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West Virginia Sends National Guard Troops to Washington

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West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrisey announced the deployment of 300 to 400 National Guard troops to Washington, D.C., in response to a formal request from the Trump administration. The move, according to Morrisey's office, supports efforts to bolster public safety and regional cooperation.

Governor Morrisey, a Republican, framed the deployment as a demonstration of the state's commitment to national security. "West Virginia is proud to stand with President Trump in his effort to restore pride and beauty to our nation's capital," Morrisey said. "The men and women of our National Guard represent the best of our state, and this mission reflects our shared commitment to a strong and secure America."

The mobilized troops will bring along mission-essential equipment and operate under the command of West Virginia Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Jim Seward. The governor's statement emphasized the readiness and specialized training of the units involved.

A White House official confirmed the move, noting that the role of the National Guard in Washington remains unchanged. "As part of President Trump's ongoing effort to make D.C. safe and beautiful, additional National Guard troops will be called in. The National Guard will protect federal assets, create a safe environment for law enforcement officials to carry out their duties when required, and provide a visible presence to deter crime."

The deployment follows President Trump's earlier directive to send 800 National Guard personnel to Washington. He also authorized increased involvement from federal law enforcement to support local police operations in the city. "When you walk down the street, you're going to see police or you're going to see FBI agents," Trump said. "You're going to have a lot of agents on the street... and we will bring in the military if it's needed."

Despite heightened security, Washington, D.C.'s crime rates have been reported at some of their lowest levels in decades. Still, the Trump administration has prioritized what it describes as "preventative visibility," positioning officers and agents in key areas.

In recent days, both residents and visitors have reported an increased law enforcement presence, particularly around major landmarks such as Union Station and the National Mall. Police checkpoints have been established in multiple neighborhoods.

Earlier this week, Attorney General Pam Bondi made an attempt to take direct control of the Metropolitan Police Department. That effort was halted after the city filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration. The department remains under the leadership of Chief Pamela Smith.

Opposition voices have emerged, primarily from Democratic lawmakers. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries labeled the deployment "illegitimate" and an "unjustified power grab." However, officials from the Trump administration have maintained that the action is lawful and necessary to preserve order in the capital.

The National Guard's mission is expected to remain non-combative and focused on logistical and protective support. No timeline has been provided for the duration of their presence in the city.