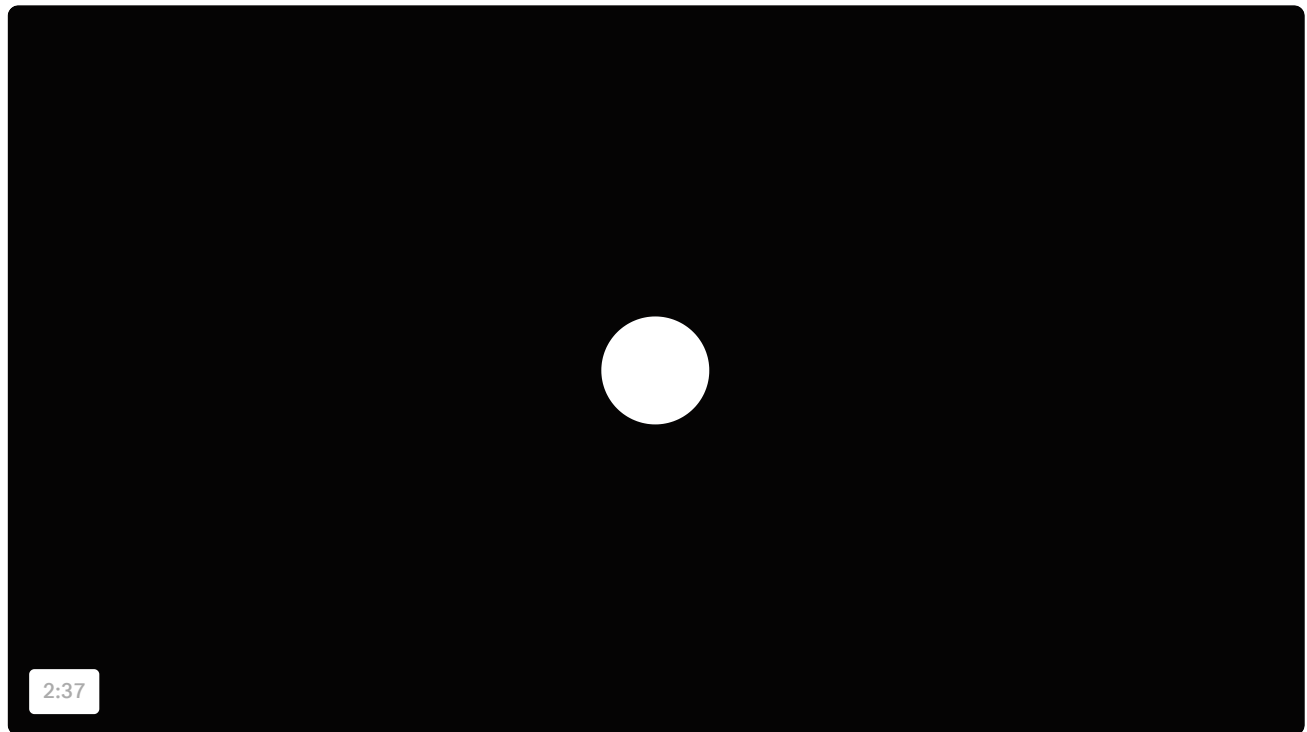


No patrol but Trump visits police, military in DC as he touts anti-crime push

The president said he is considering sending troops to Memphis.

By [Lalee Ibssa](#), [Michelle Stoddart](#), [Isabella Murray](#), and [Ivan Pereira](#)
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Trump says he will go out with police, military to patrol DC Thursday night President Donald Trump announced that he is "going out" with police and military in Washington, D.C. on Thursday to oversee the surge in federal law enforcement and National Guard.

President Donald Trump met with police and military leaders in the district to discuss the [surge in federal law enforcement and National Guard](#) crime emergency in the district.

Trump visited the U.S. Park Police Anacostia Operating Center, serving as the gathering point for all the agencies involved, and delivered hamburgers to members of the military and delivering hamburgers to the members of the military and delivering hamburgers to the members of the military.

Trump left the White House in the presidential limousine, accompanied by Attorney General Pam Bondi and White House deputy chief of staff, to visit the facility.



"I just want to thank everybody very much for being here," Trump said. "I wanted to do this. We've had some incredible results that have come out, and it's like a different place. It's like a different city. It's the capital. It's going to be the best in the world."



President Donald Trump speaks to federal troops at the US Park Police Anacostia operations facility in Washington, August 21, 2025.

Mandel Ngan/AFP via Getty Images

The president spoke for several minutes, touting his anti-crime push.

"You got to be strong, you got to be tough," Trump urged the group. "You got to do your job. Whatever it takes to do your job."



President Donald Trump speaks to federal troops at the US Park Police Anacostia operations facility in Washington, August 21, 2025.

Mandel Ngan/AFP via Getty Images

In a radio interview earlier Thursday, Trump said he would be "going out tonight" with the law enforcement and military, but he returned to the White House after the visit to the facility.



President Donald Trump speaks with federal troops as Interior Secretary Doug Burgum and Attorney General Pam Bondi listen at the US Park Police Anacostia operations facility in Washington, August 21, 2025.

Jacquelyn Martin/AP

The president mobilized the National Guard one week ago to assist the police, claiming crime was out of control. Officials have said Guard personnel are not making arrests, only helping to detain people briefly if necessary before handing them off to law enforcement.

MORE: Protesters heckle Vance, Hegseth at photo op to thank National Guard troops in DC→

Violent crime levels [have decreased compared to years prior](#), down 26% since 2024, a 30-year low, according to crime stats released by the city's Metropolitan Police Department.

Trump told radio host Todd Starnes on Thursday that the D.C. deployment was "sort of a test" and indicated that they would copy the model in other cities around America.

"It's working unbelievably, much faster than we thought. We've arrested hundreds of criminals, hardline criminals, people that will never be any good," the president said.

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"And, you know, unfortunately, we have a lot of cities like that. But I love Tennessee. You know, I won Tennessee by many, many, many points. So it was a landslide, far greater than even, you know, the Republican. Republicans do good in Tennessee, but, I mean, [my number was like 35 points](#), and I'm glad you tell me that I can put that early on a list, and I'm sure that people would love it," he added.



The Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial are visible as National Guard troops walk along the National Mall on August 20, 2025 in Washington, DC.

Andrew Harnik/Getty Images

In June, Trump [deployed the California National Guard to Los Angeles](#) amid protests against immigration raids carried out by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom [sued the administration](#), alleging that it violated the Posse Comitatus Act -- an 1878 law that prevented the president from using the military as a domestic police force. A ruling has not been issued in the case.

Trump went on to say that he "straightened out crime in four days in DC." The president also rebuffed criticism about his actions in the nation's capital.

"And all I do, all they do is they say 'He's a dictator, he's a dictator' -- the place, people are getting mugged all over the place, and they give you phor it ever was, but we've got it going. People are so ha claimed.

Trump's remarks came a day after Vice President JD Vance, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and White House deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller visited the National Guard at Union Station, where they were [drowned out](#) by boos from protesters.

Nearly 2,000 guardsmen from D.C. and six states have been mobilized to support Trump's mission at the nation's capital. They remain unarmed at this time, but officials have said they expect that to change.



Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, DC, on August 18, 2025.

Mandel Ngan/AFP via Getty Images

The troops have been stationed outside many tourist hot spots, including the National Mall and Union Station, where [crime incidents are known to be lower](#) than other parts of the city. Trump and other officials have not given a timetable of when the troop deployment will end.

Vance on Wednesday dismissed crime statistics that showed incidents were lower in Union Station. He claimed that they do not report the full scope of crime in D.C.

Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser on Monday [criticized the Trump administration's federal police surge](#) in the nation's capital, calling it political theater.

"This doesn't make sense. The numbers on the ground and the district don't support 1,000 people from other states coming to Washington, D.C.," Bowser said.

ABC News' Luis Martinez and Anne Flaherty contributed to this report.

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