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## OPS Inauguration Daily SitRep 1 6 January 2021

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### Summary

**TLP:AMBER**

**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Office of Private Sector  
OPS Inauguration Daily SitRep  
15 January 2021**

*This communication is intended to provide timely information to appropriate private sector and safety personnel. Under FBI policy and federal law, no investigative activity may be based solely on First Amendment activity. The FBI does not investigate, collect, or maintain information on U.S. persons solely for the purpose of monitoring activities protected by the First Amendment. References in this product to any specific commercial product, process or service or the use of any corporate name herein is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement, recommendation, or disparagement of that product, process, service or corporation on behalf of the FBI.*

### **ELECTORAL CERTIFICATION AND INAUGURATION 2021**

The FBI, in close coordination with its federal, state, and local partners, continues to monitor and respond to events related to the violence associated with lawful protests.

As of 6 January, the FBI issued a request for information leading to the location, arrest, and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the placement of the suspected pipe bombs on 6 January in Washington, D.C.

The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$50,000 for information.

For further information on the unlawful entry into the United States Capitol Building and assault on federal law enforcement personnel on January 6, 2021, in Washington, D.C. please visit:

<https://www.fbi.gov/wanted/capitol-violence>. This site includes images of numerous persons of interest; when reporting a tip on any of these individuals, please reference the photograph number and AFO.

As of 15 January, the FBI has received nearly 137,608 Digital Media Tips (DMT). The review of the DMT is on-going.

As of 15 January, 72 different State or Local LE agencies have provided responses regarding possible incidents related to the US Capitol riot or the Inauguration. State and Local LE partners reported three arrests, 12 incidents of armed or violent protests, and six threats against government or commercial facilities. In addition, seven State or Local partners reported they have implemented violence reduction strategies.

As of 15 January, the number of National Guard personnel in Washington, DC exceeds 7,200, and the number will expand above 11,000 by 16 January. Metal anti-scale fencing has been installed around the US Capitol Complex and other areas on Capitol Hill in advance of the Presidential Inauguration.

### **National Threat Picture Through Inauguration 2021**

## Past/Ongoing Flashpoints and Responses

On 13 January, the House of Representatives impeached President Trump. As of 15 January, there is no indication of violent activity in direct response to the impeachment.

On 14 January, the DOJ Office of Public Affairs posted a Press-Release stating approximately 80 cases have been charged and 34 individuals have been arrested for their alleged criminal conduct during the attack on the Capitol Building. The FBI has opened approximately 200 subject case files and received about 140,000 digital media tips from the public. Notably, many of the tips are coming from friends, co-workers and other acquaintances of those allegedly involved in the attack (visit DOJ for the Press Release: [Acting Attorney General Jeffrey A. Rosen Attends Security Briefing at FBI's Strategic Information and Operations Center on Inauguration Planning and Recent Capitol Attack | OPA | Department of Justice](#)).

▪ Per same DOJ Press-Release and date, the DOJ launched a new online service for the public and media to track defendants charged with criminal offenses related to the Capitol attack. The link is at Investigations Regarding Violence at the Capitol (justice.gov): <https://www.justice.gov/opa/investigations-regarding-violence-capitol>

## Potential Flashpoints

**Nationwide:** As of 8 January, a flyer has been circulating online regarding a call for armed protests at the Washington Memorial and all 50 state capitols on 17 January at noon. The flyer advises to “come armed at your discretion”.

**California:** As of 10 January, reporting indicates a potential threat to the Sacramento and U.S. Capitols on 6 February.

**Colorado:** A protest is scheduled for 17 January at the state capitol in Denver, Colorado. On 10 January, information was received concerning a potential Q'Anon event occurring in Denver on 17 January at an unidentified location.

**Nebraska:** As of 11 January, law enforcement became aware of an email sent to the Scottsbluff (NE) Sheriff's office from an identified organization which indicated they are calling for investigations into voter fraud and a civil war is upon us and that they can, “muster 1000s of patriots to keep the peace.”

**Utah:** As of 12 January, reporting indicated a potential armed protest being organized at the Utah State Capitol on 17 January. The crowd size is unknown at this time. There are no reports of threats associated with the protest at this time, and it is legal to openly carry firearms in Utah. The Utah Highway Patrol, who handles security at the Utah State Capitol has been notified.

**Virginia:** As of 13 January, according to open sources, a 2021 Lobby Day event is scheduled for 18 January at the State Capitol in Richmond, VA. Lobby Day is an intended protest for changes to Virginia gun laws. The Virginia Civil Defense League has provided caravan routes, updated route guidance, and will deploy a tracking website for caravan progress.

**Washington, DC:** As of 8 January, users on two identified social networking sites promoted an identified march on 20 January to prevent the President-Elect from entering the White House. As of 13 January, a social media page indicates 897 people are “going” to the event and approximately 2,300 are “interested.”

As of 12 January, an identified movement is planning a demonstration on 17 January beginning at 1200 EST on Capitol grounds. An identified web platform and social media are promoting the identified demonstration. The event estimates for the event size are currently unknown.

As of 12 January, open-source reporting indicated a ‘Big Tech censorship rally’ could occur in front of the US Supreme Court on 16 January.

As of 13 January, an identified armed group has planned to travel to Washington, DC to stage an uprising on 16 January. The group is hoping for a gathering of 15,000 people with 4,000 spread around Washington, DC to establish roadblocks at set locations including the Capitol Building, the Supreme Court, and the White House.

As of 13 January, an identified group has shifted their plans from descending on the Capitol to promoting gatherings at several DC-area hotels to disable access to the hotels.

## Other

As of 11 January, the U.S. National Park Service announced that the National Mall and Memorial Parks is implementing temporary closures of National Park Service public facilities, parking areas and roadways “in response to credible threats to visitors and park resources.” Per the National Park Service, these closures are “based upon a determination, in consultation with the local authorities, that such actions are necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety.” The closures began on 11 January and will remain in effect through 24 January but may be extended.

As of 15 January, identified commercial airline companies are temporarily banning firearms on flights to DC-area airports. On 13 January, identified commercial airline companies observed an increase in the number of weapons checked onto flights, over the past 5-6 days when compared to the previous month’s daily averages, to identified DC area airports. These counts do not include law enforcement officers.

As of 13 January, the D.C. Mayor issued street closures near and around the U.S. Capitol for the duration of the inauguration (see <https://inauguration.dc.gov/closures>):

As of 13 January, the D.C. Metrorail and Metrobus announces Inauguration service plans and station closures to accommodate the expanded security perimeter that will be in effect beginning Friday, 15 January through Thursday, 21 January (see [www.wmata.com](http://www.wmata.com) for specific details):

As of 15 January, the U.S. Secret Service issued a notice of road closures, vehicle restrictions, public transportation, parking restrictions and pedestrian routes in and around the District of Columbia for the Presidential Inauguration. These road and rail impacts will begin 16 January and continue until after Inauguration (see the notice for details:

<https://www.secretservice.gov/newsroom/releases/2021/01/2021-presidential-inaugural-subcommittees-announce-joint-transportation>).

The FBI continues to monitor the situation around the country and will share any available and pertinent information for private industry on the Domestic Security Alliance Council (DSAC) and InfraGard (IG) member portals (see respective link to DSAC ([www.dsac.gov](http://www.dsac.gov)) and InfraGard ([www.infragard.org](http://www.infragard.org)) for the products detailed below):

On 14 January, a Joint Threat Assessment titled “59th Presidential Inauguration, Washington, DC” was produced by the FBI and DHS/USSS, with input from multiple US Intelligence Community and law enforcement partners. This product is intended to support federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial government agencies and authorities in identifying priorities, as well as private sector security partners, for protective measures and support activity regarding terrorism and other existing or emerging threats to homeland security. On 15 January, the FBI disseminated a Public Service Announcement titled “Iranian Cyber Actors Continue to Threaten US Election Officials” (Alert Number I-011521-PSA) to assist the public in recognizing Iranian activity intended to create fear, divisions, and mistrust in the United States and undermine public confidence in the US electoral process. Iranian cyber actors are continuing their online operations by threatening the lives of US federal, state, and private sector officials using direct email and text messaging, as well as exposing officials’ personal information and photographs on websites.

On 15 January, a TLP:GREEN PIN titled “Potential for Malicious Cyber Activities to Disrupt the Presidential Inauguration, Including Media Broadcasting Environments and Emergency Services” (PIN 20210115-001) was produced by the FBI Cyber Division and coordinated with DHS/CISA.

The FBI to date is not aware of any specific cyber threat against the 20 January 2021 Presidential Inauguration but encourages partners to remain vigilant and maintain best practices in their network and digital environments. Actors who wish to disrupt the Presidential Inauguration could use distributed denial of service attacks (DDoS), telephony denial of service (TDoS) attacks, malware, social engineering, phishing campaigns, or insider threats to block or disrupt live broadcasts of the event or limit the availability of emergency services.

On 15 January, a DHS IIB titled “Nation-State Cyber Actors Likely to Target US Administration Transition Officials” (IA-48225-21) was produced by DHS. DHS assesses that nation-state cyber actors very likely will target those involved in the transition of the US administration. This assessment is based on previous nation-

state cyber actor targeting of US presidential campaigns and US think tanks between 2018 and 2020. Malicious cyber operations against transition-related targets could include the targeting of both official government transition e-mail accounts and associated personal e-mail accounts.

OPS's Information Sharing and Analysis Unit disseminated this report; please direct any requests and questions to your FBI Private Sector Coordinator at your local FBI Field Office:

<https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices>.

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