of active-duty troops. Under the law, they can't be used for law enforcement, and officials are intent on avoiding the appearance of armed active-duty forces being used against U.S. citizens on American soil.

Active-duty forces are routinely prepared to respond to emergencies in Washington, such as flight violations in restricted airspace over D.C., and a quick reaction force is always on standby. Other active-duty units will take part in various inaugural ceremonies.

**Link:** <https://apnews.com/article/biden-inauguration-joe-biden-capitol-siege-politics-14dba91c54cd13af0aa0f3336efc1d33>

**To include:**

*First post:* <https://www.firstpost.com/world/us-national-guard-troops-pour-into-washington-days-before-joe-bidens-inauguration-9209511.html>

*Euronews:* <https://www.euronews.com/2021/01/16/biden-inauguration-national-guard-troops-pour-into-washington-amid-concerns-over-violent-p>

*Military Times:* <https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2021/01/17/thousands-of-national-guard-troops-pour-into-washington-as-states-answer-the-call/>

The Berkshire Eagle: [https://www.berkshireeagle.com/ap/national/ap-news-in-brief-at-11-04-p-m-est/article\\_7123590b-8c0e-5d55-923b-9a073602eb7a.html](https://www.berkshireeagle.com/ap/national/ap-news-in-brief-at-11-04-p-m-est/article_7123590b-8c0e-5d55-923b-9a073602eb7a.html)

The Star Tribune: <https://www.startribune.com/the-latest-springsteen-miranda-set-for-inaugural-gala/600011800/>

## **7. Two Army National Guard members removed from inauguration duty**

*CNN by Barbara Starr, Oren Liebermann, and Zachery Cohen/Jan. 19*

Two Army National Guard members were removed from inauguration duty as part of the security vetting process to ensure troops do not have ties to extremist groups, a defense official confirmed to CNN.

It is not clear at this time if the two are connected or what incident triggered their removal but the news comes as there are now approximately 25,000 National Guard troops on the ground in Washington, DC, according to spokesman Major Aaron Thacker.

The nation's capital is on edge ahead of President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration. While much of Washington has been shut down following the deadly riot at the US Capitol on January 6, defense officials have sought to reassure the public that the troops sent to protect the inauguration are being fully vetted.

When asked to comment on the decision, the National Guard responded: "Due to operational security, we do not discuss the process nor the outcome of the vetting process for military members supporting the inauguration," and referred future questions to the Secret Service.



The Associated Press was the first to report the guards had been removed.

Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher Miller said Monday that there is "no intelligence indicating an insider threat" to the inauguration.

**Link:** <https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/19/politics/national-guard-removed-inauguration-duty/index.html>

## **8. 12 National Guard members removed from inauguration security after FBI vetting**

*Associated Press by James Laporta, Lolita Baldor, Michael Balsamo/Jan. 18*

Twelve U.S. National Guard members have been removed from securing President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration after vetting by the FBI, including two who made extremist statements in posts or texts about the Wednesday event, Pentagon officials said. There were no specific threats to Biden.

Two U.S. officials told The AP that all 12 were found to have ties with right-wing militia groups or posted extremist views online. The officials, a senior intelligence official and an Army official briefed on the matter, did not say which fringe groups the Guard members belonged to or what unit they served in. The officials were not authorized to speak publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. The officials told the AP they had all been removed because of "security liabilities."

Gen. Daniel Hokanson, chief of the National Guard confirmed that Guard members had been removed and sent home but he said only two were for inappropriate comments or texts related to the inauguration. The other 10 were for other potential issues that may involve previous criminal activity or activities, but not directly related to the inaugural event.

Their removal from the massive security presence at the nation's capital comes as U.S. defense officials have been worried about a potential insider attack or other threat from service members following the deadly riot at the U.S. Capitol Jan. 6 by Trump supporters. The FBI has been working to vet all 25,000 National Guard in town. Officials have said that the Pentagon has found no intelligence so far that would indicate an insider threat.

But the FBI has also warned law enforcement officials about the possibility that right-wing fringe groups could pose as members of the National Guard, according to two law enforcement officials familiar with the matter.

Neither Hokanson, nor Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman would provide details on the comments or texts made by the two Guard members. Hokanson said one was identified by his chain of command and the other was identified through an anonymous tip.

"Much of the information," Hoffman said, "is unrelated to the events taking place at the Capitol or to the concerns that many people have noted on extremism. These are vetting efforts that identify any questionable behavior in the past or any potential link to questionable behavior, not just related to extremism."

Hoffman added that officials aren't asking questions right now of those who were flagged. "We're, out of an abundance of caution, taking action and immediately removing them from the line of duty at the Capitol and the events taking place."

"And then we will address them, whether it's through law enforcement if necessary or through their own chain of command."

Washington has been on edge since the deadly insurrection at the Capitol, which has prompted extraordinary security measures ahead of Biden's inauguration. A fire in a homeless camp roughly a mile from the Capitol complex prompted a lockdown Monday during a rehearsal for the inauguration.

U.S. Secret Service tightened security in and around the Capitol days earlier than usual in preparation, and the city center is essentially on lockdown with streets blocked, high fencing installed and tens of thousands of troops and law enforcement officers stationed around the area.

Federal law enforcement officials have also been wary of increased surveillance of military and law enforcement checkpoints and other positions after National Guard troops reported people taking pictures and recording them, said the law enforcement officials, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity to discuss ongoing security matters.

The Secret Service issued a bulletin over the weekend about what it sees as an "uptick" in National Guard troops posting pictures and details of their operations online.

The Associated Press obtained the "all concerned" message sent to all National Guard troops coming to Washington. Without getting into specific postings, the bulletin read: "No service members should be posting locations, pictures or descriptions online regarding current operations or the sensitive sites they are protecting" and urged them to stop immediately.

Asked about the bulletin, a spokesperson for the Secret Service issued a statement saying it "does not comment on matters of protective intelligence."

Contacted by the AP Tuesday morning, the National Guard Bureau referred questions to the U.S. Secret Service and said: "Due to operational security, we do not discuss the process nor the outcome of the vetting process for military members supporting the inauguration."

Over the summer, a man was arrested in Los Angeles for impersonating a National Guard member during protests in the city near Los Angeles City Hall. The man, Gregory Wong, was carrying a sidearm and assault rifle but was taken into custody after actual Guardsmen confronted him when they noticed things out of place on his uniform.

**Link:** <https://www.adn.com/nation-world/2021/01/19/12-national-guard-members-removed-from-inauguration-security-after-fbi-vetting/>

## **9. Alaska National Guard Soldiers to help with inauguration**

*Alaska's News Source by Makayla Clark and Marlise Irby /Jan. 17*

Due to continued weather delays, Alaska National Guard soldiers and airmen will not be flying out of Alaska until Tuesday, according to Lt. Col. Candis Olmstead with the Alaska National Guard.

The crew will then fly to Joint Base Andrews in Maryland before heading to assist the District of Columbia National Guard and federal civilian authorities with the 59th Presidential Inauguration.

The flight was originally scheduled for Sunday but was then delayed until Monday. Continued poor weather conditions forced officials to postpone the trip one more day, according to Olmstead.

More than 25,000 National Guard soldiers are expected to be in Washington D.C. to help with the inauguration, and about 80 Alaska National Guardsmen will be a part of them.

According to a release from the Alaska National Guard, the soldiers will help with things like crowd management, traffic control, and medical support, among other duties.

In the release, Gov. Mike Dunleavy released a statement saying in part, “This is about ensuring the safety and security of all Americans attending next week’s presidential inauguration.”

Nathan Pooler, a troop commander with the Alaska National guard said, “As Alaskans, but as national guardsmen, we all fell proud to support the inauguration and there are volunteers from all 54 states and territories, and so that’s really why it’s important that we’re all supporting the civilians on the ground.”

**Story and Video Link:** <https://www.alaskasnewssource.com/video/2021/01/18/alaska-national-guard-soldiers-help-with-inauguration/>

### | Alaska News of Interest |

1. State office buildings in Anchorage and Juneau closed out of ‘abundance of caution’
2. Why the Biden administration must adopt an integrated investment strategy in Bering Strait region

*2,9400 News Stories*

*2,468 broadcast stories*

*2,316 social media mentions*

### | Nation/National Guard News of Interest |

1. 25,000 National Guard troops actively supporting D.C.
2. Two Army National Guard members removed from inauguration duty

*33,700 news stories*

*54,400 broadcast stories*

*81,200 social media mentions*

### —ALASKA NEWS OF INTEREST—

#### **1. In Juneau, state and local officials are on edge but hopeful there won’t be local violence**

*Alaska Public Media by Rashah McChesney/Jan. 13*

State lawmakers in Juneau and local law enforcement are preparing for the possibility of violence after the FBI warned of potential armed protests in each state capital on Sunday.

While it’s not clear if a protest will take place in Alaska — or even where it might be — the threat of violence has already had an impact. Republican Senator Gary Stevens said he doesn’t want to go into details, but the legislature has plans to protect the state capitol and the people in it.

“We’re very concerned about it,” Stevens said. “You’d be foolish not to have paid attention to what went on in Washington, D.C. and the various plans we’ve heard around the country, so I’m certain we’ll see something in Juneau as well.”

Alaska's Capitol building is closed to the public because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but Stevens says there will be plenty of people in it on Sunday. Lawmakers and staff have been coming into town for days to prepare for the upcoming legislative session, which is scheduled to begin on Tuesday.

After the deadly violence in Washington, D.C., when rioters broke into the nation's Capitol building, Stevens says they had to beef up security.

"We're not going to barricade the building, we're not going to have National Guard in front of the building, nothing like that. But we have access to other police and protection people if things become dangerous," Stevens said.

Stevens said it never really crossed his mind that Alaska lawmakers would have to be concerned about rioters breaking into the building.

But several other states have responded to the threat as well. Earlier this week, Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers activated the National Guard to support police in Madison, and state workers boarded up windows at the state's Capitol building.

State officials in Arizona and Michigan took steps to protect their Capitols as well, according to the Washington Post.

After the violence in Washington, D.C., Rayme Vinson, the security chief for Alaska's Legislative Affairs Agency, emailed staff and legislators saying they would be taking extra precautions, including regular patrols by Juneau police and issuing key cards to the Capitol to Juneau-based Alaska State Troopers.

Stevens said he's hearing from a lot of staff and lawmakers.

"There are going to be 200-300 people coming into this building," Stevens said. "They're concerned about what's going to happen and concerned about putting themselves in jeopardy."

But he doesn't think the violence happening in other parts of the country will happen in Alaska.

"I've been involved in politics for many years, and I don't think it's going to happen here. It could and it would be foolish of us not to be prepared for that," he said. "My guess is there's not going to be any invasion at the Capitol, but should there be — we're going to be prepared for it."

Juneau Police Lt. Krag Campbell said they don't yet have any concrete information about plans for a rally in Juneau, though that could change this week. He said they're coordinating with other state and federal law enforcement agencies to make sure that they're ready in case something happens.

"And if we plan and staff and do all these things and nobody shows up? Great," he said.

Campbell said rumors on social media that protestors are planning to be armed changes the calculation that police have to make when they're deciding how to respond. Campbell said that even though it's legal, it's generally not a good idea to bring a weapon to a protest.

"Leave guns, weapons, any type of weapon at home. Because bringing a weapon to a protest is generally going to increase the stress level of everybody there — as the increased likelihood that something will go bad, and it's just not worth it. Some people will be perfectly peaceful, but not everybody may be," he said.

Like Stevens, Campbell said he doesn't think Juneau residents are likely to get violent. But he urged residents not to jump onto social media platforms and get sucked in by the hate.

"Go on a hike. Do something peaceful. Stay at home. Do something other than what is trying to be planned," he said. "If somebody hears things, feel free to share that with us. It really just helps us be aware, to anticipate what's going on."

Juneau officials aren't the only ones preparing for the possibility of unrest.

The Dimond Center, a shopping mall in Anchorage, will be closed on Sunday. An online flyer listed the center as the location for an armed rally. Alaska's News Source later reported that the location should have been listed as Juneau.

According to that story, the organizers confused the Dimond shopping center with the Dimond Courthouse, which is across the street from the Capitol building in Juneau.

It's not clear if there will be extra security at the courthouse over the weekend. Area Court Administrator James Kwon wrote in an email that the Alaska Court System defers to law enforcement agencies like the state's Department of Public Safety, local and federal law enforcement for security expertise.

He did not return a phone call seeking clarification on what type of security the court system has in place in Juneau.

The courthouse is closed on the weekend and will also be closed on Monday for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

**Link:** <https://www.alaskapublic.org/2021/01/13/in-juneau-state-and-local-officials-are-on-edge-but-hopeful-there-wont-be-local-violence/>

## **—NATION/NATIONAL GUARD NEWS OF INTEREST—**

### **1. Acting defense secretary ordered review of Pentagon's extremism policies**

*Stars and Stripes* by Corey Dickstein/Jan. 14

Acting Defense Secretary Christopher Miller quietly ordered a review last month of the Pentagon's policies on extremist activities among service members, a senior defense official said Thursday, acknowledging the growing concern of troops harboring extreme views.

Officials in the five military services involved in the recruiting and accessions policy and those in the Pentagon's personnel and readiness office are due to draft a report within two months outlining new initiatives meant to stamp out extremists or hate group activity in the ranks, the senior defense official said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to speak about the issue that has gained attention as some current and former service members face scrutiny over their alleged involvement last week in the deadly storming of the U.S. Capitol.

The review was ordered before Jan. 6, the day that a mob of President Donald Trump's supporters marched on the Capitol building after listening to the president speak near the White House. The senior official and other Pentagon officials declined to comment on the participation of current or former troops in the attack, citing the Justice Department's ongoing investigations. No active-duty troops are known to have been charged with crimes related to the incident, however some military veterans have been charged.

Two senior defense officials said Thursday that Pentagon officials were most concerned with extremist activity among troops and veterans aligned with anti-government militia movements and those who hold white supremacist views.

“We know that some groups actively attempt to recruit our personnel into their cause, or actually encourage their members to join the military, for purpose of acquiring skills and experience,” one official said. “We recognize that [military] skills are prized by some of these groups.”

The groups also believe having military veterans within their ranks lends some sense of “legitimacy, in their mind, to their cause.”

“The fact that they can say they have former military personnel that align with their extremist and violent extremist views, clearly is of great concern to us,” this official said.

**Link:** <https://www.stripes.com/news/us/acting-defense-secretary-ordered-review-of-pentagon-s-extremism-policies-1.658565>

## **2. National Guard troops at the US Capitol to secure impeachment**

*Associated Press/Jan. 13*

President Donald Trump is on the verge of being impeached for a second time in a fast-moving House vote, just a week after he encouraged loyalists to “fight like hell” against election results and then a mob of supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol.

“We are debating this historic measure at a crime scene,” said Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass.

Security was exceptionally tight Wednesday, shocking images of National Guard troops massed at the iconic Capitol, with secure perimeters around the complex and metal-detector screenings required for lawmakers entering the House chamber.

While Trump’s first impeachment in 2019 brought no Republican votes in the House, a small but significant number of leaders and lawmakers are breaking with the party to join Democrats, saying Trump violated his oath to protect and defend U.S. democracy.

The stunning collapse of Trump’s final days in office, against alarming warnings of more violence ahead by his followers, leaves the nation at an uneasy and unfamiliar juncture before Democrat Joe Biden is inaugurated Jan. 20.

Trump, who would become the only U.S. president twice impeached, faces a single charge of “incitement of insurrection.”

The four-page impeachment resolution relies on Trump’s own incendiary rhetoric and the falsehoods he spread about Biden’s election victory, including at a White House rally on the day of the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol, in building its case for high crimes and misdemeanors as demanded in the Constitution.

Trump took no responsibility for the riot, suggesting it was the drive to oust him rather than his actions around the bloody riot that was dividing the country.

“To continue on this path, I think it’s causing tremendous danger to our country, and it’s causing tremendous anger,” Trump said Tuesday, his first remarks to reporters since last week’s violence.

A Capitol police officer died from injuries suffered in the riot, and police shot and killed a woman during the siege. Three other people died in what authorities said were medical emergencies. Lawmakers had to scramble for safety and hide as rioters took control of the Capitol, delaying by hours the tally of Electoral College votes that was the last step in finalizing Biden's victory.

The outgoing president offered no condolences for those dead or injured, only saying, "I want no violence."

At least five Republican lawmakers, including third-ranking House GOP leader Liz Cheney of Wyoming, were unswayed by the president's logic. The Republicans announced they would vote to impeach Trump, cleaving the Republican leadership, and the party itself.

"The President of the United States summoned this mob, assembled the mob, and lit the flame of this attack," said Cheney in a statement. "There has never been a greater betrayal by a President of the United States of his office and his oath to the Constitution."

Cheney's father was the vice president under President George W. Bush and a Republican leader in the House. "She knows of what she speaks," said Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, the Democratic majority leader.

Unlike a year ago, Trump faces impeachment as a weakened leader, having lost his own reelection as well as the Senate Republican majority.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky is said to be angry at Trump, and it's unclear how a Senate impeachment trial would play out. The New York Times reported that McConnell thinks Trump committed an impeachable offense and is glad Democrats are moving against him. Citing unidentified people familiar with McConnell's thinking, the Times reported McConnell believes moving against Trump will help the GOP forge a future independent of the divisive, chaotic president.

The president was said to be livid with perceived disloyalty from McConnell and Cheney, as calls mounted for her ouster. He was also deeply frustrated that he could not hit back with his shuttered Twitter account, the fear of which has kept most Republicans in line for years, according to White House officials and Republicans close to the West Wing who weren't authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

The team around Trump has hollowed out, without any plan for combating the impeachment effort. Trump leaned on Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina to push Republican senators, while chief of staff Mark Meadows called some of his former colleagues on the Hill.

Yet Trump and his allies believed that the president's sturdy popularity with the GOP lawmakers' constituents would prevent most from voting against him. After the riot at the Capitol, most House Republicans did go on that night to vote to overturn the election results.

Trump was expected to watch much of Wednesday's proceedings on TV from the White House residence and his private dining area off the Oval Office.

In the House, Republican leader Kevin McCarthy of California, a top Trump ally, scrambled to suggest a lighter censure instead, but that option crumbled.

The House tried first to push Vice President Mike Pence and the Cabinet to intervene, passing a resolution Tuesday night calling on them to invoke the 25th Amendment to the Constitution to remove Trump from office.



Pence made it clear he would not do so, saying in a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, that it was “time to unite our country as we prepare to inaugurate President-elect Joe Biden.”

Debate over the resolution was intense after lawmakers returned the Capitol for the first time since the siege.

Republican Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio revived Trump’s false claims about the election results at the heart of the impeachment charge, drawing sharp rebukes from McGovern and others that “big lies” were fueling the nation’s divide.

Rep. Jason Smith, R-Mo., called the swift proceeding a “reckless” impeachment. He said, “This will only bring up the hate and fire more than ever before.”

It’s far from clear there will be the two-thirds vote in the evenly divided Senate needed to convict and remove Trump. Republican Sen. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania joined Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska over the weekend in calling for Trump to “go away as soon as possible.”

With just over a week remaining in Trump’s term, the FBI warned ominously of potential armed protests by Trump loyalists ahead of Biden’s inauguration. Capitol Police urged lawmakers to be on alert. Charges of sedition are being considered for rioters.

New security in place, lawmakers were required to pass through metal detectors to enter the House chamber, not far from where Capitol police, guns drawn, had barricaded the door against the rioters. Some Republican lawmakers complained about the screening.

Biden has said it’s important to ensure that the “folks who engaged in sedition and threatening the lives, defacing public property, caused great damage — that they be held accountable.”

Fending off concerns that an impeachment trial would bog down his first days in office, the president-elect is encouraging senators to divide their time between taking up his priorities of confirming his nominees and approving COVID-19 relief while also conducting the trial.

The impeachment bill draws from Trump’s own false statements about his election defeat to Biden. Judges across the country, including some nominated by Trump, have repeatedly dismissed cases challenging the election results, and former Attorney General William Barr, a Trump ally, has said there was no sign of widespread fraud.

Like the resolution to invoke the 25th Amendment, the impeachment bill also details Trump’s pressure on state officials in Georgia to “find” him more votes and his White House rally rant to “fight like hell” by heading to the Capitol.

While some have questioned impeaching the president so close to the end of his term, there is precedent. In 1876, during the Ulysses Grant administration, War Secretary William Belknap was impeached by the House the day he resigned, and the Senate convened a trial months later. He was acquitted.

Trump was impeached in 2019 over his dealings with Ukraine but acquitted by the Senate in 2020.

**Link:** <https://fox2now.com/news/images-national-guard-troops-at-the-us-capitol-to-secure-impeachment/>

### **3. Teamwork leads to historic mobilization of Washington Guardsmen**

*Washington Air National Guard by Lt. Col. Alyson Teeter/Jan. 18*

Demonstrating the culmination of expeditious planning and coordination, dozens of Washington National Guard Airmen and Soldiers gathered together and listened to words of encouragement from their state and military leadership in the passenger terminal at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, Jan. 17, 2021.

They were about to embark on a historic mission to Washington, D.C., as part of the National Guard's Operation Capitol Response to support federal and D.C. agencies for the 59th Presidential Inauguration on Jan. 20.

In the course of 72 hours, more than 300 Washington National Guardsmen and 34,000 pounds of cargo were transported to the National Capitol Region by KC-135 Stratotanker aircrews from the Washington Air National Guard's 141st Air Refueling Wing based at Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, Washington. In total, more than 400 Washington National Guardsmen are part of the inauguration mission.

"I'm so very proud of you for stepping up. This is a historic event," said the state's adjutant general, Army Maj. Gen. Bret D. Daugherty. "You're going to stand shoulder to shoulder with over 20,000 of our fellow Guardsmen from every state in the nation. That is a very powerful statement."

Behind-the-scenes coordination turned an idea into a mobilization within a matter of days but planning the airlift was no easy feat.

Air National Guard aircrews were flying thousands of Guardsmen to the National Capitol Region from all parts of the country, to include Alaska and Hawaii. The aircraft availability and logistics had to be just right in order for the WA ANG to meet their time slot for transporting Washington Guardsmen.

With its primary mission of aerial refueling, 141st ARW has airmen continuously deployed around the globe and the wing has a classic association with the active duty 92nd Air Refueling Wing. The 141st Maintenance Group leadership worked with their active duty partners at the 92nd to get the right number of aircraft, the maintainers, and logistically made the mission happen, said Col. Larry Gardner, 141st Air Refueling Wing Commander.

"When these state missions roll in, it's obviously a tip of the hat to our entire wing and our mission partners at the 92nd," Gardner said. "We're pretty good at what we do as far as being able to adapt and adjust fire with aircraft, with maintainers, with personnel, with which to support the DOMOPS [Domestic Operations]."

"I'm super proud of each and every Airmen at the 141st for what they've done to be serious about their jobs, the pandemic and keep our team ready to go at a moment's notice for neighbor and nation," he added.

Since March 2020, the Washington Air National Guard has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic with food bank and testing support, civil disturbance missions, election security, employment insurance assistance, wildland fire crews, and now inauguration support.

"If you just look over the past 12 months, just one of these events or incidents that we've supported in the National Guard would have been remarkable," said Col. Paige Abbott, director of staff for the Headquarters Washington Air National Guard.

According to Col. Brian Bergren, a WA ANG liaison officer to the Washington National Guard's Joint Operations Center, and fulltime commander of the Western Air Defense Sector's 225th Air Defense Squadron, tackling this historic mobilization wasn't a new problem or new type of mission.

"If you approach a problem the same way every time, you can usually get to a pretty good answer," Bergren said. "Whether it's air defense of the United States and mission planning a presidential temporary flight

restriction, or figuring out how to get 400 people across the country, if you break down a complex problem into digestible parts, you can do anything,” he said.

“It’s just a matter of not being overwhelmed by the task at hand, but being willing to go, ‘Alright let’s take a moment and figure out what are the parts that we get after and then finding the experts in the room who can best get after those parts.’”

More than 500 WA ANG Airmen have mobilized to support domestic operations since the pandemic began in March 2020. After a marathon year of responding to domestic operations, Abbott said the secret to making it all work is the quality of the Airmen and leadership’s forward thinking.

“It goes right back to the Airmen because if you don’t have the quality Airmen that might have to be activated, your mission goes nowhere,” she said. “It is based on our training and the education of the Airmen and Soldiers that make the mission successful and having leaders who are willing to create opportunities for the Airmen to be successful.”

The WA ANG team’s literal and figurative heavy lifting to pull off the mobilization in support of the peaceful transition of power kept spirits high.

“This is an amazing experience, to look around the military department, the state employees, the military federal employees, and how we are all supporting the state and the nation to ensure we move forward and inaugurate the new president and have democracy continue as it was outlined in the Constitution,” Abbott said.

“This story highlights the amazingly agile, responsive, and dedicated team we have on both sides of the state,” said Brig. Gen. Gent Welsh, commander of the Washington Air National Guard. “In less than 24 hours, the plan went from a mental bar napkin, to a white board, and ultimately into a plan that would become the largest airlift mission in recent Washington Air National Guard history, if not the largest ever.”

**Link:** <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/387111/teamwork-leads-historic-mobilization-washington-guardsmen>

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