

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS

RECORDED TRANSCRIPTION

X ----- X

INTERVIEW OF

Dr. Christopher Rodriguez

February 12, 2021

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1 P R O C E E D I N G

2 [REDACTED] Today is February 12, 2021. The time is 9:03
3 a.m. My name is [REDACTED]. With me today is
4 [REDACTED]. We are investigators with the Department of
5 Defense, Office of the Inspector General. With us today is Dr.
6 Christopher Rodriguez, Director, Washington, D.C. Homeland
7 Security and Emergency Management Agency. Also present with Dr.
8 Rodriguez is [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], from the
9 Mayor's Office of Legal Counsel. From the D.C. Homeland Security
10 and Emergency Management Agency we have [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED]. As we discussed before going
13 on tape we are conducting a review of the events surrounding
14 DoD's involvement leading up to and during the civil disturbances
15 in the District of Columbia and at the U.S. Capitol on January 6,
16 2021. We are conducting this interview telephonically. I am
17 located in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is located in Virginia. Dr.
18 Rodriguez and those present with Dr. Rodriguez are located in the
19 District of Columbia. Dr. Rodriguez, please acknowledge that
20 you're aware we're recording this interview.

21 DR. RODRIGUEZ: I am aware that we are recording this
22 interview.

23 [REDACTED]: Thank you so much. Also, please acknowledge
24 that you received a copy of the DoD IG Privacy Act Notice.

25 DR. RODRIGUEZ: I did receive a copy of the DoD IG Privacy

1 Policy.

2 [REDACTED]: Perfect. I'll now administer the oath. Sir,
3 if you would please raise your right hand.

4 Whereupon:

5 DR. CHRISTOPHER R. RODRIGUEZ

6 was called as a witness, placed under oath, and provided
7 the following testimony:

8 E X A M I N A T I O N

9 BY [REDACTED]:

10 Q: For the record, please state your full name and spell
11 your last name.

12 A: Christopher Ryan Rodriguez. Last name

13 R-O-D-R-I-G-U-E-Z.

14 Q: Also for the record please state your current position.

15 A: I'm the Director of the District of Columbia's Homeland
16 Security and Emergency Management Agency.

17 Q: All right, sir, as I indicated we have three different
18 areas that we'd like to cover with you. The first being the
19 advanced coordination leading up to January 6, 2021. Can you
20 please walk us through what happened regarding any preparations
21 or coordination your office had with DoD starting when the event
22 was first announced through January 5, 2021?

23 A: Absolutely. So, the primary agency that I liaised with
24 was the D.C. National Guard and if we're to assume that's a unit
25 of the Department of Defense that would be the agency that I

1 interacted with. We first, "we" being the District, first sent a
2 request to the D.C. National Guard on December 31st, 2020, for
3 support for the Metropolitan Police Department, and the Fire, and
4 EMS Department for the District for personnel and assets to be
5 staged on District streets and District Property because we had
6 reasonable suspicion that there would be large crowds and the
7 potential for violence. So, we did request D.C. National Guard
8 Support.

9 Q: Now when you say, sir, that you primarily discussed any
10 requests directly with the National Guard, was there anybody else
11 at that point that you were talking to at DoD?

12 A: No, not with DoD, no.

13 Q: Did any other agency reach out to you and ask your
14 office to request National Guard Support?

15 A: Yes. So, the process, the way the process works in the
16 District is the public safety agencies such as the Metropolitan
17 Police Department, Fire, and EMS will reach out to my office to
18 initiate the request process for National Guard support. So the
19 Metropolitan Police Department, and Fire, and EMS they outline
20 their needs and send them to HSEMA, my office, Homeland Security
21 and Emergency Management Agency. We then package those requests
22 into a letter for -- that is addressed to Major General William
23 Walker, the Commanding General of the National Guard, and we send
24 that off to him as a formal request on behalf of the Mayor of the
25 District of Columbia.

1 Q: So, with regards to the events leading up to January
2 5th what specifically did you request?

3 A: Well those requests are in the letters that you -- that
4 you're referring to and that were sent over. So, what we do is we
5 take the specific requests from MPD, Metropolitan Police
6 Department, and the Fire and EMS, FEMS as we refer to them, and
7 then we put them in a letter and it is the Director of Homeland
8 Security, me, or anyone who's occupying my position that then
9 takes all that together and submits it to the D.C. National Guard
10 on behalf of the Mayor of the city.

11 Q: And we'll get more into the -- some of the letters here
12 in a moment, but specifically are you referring to the December
13 31st, 2020, letter from Mayor Bowser to Major General Walker
14 referring to the request that we're talking about here?

15 A: Yes.

16 Q: So, all right. And we have that letter, sir. Can you
17 tell us what D.C. National Guard's response was?

18 A: We learned about D.C. National Guard's response by
19 phone call, and that was on January 4th when Major General Walker
20 called me and Police Chief Contee letting us know that the
21 request that we had submitted on December 31st was approved by
22 the Secretary of the Army. That was done via phone call. I can't
23 speak to how it was done internally at the National Guard.

24 Q: Was that phone call documented in any way, sir?

25 A: Documented how?

1 Q: Whether it be a memorandum, or some sort of note, or
2 what have you, conference call note, meeting?

3 A: No, it was not.

4 Q: And on this particular instance can you describe what
5 specific D.C. National Guard assistance your office requested?

6 A: I'm sorry, can you repeat the question? You broke up a
7 little bit.

8 Q: Yes. On this specific instance can you describe what
9 D.C. National Guard assistance your office requested?

10 A: I would have to get the specific details on, if you're
11 referring to sort of the tactical requests, operational requests
12 those originate with the Metropolitan Police Department and with
13 Fire and EMS. So, I can get that information. I don't believe
14 it's in any of the paperwork that you have here.

15 Q: Yes, and if you would provide that we would be greatly
16 appreciative.

17 A: Sure.

18 Q: And you already said, and just to confirm your contact
19 was strictly with D.C. National Guard at that point --

20 A: Yes.

21 Q: -- and you talked to the Commanding General. Is that
22 correct, sir?

23 A: That is correct.

24 Q: All right. Sir, moving onto the December 31st letter.
25 Do you have that in front of you at this moment?

1 A: Yes, I do.

2 Q: In context of that letter the first thing we'd like to
3 ask that you provide us a copy of any requests for assistance
4 that the D.C. government sent to DoD related to the anticipated
5 events of January 6th. Is that okay, sir?

6 A: Yes.

7 Q: And could you describe what justification D.C.
8 government provided for requesting National Guard support in
9 advance of January 6th?

10 A: When you say "justification" you mean what -- well,
11 what do you mean by justification?

12 Q: Yes, sir. So, what we're trying to establish is the
13 basis or the reason that National Guard was deemed necessary at
14 this point.

15 A: Typically for large scale events the Metropolitan
16 Police Department, and Fire EMS will request more administrative
17 and logistical support. We've actually have a National Guard
18 activated or at least in support of the city for the global
19 pandemic since last year. And so in this case what we wanted to
20 do, and again this was a tactical and operational decision by MPD
21 and FEMS, was to have traffic management support in the downtown
22 area. As well as crowd management support near our Metro stations
23 in order to again ensure the free flow, and safety, and security
24 in the downtown area, and around our transportation hubs. That's
25 a typical request that we have for the National Guard. In terms

1 of why we requested it, we did have information, and again, I
2 know we're not going to talk about classified information, but we
3 did have information indicating that there were individuals
4 associated with right-wing extremist groups that were arriving in
5 the District the weekend prior to the 6th. So, I believe that was
6 over a New Year's weekend, and we had known or seen through our
7 information and sharing with our liaison partners a lot of
8 inflammatory rhetoric, threats of violence, and we assessed that
9 we would need additional support to do our duty which is to make
10 sure that First Amendment rights are observed and that people can
11 come here and demonstrate, but that's one of our many red lines
12 is that violence is not acceptable so we needed that extra
13 support from the National Guard.

14 Q: You already indicated that it was on January 4th that
15 you received a call from the Commanding General who stated that
16 the request had been approved. Is that correct?

17 A: That's correct.

18 Q: And was there any other discussions that took place at
19 that time that we should be aware of other than he said that the
20 request was approved?

21 A: There was, you mean on the 4th?

22 Q: Yes, sir, on that telephone call. Did the Commanding
23 General have discussions with you with regards to role,
24 equipment, capability, numbers?

25 A: He did, yes. He did tell me that they were going to be

1 deploying 340 Guard to meet our request. It's important to note
2 the District does not request specific personnel numbers. The
3 D.C. National Guard gets our sort of operational requests and
4 then determines internally, and I can't speak to how that process
5 and decisions are made, but they assess how they will posture to
6 meet our requirements, and what General Walker expressed to me
7 was that they would meet our requirements with 340 National Guard
8 personnel.

9 Q: So, you didn't request the number of personnel. Did you
10 request so far as specifically from you or from your office did
11 you request a specific role, equipment, or a capability?

12 A: Yes, sir, and I can provide those letters to you but
13 let me read off what those letters -- what that letter requested
14 so you can have some of the specifics.

15 Q: Yes, please.

16 A: From the Metropolitan Police Department six crowd
17 management teams to manage crowds at specified Metro stations and
18 prevent overcrowding on Metro platforms. A team to assist at 30
19 designated traffic posts. Fire and EMS. Requested members of the
20 D.C. National Guard Civil Support Team. Conduct the following
21 five tasks on request. One, to allow chemical, biological,
22 radiation, nuclear monitoring and the hazardous material on site
23 support. Two, provide liaisons that are required locations.
24 Three, provide technical decontamination support. Four, provide
25 analytical laboratory system support. And five, provide CSG

1 operations, communications capabilities support. Those were the
2 specific requests.

3 Q: Okay. Great. Were there any other discussions or
4 requests regarding the use of National Guard members such as in
5 law enforcement roles?

6 A: So it is -- again, it's important to note that the
7 Mayor of the District of Columbia can designate D.C. National
8 Guard personnel providing traffic control to support MPD as
9 "special police" of MPD empowering them with law enforcement
10 authority commensurate with that of D.C. civilian police, and
11 that's in line with D.C. Code. At all times though D.C. National
12 Guard military chain of command does remain intact for purposes
13 of administration and operational control. We made a request that
14 no D.C. National Guard will be armed during the mission. And that
15 at no time will D.C. National Guard personnel or assets be
16 engaged in domestic surveillance, searches, or seizures of U.S.
17 persons.

18 Q: Just looking at my notes here, sir, making sure I
19 didn't miss anything. Now, in the December 31 memo that we were
20 talking about a moment ago Mayor Bowser referenced recent protest
21 from November 14 and December 12. Can you please tell us why she
22 referenced these two particular protests in her request for
23 support?

24 A: Yeah, those were post demonstrations and protest where
25 we did see some violence in the District from right-wing

1 extremist who had come to the -- had come to our city to protest
2 the Presidential election results.

3 Q: What request for assistance were submitted to the DoD
4 for these two particular protests do you recall?

5 A: I do not recall. I can circle back with you on that.

6 Q: Okay. I would appreciate that, we also like to know
7 when, and specifically what was requested, and the outcome of the
8 request. Moving on, sir. We provided you a letter dated January 1
9 from Major General Walker to the Honorable Ryan McCarthy,
10 Secretary of the Army. The letter outlines both Mayor Bowser's
11 and your request for the National Guard support. Could you
12 reference that letter?

13 A: I have it in front of me.

14 Q: Could you tell us your opinion of the letter and does
15 it accurately reflect your request for National Guard support?

16 A: It does accurately reflect our request.

17 Q: Can you tell us about any restrictions or equipment
18 limitations the D.C. government placed on DoD supporting the
19 request for assistance prior to this point? I know you briefly
20 discussed it a moment ago.

21 A: Yeah, what I discussed a moment ago and is consistent
22 with what our requests were.

23 Q: How did your office communicate these restrictions to
24 DoD?

25 A: We communicated that in writing.

1 Q: Okay and at what point, when?

2 A: December 31 of 2020. That was in the Mayor's letter,
3 the second paragraph.

4 Q: That's how that was communicated then, there were no
5 other communications?

6 A: No. There were -- what I mentioned to you previously in
7 terms of getting you the information for the requests that we
8 sent to the National Guard on December 31 we have those letters
9 from me. So if there -- this letter January 1 that you referring
10 to, the first line reads, "Enclosed our letters from Mayor Bowser
11 and Dr. Christopher Rodriguez." The letter from me to the D.C.
12 National Guard which has those specific operational requests we
13 can send to you. That's where it's coming from.

14 Q: Oh, yes, please. We don't have that one. Okay. And can
15 you tell us who placed those restrictions or equipment
16 limitations on the DoD personnel and just explain why?

17 A: Well, it would be -- they were communicated in both
18 letters from the Mayor from myself. These are consistent with
19 past practice for MPD and FEMS's requests and so they were just
20 consistent with what we had always requested.

21 Q: But there was nothing's specific to the intelligence
22 leading up through January 6, correct?

23 A: Well, it's important to note that the Mayor of the
24 District of Columbia nor the city cannot on the National Guard.
25 We don't have the authority to do that. Only the President can do

1 that. So, we had expressed that we do not want armed National
2 Guard in the city.

3 Q: Okay. Understood. All right, sir, moving on. We also
4 provided you a letter dated January 4 of 2021 from Acting
5 Secretary Defense Miller to the Secretary the Army the subject of
6 the letter is employment guidance for the District of Columbia.

7 A: I see it. Yes, I have it in front of me.

8 Q: Can you tell us about your knowledge of Acting
9 Secretary Defense Miller's memo that detailed how National Guard
10 personnel would be equipped in support of the District?

11 A: I have no knowledge of it.

12 Q: Did this letter affect the use of National Guard? Or
13 how did I guess this letter affect the ability to use National
14 Guard?

15 A: I don't know. I can't speak to that.

16 Q: Did you have any type of response or did you coordinate
17 on any response to this letter?

18 A: You're talking about the memorandum for the Secretary
19 the Army from Acting Secretary Christopher Miller, right?

20 A: That is correct. Yes, sir.

21 A: No, I had no knowledge of this memo or this letter.

22 Q: Okay. Understood, sir. Okay, sir, moving on. We
23 provided you a letter dated January 5 of '21 from Mayor Bowser to
24 Acting Secretary Defense Miller confirming that there was no
25 additional support requirements. Do you have that letter in front

1 of you, sir?

2 A: Yes, I do. This is the one dated January 5?

3 Q: That is correct.

4 A: Yes, sir. Yes, I have that letter in front of me.

5 Q: Can you explain the intent of sending this to Acting
6 Secretary Miller?

7 A: It was sent to the Acting Attorney General, the
8 Secretary the Army, and the Acting Sec Def. The intent of this
9 letter was to ensure that any additional federal law enforcement
10 authorities that were deployed in the city be coordinated with
11 the District of Columbia which had not been done in the past.

12 Q: What concerns did you have with DoD's responsiveness to
13 the request for assistance from your office? Speaking prior to
14 January 6?

15 A: I'm sorry, can you clarify?

16 Q: Yeah, can you talk to any concerns that you or your
17 office had regarding DoD's responsiveness to your request for
18 assistance prior to January 6?

19 A: So, are you talking about the D.C. National Guard
20 response?

21 Q: Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

22 A: Okay. Any concerns, well we were concerned that we sent
23 the letter on December 31 and did in hear until January 4 whether
24 that request was approved. And so because obviously the presence
25 of the National Guard to support for traffic management and crowd

1 control has operational, and tactical locations for MPD
2 deployments. So, we were concerned that it was taking so long,
3 almost I guess what would it be? Four or five days to get that
4 request approved.

5 Q: Did you ever find out any of the reasons for the delay?

6 A: No, I did not.

7 Q: And we'll touch a little bit more about this in the
8 last section that we want discuss. [REDACTED], do you have any questions
9 here?

10

[REDACTED]

11 Q: Yes, sir. Dr. Rodriguez, I just have two questions for
12 you. The first one you spoke about classified, and once again I'm
13 not looking for any classified information, but you said you had
14 received Intel/classified information that there was going to be
15 some nefarious groups in attendance. Did you share any of that
16 information with anyone at the D.C. National Guard?

17 A: I would have to check with our Intelligence Fusion
18 Center on that. I know that they did convene several calls and
19 meetings with our federal partners. I believe the National Guard
20 was part of that but I can't speak definitively to that.

21 Q: If you would just check on that we would appreciate
22 that. The second question I have for you is you told us that the
23 response from the D.C. National Guard was to deploy 340
24 personnel. My question is, did the response from the D.C.
25 National Guard of the deployment of the 340 personnel meet your

1 needs, the two needs from MPD in the six areas of concerns for
2 fire?

3 A: Yes it did. It met our requests, our needs, because we
4 didn't request for numbers.

5 [REDACTED] All right. Thank you.

6 BY [REDACTED]

7 Q: Okay, sir. Continuing on. The next section I'd like to
8 discuss with you is the coordination that actually took place on
9 January 6.

10 A: I'm sorry. Hey, I do want to know -- before we get to
11 the next question I think that it's important to -- what our
12 needs were, and this is something that I've had talked to a lot
13 of people about in the last few weeks. Ask National Guard support
14 was for support to D.C., the city's request. We do not have
15 jurisdiction to request D.C. National Guard support for federal
16 property or on behalf of federal authorities. We made requests
17 based on what the city's needs were to secure city streets and to
18 secure city property. So, what the question that the gentleman
19 asked me in terms of whether it met our needs, it did meet our
20 needs to protect city streets and city property at the time.

21 [REDACTED] Yes, sir. Understood. [REDACTED], do you have any
22 follow-ups to that?

23 [REDACTED] No follow-ups, thank you for the clarification.

24 BY [REDACTED]

25 Q: Okay. All right, sir. As I indicated the next area that

1 we'd like to discuss is the coordination on January 6, and
2 understanding what you just informed us about so far as the
3 restrictions on what is -- you know you would request D.C.
4 National Guard support for. That may play into some of this, so
5 please elaborate as needed. The first thing I'd like to talk to
6 you about is we provided you a letter dated January 6, 2021 from
7 you to Major General Walker with the subject, D.C. National Guard
8 support request for First Amendment events in Washington DC. Can
9 you reference that please?

10 A: Yes, I have that in front of me.

11 Q: Please tell us what happened between your office and
12 DoD starting on the morning of January 6? Can you walk us through
13 all of those events?

14 A: So, my office and D.C. National Guard beginning on
15 January 6?

16 Q: Yes, sir.

17 A: Okay. So our Emergency Operation Center, the city's
18 Emergency Operation Center was activated actually on January 4.
19 So we were -- we had liaison officers from a variety of different
20 agencies including the D.C. National Guard here at HSEMA,
21 Anacostia, and so our interactions with the D.C. National Guard
22 were pretty close and tight because they were embedded within our
23 Emergency Operations Center. So, we were typically just
24 monitoring the situation for the first part of the days as
25 individual started assembling downtown.

1 Q: Can you tell us what happened during the January 6
2 event that resulted in you or your office requesting additional
3 support?

4 A: So, throughout the event and I want to be clear when we
5 say my office requested additional support, we did not request
6 additional support from the National Guard for the city during
7 that event. When we had seen the barricades being breached at the
8 U.S. Capitol, the city, my office, Metropolitan Police Department
9 had to sort of step in to assist the U.S. Capital Police with
10 getting in touch with the D.C. National Guard, and we convened,
11 or I convened to call at roughly a little bit after 2:00 o'clock
12 I believe the time was about 2:22, convened a call with the Chief
13 of the Capital Police with Chief Contee, General Walker and
14 members of the Sec Army staff to discuss what the Capital Police
15 needed up at capitol because it was clear from a city standpoint
16 that these federal entities were having difficulty either getting
17 in touch with each other or communicating their needs and
18 requirements. And so we felt the need to step in to facilitate
19 that discussion.

20 Q: Okay, sir. Since you mentioned this call that is one of
21 the things we want to talk to about a little further down. I'll
22 go ahead and move through that. During that particular call, well
23 one, can you tell us all the individuals that were on the phone?

24 A: I can tell you the individuals I knew were on the call.
25 I mean from my standpoint we were all in separate locations. So I

1 can't speak to who may have been listening in on the other line,
2 but I know that I convened the Chief of Capital Police, Chief
3 Sund, Chief Contee from the Metropolitan Police Department was on
4 the line, General Walker from the D.C. National Guard was on the
5 line. I also came to find -- found out that General Piatt and
6 General Flynn were on the line from Sec Army's office. I did not
7 invite them but I guess the D.C. National Guard did to be on the
8 line.

9 Q: Okay. It's our understanding that at some point during
10 this call someone from the Sec Army staff made a comment
11 referencing the optic of putting National Guard soldiers on the
12 ground. Can you tell us about that, please?

13 A: Yeah. So the -- there was discussion about the fact
14 that the Chief of Capital Police needed additional support. It's
15 important to note that the Metropolitan Police Department, and
16 Fire EMS were already on the scene assisting the U.S. Capital
17 Police, and the Chief, Chief Sund on the call said that they
18 needed D.C. National Guard support. And there was a comment made
19 that that would not be good from an optic standpoint, and we, and
20 in particularly that would not be good from an optic standpoint
21 to confront "peaceful protesters." I say that in quotes. Without
22 -- sorry, go ahead.

23 Q: I'm sorry, sir. That's specifically what they said?

24 A: That is what I recall that they said.

25 Q: Okay.

1 A: And then to which the Chief of Metropolitan Police
2 Department, Chief Contee said, "Well, they're not peaceful
3 anymore."

4 Q: Yes, sir. Who specifically was it that made the comment
5 about optics?

6 A: I do not know other than what I read in the press, but
7 I do believe it was one of the generals that was on the line from
8 Sec Army staff that I referred to.

9 Q: Did you or your staff document this comment in meeting
10 minutes or in any other way?

11 A: We did not.

12 Q: All right. How did you interpret that comment? We're
13 moving into asking how that may have influenced any of the
14 decision-making that took place.

15 A: How did it -- it shocked me quite frankly. And we
16 recognize that we might not be able to get an answer to getting
17 needed support up to the Capitol in a timely fashion. So, I
18 believe shortly after that comment was made the phone call ended
19 and we don't know, or I don't know what discussions took place
20 after that either at DoD with Sec Def, Sec Army, or anyone else.
21 So, it kind of shocked me because we had a situation where the
22 Metropolitan Police Department had been on the scene at the
23 Capitol for over an hour at that point, and we couldn't get any
24 additional support from DoD.

25 Q: Well what if any effect that comment have on any of the

1 request for additional National Guard support from you?

2 A: Well, again I can't request D.C. National Guard support
3 to go to the Capitol. I am not authorized to do that. I can't
4 make that request on behalf of the federal entity to the federal
5 building. So, I never had the authority to request that. That's
6 why we were convening a call. So that Chief Sund can make that
7 request directly to the Commanding General of the National Guard
8 and to Sec Army staff.

9 Q: So, am I understanding to say at this point you were
10 just acting more as a facilitator to make sure Chief Sund got in
11 contact with the right folks?

12 A: Yes. Because he was having trouble getting an answer
13 from DoD so the city had to step in and facilitate and actually
14 elevate that conversation.

15 Q: Did you or any member of your team your staff take any
16 specific actions resulting from that comment in the meeting about
17 optics?

18 A: No. How do you mean?

19 Q: Just, were there any notifications, anybody call,
20 whether it be the Mayor anybody else to brief them on the nature
21 of that call?

22 A: Well, the Chief of Police was on the line. We were
23 communicating with District leadership about the situation
24 constantly at the Capitol. So, I did not call the Mayor after
25 that.

1 Q: Okay. Okay, sir. I'm going to move back up. On January
2 6 could you explain to us how the D.C. National Guard personnel
3 which were previously approved prior to January 6 were utilized?

4 A: Well I think I've described how they were utilized. For
5 traffic management. They were at traffic point posts on district
6 streets and patrolling some of our Metro stations.

7 Q: Was that changed after any of the protest had turned
8 violent?

9 A: Well, again I think it's important to note any change
10 to an approved mission cannot be undertaken without the approval
11 of the Secretary the Army. So, for example the Mayor of District
12 of Columbia, the Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department,
13 Director of Homeland Security is not authorized to change the
14 mission of the D.C. National Guard that are deployed to a very
15 specified mission for the city.

16 Q: Yes, understood. So, but did a change occur? Do you
17 know if any of those assets that were previously approved were
18 redirected as a result of the change in mission?

19 A: That's a question for internal DoD. I was not privy to
20 that if that happened because I'm not in the chain of command and
21 not authorized to make those decisions.

22 Q: Yes, understood. We're just trying to determine also
23 what you saw on the ground as well. Okay. What agency or agencies
24 specifically asked your office to request D.C. National Guard
25 support on January 6?

1 A: MPD and FEMS. Metropolitan Police Department and Fire
2 EMS.

3 Q: Yes. Now, were there any specific circumstances that
4 led to that request on January 6 as a result of the violence that
5 took place?

6 A: Well, as I mentioned were carefully monitoring the
7 threat environment leading up to the 6th internal to the city but
8 also with federal partners. And again we made the strategic
9 decision that we needed additional support for the 6th, and
10 that's why we requested the National Guard.

11 Q: Okay. What specific D.C. National Guard support whether
12 it would be the people, roles, equipment capabilities, etcetera
13 did your office request on that date? Can you talk to that?

14 A: I think we covered that. I was reading sort of what the
15 requests were, again we can send you the letter that kind of
16 outlined all of our request for the Guard and what those were. I
17 think I mentioned 30 traffic posts, management teams.

18 Q: Okay. So that was the same request. Yeah, we just want
19 to determine the difference between what was requested prior to
20 January 6 and then what actually occurred on January 6. All
21 right. I'll move on down here. You've answered a couple of these.
22 And all of your discussions or request for D.C. National Guard
23 support were directly with the General of the National Guard
24 there? We've already established that. Can you explain how any
25 written request for assistance are routed?

1 A: Yes, they are sent via email the PDF e-mail.

2 Q: Okay. Do you send them directly or is it someone on
3 your staff?

4 A: Someone on my staff sends them on my behalf. To, yes to
5 the National Guard.

6 Q: So, as far as speaking specifically for the requests
7 that were sent on January 6, can you tell us what time they were
8 sent and what time you received the response?

9 A: So no requests were sent on January 6. The requests
10 were sent on December 31st and, that was done via e-mail. I mean
11 I can pull the timestamps for when they were sent on December 31,
12 but we did not receive a written response to our written request
13 from the D.C. National Guard or at least if there was one sent it
14 wasn't sent to me. But, that phone call --

15 Q: January 4?

16 A: On January 4. Was made I believe around a little after
17 10:00 a.m. in the morning on January 4.

18 Q: Can you tell us with regards to any of the request that
19 you had submitted did DoD deny any of those request?

20 A: No, they did not deny any of the requests that we
21 requested.

22 Q: Okay. Can you tell us what kind of timeframe they gave
23 you for providing the additional support you requested?

24 A: Typically it can take -- yet depends on the request,
25 right? So, sometimes it can take a day or two. Sometimes it takes

1 longer. In this particular case as I mentioned we made the
2 request on December 31 and we got an answer on the 4th. The
3 morning of the 4th.

4 Q: Okay. Are there e-mails, text messages or other
5 documents relating to January 6 request for assistance that you
6 have that we should review?

7 A: I don't have anything.

8 Q: Okay. Other than what we had already talked about that
9 you can provide? Let's see, what support the DoD's provide to the
10 District of Columbia on January 6? Is that limited to what was in
11 that letter? Is that correct?

12 A: Yes.

13 Q: Okay. Are you familiar with what time the additional
14 support started arriving in D.C. in response to the riots?

15 A: I'm sorry, can you flush it out a little bit?

16 A: Yes. We're trying to determine at what point the
17 National Guard, the additional National Guard or DoD support
18 started arriving in the District in response to the Capitol
19 events?

20 A: Yeah, that would be internal to DoD about when they
21 deployed. So I think that would be -- or the National Guard. So I
22 think that would be a better question for them because I wouldn't
23 have the specific details on that. I don't want to tell you
24 something that's not accurate.

25 Q: Okay. Yeah, great. Obviously we want to know what

1 they're going to tell us, but we also want to know what was
2 physically occurring on the ground. Sometimes there could be a
3 disconnect. We just need to determine if there is. Can you talk
4 to any concerns that you have with DoD's responsiveness to
5 request for assistance from your office on January 6 or even
6 previously?

7 A: So, again, yeah the requests there were no -- the
8 requests weren't made on January 6. The requests were made on
9 December 31 for the 6th. And so, the concern that I had was that
10 we weren't hearing from D.C. National Guard and from DoD. We
11 weren't hearing the responses from what I would define it in a
12 timely way so that we could plan and prepare. Ultimately we did
13 because that's just what we do, but I think that was a big
14 concern for me was that it was taking several days for this
15 request to be approved at DoD.

16 Q: Okay. Now sir, we understand that Secretary of the Army
17 McCarthy traveled into D.C. and met with you and possibly others
18 at MPD Headquarters. Is that correct, and if so can you tell us
19 about that meeting?

20 A: Yes. That is correct. On the afternoon of the 6th the
21 city's public safety leadership convened at MPD which was our
22 sort of incident command post for the Capital, for the city, and
23 Secretary McCarthy did come and brought his staff. And so there
24 were a lot of discussions about how the Secretary of the Army and
25 how the D.C. National Guard could support some of the operations

1 up at the Capitol. But he was there for several hours so there
2 were several conversations that took place. Some of which I'm --

3 Q: Can you -- oh, go ahead. I'm sorry. Go ahead, sir. I'm
4 sorry. I cut you off.

5 Q: No, some of which I wasn't involved in so.

6 Q: Well, for that part that you were involved in, sir, can
7 you tell us who all was present and what was discussed?

8 A: I don't know everyone -- well I didn't know everyone on
9 the Secretary of the Army's staff so I can -- you know there was
10 that Sec Army comes in there's a lot of staffers with him. I
11 can't speak to everyone that was there but certainly later in the
12 evening General Walker arrived with some of his entourage as
13 well. Again I didn't know everyone that was with him but from the
14 city side of course we had myself, the Chief of Police, the Chief
15 of Fire, EMS. The City Administrator, the Director of the
16 Department of Public Works, myself as I mentioned, and the Mayor.

17 Q: Okay. Can you tell us what was discussed?

18 A: A lot of it was trying to get some level of situation
19 awareness. It didn't appear to me that the Sec Army or the
20 National Guard, and again I'm not privy to what DoD's orders were
21 to Sec Army about what he was allowed to and not allowed to do.
22 But our focused really was on getting resources to the Capitol
23 from a city standpoint and working MPD and trying to make sure
24 that they Mayor had all of the information that she needed in
25 order to make decisions about MPD and sort of supporting the

1 Chief getting people up there to the Capitol to as a night went
2 on of course begin clearing operations to take back the building.

3 Q: Understood. Understood. Now, did Secretary McCarthy or
4 any of his staff tell you about DoD's response to the ongoing
5 events at the Capitol? Did they describe what they were doing?

6 A: You know, I'll be honest. It seemed like there was a
7 lot of doubletalk. I mean our primary concern was the fact that
8 we had over -- that there was an insurrection occurring, and so
9 we didn't have time to sort of frankly to wait for decisions to
10 come down from DoD, for someone to call someone in the
11 Secretary's office to get approval to change the missions to get
12 Guard in. It appeared that there wasn't a quick reaction
13 capability. And so, quite frankly, sir, like pretty quickly our
14 attention turned to how are we going to assist Capital Police
15 given the fact that we had over 800 MPD officers there. We had
16 officers from across the region as well coming in to clear the
17 Capitol. And so, the DoD and Sec Army factor there kind of became
18 not as prominent because we knew that there wasn't much, or it
19 appeared to us that there wasn't much that they could provide in
20 the immediate term that we needed.

21 Q: Okay. Copy that. Now, did you have any direct
22 conversations with Secretary Miller on January 6?

23 A: No, I did not.

24 Q: What about members of OSD staff or the Joint Chief of
25 Staff?

1 A: No, sir, none.

2 Q: Okay. And sir, we also provided you a letter dated
3 February 1, 2021 from Chief Sund to a Member of Congress. Do you
4 have that letter, sir?

5 A: Yes, I do.

6 Q: Have you an opportunity to review it?

7 A: I have, yes.

8 Q: Okay. Is there -- can you describe anything you
9 disagree with or your opinion of that letter?

10 A: Well the only -- I mean the only thing I can really
11 speak to is the part that I guess that I'm directly involved in
12 which was that call, and I believe that's referenced on Page 6 in
13 the letter. And so I think that is -- I think that's an accurate
14 depiction of what was said and I guess here it indicates that
15 Lieutenant General Piatt was the one that sort of talked about
16 visuals and optics. So I -- you know I think that is -- that's an
17 accurate description in that paragraph of the conversations that
18 I was involved in. But the rest of it I don't want to presuppose
19 to know whether it's factual or not.

20 [REDACTED] Understood sir, thank you. [REDACTED] do you have
21 any questions on that section?

22 [REDACTED]

23 Q: Yes. I have a couple. First thing you mentioned it a
24 number of times, but I just want to put it for the record. The
25 District of Columbia asked for no additional capabilities

1 requests from the D.C. National Guard based on the events at the
2 Capitol on January 6. Is that correct, Doctor?

3 A: The District of Columbia made no formal requests for
4 any additional D.C. National Guard support for the city, and for
5 city streets, and city property on the 6th.

6 Q: Okay. Thank you. My next question is several media
7 articles have stated that District of Columbia received more
8 resources from the D.C. National Guard than it requested. How do
9 you respond to that?

10 A: The city does not put specific numbers or anything like
11 that on -- in our requests. We simply lay out what we need from
12 an operational and tactical standpoint and it's the D.C. National
13 Guard, and I presume it is the Department of Defense that decides
14 how and at what level those requests are going to be met.

15 Q: Okay. Thank you. You spoke about the Secretary the Army
16 traveling to MPD Headquarters for a meeting. Has the Secretary
17 the Army ever traveled to D.C. for an in person meeting before or
18 was this the first time that you know of?

19 A: The Secretary the Army I think he's located in D.C.
20 Maybe he's in the Pentagon, but in any event I have been -- I've
21 heard that he has been here in D.C. before but I really can't
22 speak to whether he -- at what meetings or anything like that
23 that he said.

24 Q: Okay. Thank you. You stated it appeared to you that
25 there was no D.C. National Guard quick reaction force. Did

1 anybody tell you directly that there was no quick reaction force
2 available?

3 A: Could you repeat the first part of you're kind of low.
4 I didn't get the whole question.

5 Q: Okay. Earlier you stated that it appeared to you that
6 there was no D.C. National Guard quick reaction force available.
7 Did anybody tell you directly that there was no quick reaction
8 force available to you?

9 A: So I want to be clear. There could have been a quick
10 reaction force available from the D.C. National Guard. What I
11 would say is that whatever was available was clearly not able to
12 be deployed because we were not getting positive sort of
13 responses from requests by the Chief of the Capital Police to --
14 for assistance.

15 Q: Okay. Thank you. Two more questions for you. One of
16 them is you said that Chief of Police Sund was having trouble
17 getting an answer from DoD. Do you know who Chief Sund was
18 talking to at DoD?

19 A: Well if you -- I mean when -- I can't speak to who
20 Chief Sund was trying to get in touch with or was talking to. It
21 was just clear to the city that there was a breakdown in
22 communication somewhere that we had to step in and just get
23 everyone on the phone quickly in order to give the Chief an
24 opportunity to convey his request directly to the people who
25 needed to hear them.

1 Q: So then are you familiar with how the federal agency
2 requests D.C. National Guard, or DoD support?

3 A: I am not.

4 Q: And, my last question is for you do you know what
5 capabilities Chief of Police Sund was requesting from DoD?

6 A: I do not.

7 Q: Okay. Thank you.

8 BY [REDACTED]

9 Q: Okay, sir. Next section that we would like to discuss
10 is just some general coordination with DoD. You've already
11 addressed the number today. So I apologize up front and for some
12 of the sounds repetitive. Let's see. What agencies can ask for
13 D.C. National Guard support so far is your understanding?

14 A: Sure. So any D.C. agency can request National Guard
15 support. However, they will come to me, to the Homeland Security
16 and Emergency Management Agency to assess need and then we will
17 send that letter if we need to.

18 Q: Okay. So that is how they are routed for approval. Is
19 everything comes through you and then you would send a letter of
20 request. Do I understand that correctly, sir?

21 A: Yes, that is correct.

22 Q: Okay. Please, can you describe your understanding of
23 the Seven Step Process for requesting that National Guard
24 support?

25 A: My understanding of the Seven Step Process is that the

1 city has exhausted, or at least a particular agency has exhausted
2 its organic capabilities to provide services that it needs to,
3 and at that point we would request National Guard resources.

4 Q: So sir, I understand it, so all of the request come
5 through your office. I assume those are approved directly by you?
6 Is that correct?

7 A: That is correct.

8 Q: Okay. Do you delegate any of that coordination
9 responsibility or approval process?

10 A: No, I do not. I speak directly with the heads of the
11 departments that are requesting those resources.

12 Q: So I understand the indicating --

13 A: That process has been fulfilled.

14 Q: I'm sorry, sir. You broke up. Can you repeat that?

15 A: Well, to understand there -- the Seven Step Process for
16 National Guard resources and to make sure that I'm comfortable,
17 and we're all comfortable with requesting those resources.

18 Q: Yes, sir. So sir, you already indicated that you will
19 contact the General of the National Guard directly and you
20 contact him by phone or e-mail, or both. Is that correct?

21 A: The formal request is sent via e-mail.

22 Q: Yes, sir. And approval may come back in the form of a
23 phone call or a response e-mail. Is that correct?

24 A: Typically it comes back in the form of a phone call.

25 Q: Okay, sir. Can you describe what all is included in

1 a formal request from your office for National Guard's support?

2 A: As I mentioned we will -- will send you the letters
3 that I sent which will have those details so you can see what is
4 included in our formal request.

5 Q: Okay, sir. Now sir, you already described your request
6 from December 31st and receiving a response on January 4th, but
7 can you describe the average time your office, for your office to
8 receive a response for DoD, or National Guard assistance?

9 A: Again, it does depend on what we're requesting and the
10 level of -- the specific capabilities that we're requesting. So,
11 again as I mentioned it can take anywhere from a day or two to
12 what we saw I guess for the 6th.

13 Q: All right. Are there any complications or delays that
14 your office has encountered in requesting National Guard support
15 that we haven't already discussed here?

16 A: No.

17 Q: Is there anything that we haven't discussed thus far
18 regarding you or your staff's coordination DoD or any effort
19 prior to January 6? Understanding there weren't any directly on
20 January 6 that we should include in this review?

21 A: No.

22 Q: Sir, according to media reports some DoD personnel
23 describe the approval process to support the federal and D.C.
24 government during this type of incident as archaic. How would you
25 describe the process on January 6 from your perspective?

1 A: From my perspective I think that the requests were
2 probably took -- why they did take longer than we had anticipated
3 for approval given the nature of the 6th and what we were seeing,
4 and what we were concerned about the prospects for violence, we
5 were growing concerned after almost 5 days of not hearing what
6 the final decision was. That was very concerning for us.

7 Q: Can you describe any recommendations that you would
8 have for resolving these types of issues or how it could be
9 better streamlined?

10 A: Yes. So the Mayor of the District of Columbia should
11 have control over the D.C. National Guard.

12 [REDACTED] Okay. And how would you improved the, well
13 actually problem you kind of already talked about, talk to that
14 one. All right, sir. [REDACTED] do you have any follow-up questions?

15 [REDACTED] No questions.

16 BY [REDACTED]

17 Q: All right. Well sir, we'll go ahead and proceed into a
18 read out. Is there any additional information that you would like
19 to provide that we haven't addressed yet?

20 A: No, thank you.

21 Q: Who else should we talk to and why?

22 A: I believe you're already scheduled to speak with Mayor
23 Bowser.

24 Q: Yes, sir.

25 A: Okay. So that's -- I know that's it. I know that's
scheduled.

26 Q: All right. Sir, and you mentioned Mr. Sund. Do you by
27 contact information for him?

28 A: Unfortunately I do not, no.

29 Q: Okay. All right, sir. Do you have any questions for us?

30 A: No, sir. I do not. I appreciate your time.

31 Q: Okay. Do you have any comments or concerns about the
32 way we conducted this interview?

33 A: I do not.

34 Q: Sir, I would just ask that if you do remember anything
35 else that you believe may be relevant to our office your General
36 Counsel and everybody in the room have my have my contact
37 information. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

38 A: Okay.

39 [REDACTED] Finally, in order to protect the integrity of
40 this review, we ask that you not discuss the matter under review
41 or the questions we have asked you during this review with anyone
42 other than your legal counsel. The time is 10:08, sir. If there
43 are no other questions this interview is concluded.

44 DR. RODRIGUEZ: I'm sorry, sir.

45 [REDACTED] Yes, sir.

46 DR. RODRIGUEZ: Hold on one second. Yeah. I think, no I
47 think we're okay. Thank you.

48 [The interview terminated at 10:05 a.m., February 12, 2021.]