

Trump Deploys Armed National Guard in DC

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Washington, D.C., National Guard troops assigned to security duties in the nation's capital will now be armed, the Pentagon confirmed Friday. The decision follows authorization from President Donald Trump and guidance from Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth.

Guard personnel deployed with Joint Task Force District of Columbia will carry service-issued weapons while supporting law enforcement and federal agencies. Pentagon officials said the move is intended to provide additional protection for both troops and the public during ongoing security operations across the city.

Military leaders emphasized that the Guard's role remains supportive. Members will augment police presence, help secure facilities, and provide assistance at high-traffic areas and government buildings. The Department of Defense noted that strict rules of engagement will govern when and how weapons may be carried, with mission commanders tailoring procedures to local conditions.

The decision comes as federal and local authorities continue coordinated operations to address public-safety concerns in Washington. Approximately 2,000 Guard members are reported to be part of the current mission, drawn from the District and several states.

Officials said the visible presence is intended to deter threats and allow police to focus on priority law enforcement activities.

Defense Secretary Hegseth, who took office in January 2025, underscored that National Guard personnel remain bound by existing law and policy when supporting civil authorities. The Pentagon stated the arming order is a precautionary measure and will be adjusted as security conditions change.

Authorities urged residents and visitors in Washington to stay alert for public-safety announcements and to follow directions from law enforcement while operations are ongoing. The Pentagon confirmed the deployment is temporary and will be reviewed regularly to determine future requirements.