

**RECORD VERSION**

**STATEMENT BY**

**GENERAL CHARLES FLYNN  
COMMANDER, UNITED STATES ARMY PACIFIC  
UNITED STATES ARMY**

**BEFORE THE**

**OVERSIGHT AND REFORM COMMITTEE  
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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**ON THE CAPITOL INSURRECTION: UNEXPLAINED DELAYS AND UNANSWERED  
QUESTIONS PART II**

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**NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNTIL RELEASED BY THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM**

Chairwoman Maloney, Ranking Member Comer, and distinguished members of the House Oversight and Reform Committee—Good Afternoon. I am General Charles Flynn. I assumed command of United States Army Pacific on June 4, 2021 and most recently served as the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7 in the Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA). As the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7, I was directly responsible to the Secretary of the Army (SecArmy) and the Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA) for planning for the use of forces to meet strategic requirements; monitoring and reporting on current operations; assessing and coordinating support to the Office of the Secretary of Defense; developing plans and policies for mobilization; and advising on Defense Support of Civil Authorities.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before this committee to speak to you about the role of Army operations responding to the events that took place on January 6, 2021 in our Nation's Capital. I hope the facts I provide enable a fuller understanding of the Army's activities to inform your efforts. I have served in the military for 34 years, and I appear before this committee to share with you the actions taken that day.

Today, I will discuss two primary areas: the Army G-3/5/7 organization's planning for January 6 and my individual actions in support of Secretary McCarthy on January 6.

### **The Army G-3/5/7's Planning for January 6, 2021**

A part of my role as the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7 prior to January 6, 2021 was to ensure proper planning and execution of Army operations, which includes mission analysis to ensure sufficient forces meet the identified requirements of the ordered mission.

In the days prior to January 6, 2021, the D.C. authorities submitted a request for non-law enforcement assistance by unarmed DCNG personnel; they specifically requested assistance with traffic controls points (TCPs) and crowd management in the vicinity of Metro stations. D.C. authorities also requested that the Army provide a Civil Support Team that could monitor for and, if necessary, respond to hazardous materials.

The DCNG completed planning for roughly 350 unarmed Soldiers to support the requesting authorities. My director of current operations (DCO) was responsible for Army readiness and mobilization then validated this requirement and sent it to the Director of the Army Staff, LTG Piatt, for the SecArmy's consideration.

On January 4, 2021, the SecArmy transmitted the D.C. authorities' request and the Army's proposed response to Acting Secretary of Defense (SecDef) Christopher Miller. The SecArmy communicated to Acting SecDef Miller that 340 total personnel would support the request, which would encompass assistance with TCPs and Metro station support in direct coordination with D.C. authorities. Additionally, command and staff support and a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) staged at Joint Base Andrews would be provided to augment TCPs and Metro stations, if needed. The QRF was intended to support the previously approved missions of TCPs and crowd control at Metro stations. DCNG Soldiers and Airmen were equipped with body armor and helmets; DCNG at TCPs and Metro stations were required to store this equipment in nearby government vehicles to ensure their names and markings were visible in accordance with NDAA (H.R. 6395) requirements. Riot control gear remained stored at the D.C. Armory. DCNG forces, and the QRF specifically, were never intended to serve as a riot control force, or more precisely, to halt a mob storming the Capitol. Acting SecDef Miller approved the requested support, directing certain mission and equipment limitations consistent with the request. Secretary McCarthy further refined that guidance for execution by the DCNG. In summary, agencies defined their requirements and requested support, support was approved consistent with the request, and the DCNG was properly resourced and prepared to conduct their requested and assigned mission.

### **My Actions on January 6, 2021**

On January 6, 2021, I was in my office for a G-3/5/7 meeting with my staff regarding the Army Campaign Plan. All of my General Officer directors were present except for my DCO who was with the SecArmy. The meeting started at approximately 1330. At 1421, my Executive Officer interrupted the meeting stating that the Capitol was under attack and the Secretary of the Army's office had called for me to come up to his office.

I paused the meeting, gave guidance from my directors to remain in my office, and left the G-3/5/7 for Secretary McCarthy's office.

As I entered Secretary McCarthy's office, he was walking out and giving instructions to staff members who were already in the room. Secretary McCarthy was on his way to meet with Acting SecDef Miller. My DCO went with him to meet the Acting SecDef. I continued further into Secretary McCarthy's office and noted numerous members of the Army Staff in the room.

Noting the commotion and the many people in the room, I walked toward LTG Piatt, who huddled over a phone in the rear of the Secretary's office. A phone call was already in-progress on speaker-phone, and LTG Piatt was speaking. LTG Piatt was the only one in the room speaking on this conference call. I do recall that an unidentified person on the other end of the call stated something to the effect of "are you denying our request" for employing the DCNG Soldiers. LTG Piatt responded with words to the effect "I am not denying the request. I am waiting for an answer from Secretary McCarthy who is with the Acting SecDef now. In the meantime, we should develop a plan."

After LTG Piatt's response, I recall a second question from another person unidentified to me asking a question to the effect of "to be clear, are you denying our request for DCNG troops?" LTG Piatt's response was similar to his first statement.

I immediately realized that the Army Staff, led by the G-3/5/7, would need to rapidly support planning for the efforts that LTG Piatt mentioned, to include increased utilization of the DCNG and other potential response options available to the SecDef and SecArmy. At that time, I immediately walked through the opened door between the SecArmy's and CSA's offices and proceeded to the office of the CSA's staff; I used their phone to call my office and alert them to cancel my scheduled meetings and to begin coordinating with numerous Army organizations via secure video-conference immediately upon my return. I then proceeded to my office to begin the coordination

that would facilitate rapid execution of any decisions made by the Acting SecDef and Secretary McCarthy.

I understand claims exist that I participated in the phone call taking place in the SecArmy's office. I did not. While the SecArmy was with the Acting SecDef for decision, LTG Piatt calmly controlled the call for the Army from the SecArmy's office. I did not use the word "optics," nor did I hear the word used during the call on January 6, 2021, in response to any requests for support or during the planning and execution of that support. I also never heard LTG Piatt or any other Army senior leader use that word that day. My duty that day was to facilitate the planning and execution of Secretary McCarthy's decisions and guidance.

Upon returning to the G-3/5/7 office, I immediately began assembling empowered representatives from the Army Staff and relevant Army commands that included our personnel specialists, logisticians, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, our communications specialists, our legal experts, HQDA comptrollers, Army Materiel Command, the Director of the Army National Guard, the National Guard Bureau, and many others.

Once the Acting SecDef approved National Guard mobilization, the Army Staff immediately began developing a plan for the commitment of the DCNG and contributing National Guard forces from other states. Members of my G-3/5/7 staff supported the SecArmy and LTG Piatt by coordinating planning and decisions for the recall of the 350 DCNG personnel from their current mission, so the DCNG could re-deploy, re-organize, re-equip and re-mission their force to be federalized and employed by the Lead Federal Agency. Because the Capitol's security requirements far exceeded the capability of the DCNG, other states which share an agreement with Washington, D.C. also began assembling National Guard forces for movement. I simultaneously directed my staff to initiate planning and coordination for the arrival of equipment and getting lodging and food set up for the forces who would be coming in to assist the DCNG. I also initiated planning on numerous other tasks that supported security operations for the Capitol, to include acquisition, movement, and construction of barrier material to create an obstacle

around the Capitol. Planning commenced with the Corps of Engineers and others to understand that problem and how to solve it. The iterative planning continued with tremendous focus and speed long after USCP declared the Capitol was secured and Congress reconvened to conduct their essential electoral and constitutional duties.

## **Conclusion**

On January 6, 2021, the DCNG was conducting a very specific and limited mission without weapons, riot control gear, or training tailored to responding to a violent mob. Once notified that the situation on the ground required the mission to change, and a decision was made to change the mission, Army leadership within and external to the G-3/5/7 worked aggressively to develop an accurate understanding of the situation, then plan, coordinate, and synchronize in support of the new mission of the DCNG, and enable the DCNG's rapid, yet feasible and responsible execution. The DCNG's response is a testament to their dedication to duty, their commitment to mission accomplishment, and their unquestionable defense of the Constitution of the United States of America.

Thank you, again, for conducting this hearing and for seeking my perspective on the Army's actions in response to the events at our Nation's Capital on January 6, 2021.