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**September 20, 2024**

**WASHINGTON** - Committee on House Administration's Subcommittee on Oversight Chairman Barry Loudermilk (GA-11) **revealed** that days before January 6, 2021, President Trump met with senior Pentagon leaders urging them to do their jobs to protect lives and property. The transcripts released show Trump gave senior Pentagon leadership directives to keep January 6 peaceful - including using the National Guard - which the Pentagon leaders ignored. This revelation directly contradicts the conclusions drawn in the flawed [DoD IG report](#) on January 6, 2021.

**In response to these revelations, Chairman Loudermilk released the following statement:**

“Pentagon leadership prioritized concerns of optics over their duty to protect lives,” **said Chairman Loudermilk**. “President Trump met with senior Pentagon leaders and directed them to make sure any events on January 6, 2021 were safe. It is very concerning that these Senior Pentagon officials ignored President Trump’s guidance AND misled Congressional Leaders to believe they were doing their job, when they were not. The DoD IG’s report is fundamentally flawed. It does not draw conclusions from the interviews they conducted, but pushes a narrative to keep their hands clean. We have many

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questions for them, and we will continue to dig until we are satisfied the American people know the truth."

**[Click here or the image below to see the key excerpts from these transcripts.](#)**

**[Click here to read the transcripts in full.](#)**

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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.**

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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.

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### 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.'" \*

Days before January 6, 2021, President Trump met with senior Pentagon leaders urging them to do their jobs to protect lives and property. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Mark Milley, recalls a conversation between the Acting Secretary of Defense Chris Miller, and President Trump:

**Milley:** “The President just says, ‘Hey, look at this. There’s going to be a large amount of protestors here on the 6th, make sure that you have sufficient National Guard or Soldiers to make sure it’s a safe event.’... [POTUS said] 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.’ [SecDef] Miller responds by saying, ‘Hey, we’ve got a plan, and we’ve got it covered.’”

On January 5, the Secretary of the Army, Ryan McCarthy, placed [unprecedented restrictions](#) on DCNG Commander Major General William Walker to prevent any movement to the Capitol without Secretary McCarthy’s explicit permission on January 6 and 7.

On January 6, 2021, the outer perimeter on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol was breached by rioters at 12:53pm. The DCNG arrived five hours later. [Click here to view the timeline.](#)

These transcripts prove President Trump’s senior Pentagon leaders were focused on OPTICS, instead of doing their job, as the Capitol was breached:

Miller: “There was absolutely – there is absolutely no way I was putting U.S. military forces at the Capitol, period.”

**Director of the Army Staff, Lieutenant General Walter Piatt:** “Was optics a concern for us as we prepared to use soldiers downtown in Washington D.C? Absolutely.”

As “optics” concerns were being discussed and Secretary McCarthy claims he was ‘developing a plan’, the DCNG was ready to move, **less than 2 miles from the Capitol – awaiting Secretary McCarthy’s authorization.**

Walker’s General Counsel, Colonel Earl Matthews: “We were seeing the Congress of the United States being overrun, and the Guard – and the Capitol Police, the MPD, they need help. We had people at the D.C. Armory who are able to help, and they’re not moving. They’re not allowed to move.”

**DCNG Command Sergeant Major Michael Brooks:** “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.”

At 3:04pm, Miller provided verbal approval to Secretary McCarthy for immediate deployment of the DCNG. **What was Secretary McCarthy doing between receiving this approval, and 5:08pm, when the order eventually reaches the D.C. National Guard? Why didn't he communicate this approval for a full two hours?**

At 3:18pm, Secretary McCarthy told Congressional Democrat Leadership that the DC National Guard had the “green light” and “is moving”. *Two hours* would pass before Secretary McCarthy’s deployment order would ACTUALLY be communicated to the DCNG.

In these vital hours, the DCNG had been trying but was unable to reach Secretary McCarthy.

**[DCNG Adjutant General Aaron Dean](#): “[Walker] tried to call Secretary McCarthy three times between 2:30 and 5pm. He said, ‘I haven’t heard from him all day.’** When he tried to call his cell phone, it went straight to voicemail.”

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