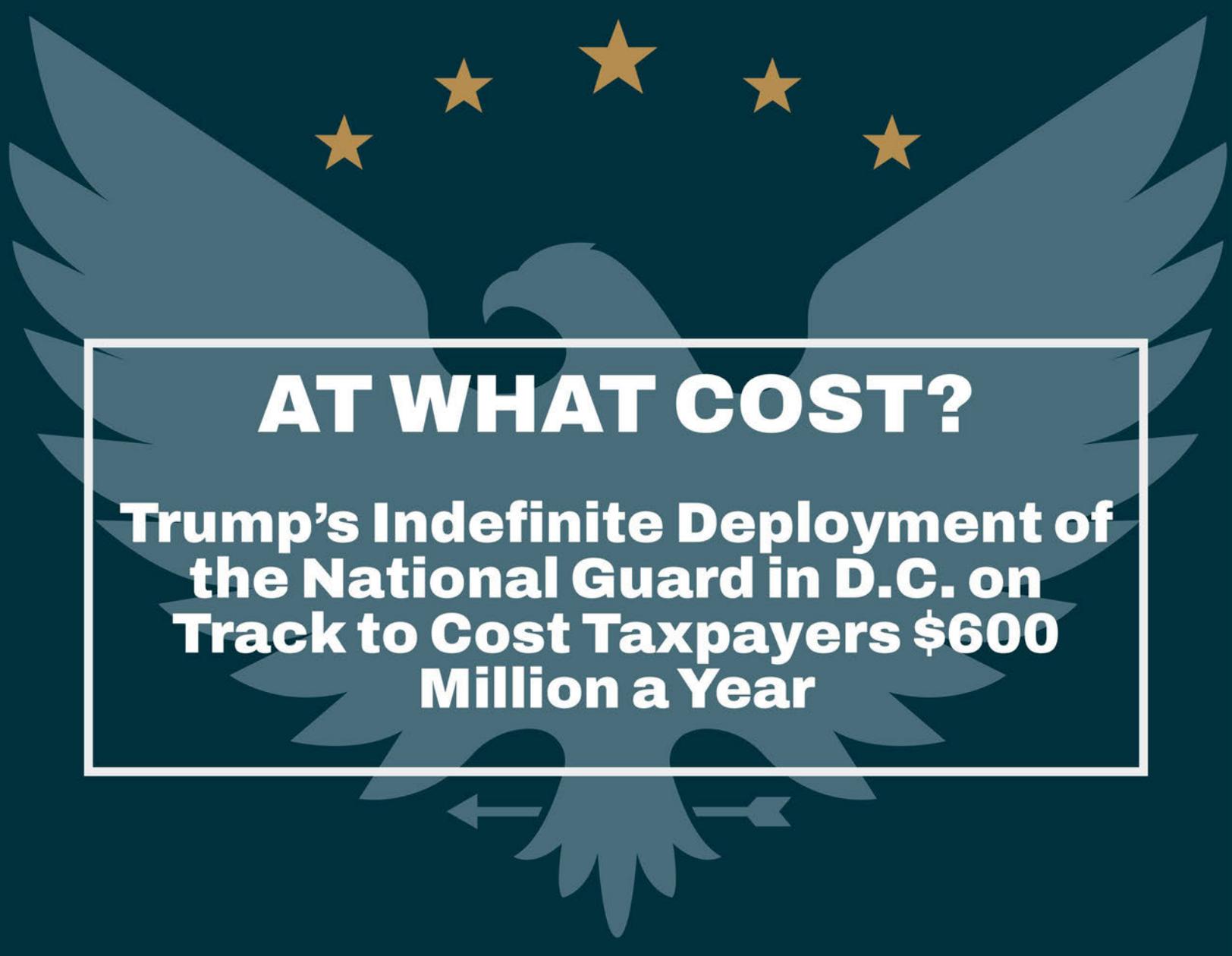


United States Senate Committee On
**HOMELAND SECURITY
& GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

Ranking Member Gary Peters
Ranking Member Andy Kim

A stylized eagle with spread wings is centered in the background. Above the eagle's head are seven gold stars arranged in a slight arc. The eagle and stars are rendered in a light blue color against a dark blue background.

AT WHAT COST?

**Trump's Indefinite Deployment of
the National Guard in D.C. on
Track to Cost Taxpayers \$600
Million a Year**

HSGAC Minority Staff Report

February 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the direction of President Trump, the National Guard will spend an estimated \$332 million by February 28, 2026 to feed, house, and deploy Guard troops in Washington, D.C. streets and neighborhoods.¹ This figure is substantial, but it will likely amount to just a fraction of the total cost of the full operation. Recent press reports indicate the deployment of National Guard troops to D.C. has been extended until the end of 2026.² However, the leadership of the D.C. National Guard were unable to give staff an end date and told staff that they are planning for an extended deployment. When asked what metrics would demonstrate success for the deployment, National Guard leadership deferred to the Administration, but stated that they are “driving toward zero” crime and overdoses in D.C. – an unrealistic or unachievable outcome that would leave them in D.C. indefinitely.³

U.S. Senators Gary Peters, Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (HSGAC), and Andy Kim, Ranking Member of the HSGAC Subcommittee on Disaster Management, District of Columbia, and Census, directed Minority Committee staff (hereinafter “staff”) to conduct oversight visits to the D.C. National Guard headquarters in September 2025, October 2025, and January 2026, after the Department of Defense (DoD) failed to respond to questions about the deployment. This report identifies information received by staff and Members during multiple visits and through follow-up conversations and written questions. This report finds that, at a significant cost of hundreds of millions of dollars, President Trump’s orders to deploy Guard troops in D.C. have resulted in no directly attributable impact on crime, risks diverting law enforcement resources away from cities, lacks clearly defined goals and metrics, and is contributing to rising concern that the Administration is militarizing U.S. cities for political purposes.

In early August 2025, President Trump announced he was activating the National Guard in D.C. to address “the epidemic of crime.”⁴ However, months into the mission, the National Guard cannot point to tangible crime reduction successes specifically tied to their efforts.⁵ In fact, as this report identified, more than three dozen police with the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) at various times have been forced to go on leave from MPD while deployed with the Guard, decreasing the actual number of D.C. police able to fight crime during a policing shortage. Additionally, this deployment has raised questions regarding military readiness in the event of a foreign conflict because regular National Guard trainings have languished. This is particularly true as the D.C. Guard is deployed indefinitely and is expected to manage this current deployment in addition to more significant Guard and federal law enforcement deployment needs anticipated in association with the America 250 commemoration in July 2026, which has been designated as a National Security Special Event.⁶

Furthermore, as this report’s findings show, the Administration’s militarization of the nation’s capital is costing American taxpayers about \$1.65 million per day and is normalizing the deployment of military personnel in an American city.⁷ In the span of seven months, President Trump’s deployment of the National

¹ District of Columbia National Guard, Site visit with the Minority Staff of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and Subcommittee on Disaster Management, District of Columbia and Census (Jan. 7, 2026).

² Associated Press, National Guard troops to stay on Washington, DC, streets through 2026 (Jan. 16, 2026) (apnews.com/article/national-guard-washington-dc-trump-db4e232d38ae5978975191edd496b94c).

³ Site visit with the Minority Staff of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and Subcommittee on Disaster Management, *supra* note 1.

⁴ Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense, *Restoring Law and Order in the District of Columbia* (Aug. 11, 2025) (www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/08/declaring-a-crime-emergency-in-the-district-of-columbia/).

⁵ Site visit with the Minority Staff of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and Subcommittee on Disaster Management, *supra* note 1.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.* at 1.

Guard in D.C. will cost taxpayers \$332 million. This equates to more than half of the budget for D.C.'s Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) for the entire 2025 fiscal year.⁸ Tragically, two servicemembers have died in this deployment while another was gravely injured. West Virginia (WV) National Guard Specialist Sarah Beckstrom was killed in the line of duty in a targeted attack on November 26 and her colleague WV National Guard Staff Sgt. Andrew Wolfe was critically injured. Additionally, Alabama National Guard Staff Sgt. Jacob Hill died suffering a medical emergency while off duty at his unit's hotel.

Finally, as described in this report, the D.C. National Guard is using several software and social media analytics tools – including Maven Smart System (a DOD platform supported by Palantir software), Dataminr First Alert, Meltwater and Cision – to support its deployment in Washington, D.C. While staff did not identify clear indication that individuals' constitutional rights were being compromised, the Guard's use of these social media monitoring tools raises potential privacy and civil liberties concerns which call for specialized First Amendment safeguards and training more traditionally undertaken by law enforcement officers. This further underscores how the National Guard's deployment in an American city to serve a law enforcement related function stretches the Guard in ways that detract from its primary missions and raises additional questions about what is appropriate for the military to be doing within America's borders.

While combating crime must be a priority at all levels of government, it is not clear that the hundreds of millions of dollars spent on deploying the National Guard, purportedly to support this effort, is effective in making the nation's capital any safer. Instead, this report finds that the Trump Administration's stated mission has blurred the line between military and civilian law enforcement, jeopardized the National Guard's readiness, taken MPD officers and high-level civil servants away from their day jobs where they can directly intercept crime, introduced privacy and civil liberties concerns with the Guard's use of information monitoring tools on Americans, and has eroded Americans' trust in these important institutions.

⁸ District of Columbia Office of the Chief Financial Officer, *Metropolitan Police Department* (2026) (cfo.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ocfo/publication/attachments/fa0_mpd_chapter_2026m.pdf).