



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON

05 JAN 2021

Major General William J. Walker  
Commanding General  
District of Columbia National Guard  
2001 East Capitol Street SE  
Washington, DC 20003-1719

Dear General Walker:

This responds to your letter dated January 1, 2021 recommending approval of the request of Mr. Christopher Rodriguez, Director of District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (DCHSEMA), on behalf of the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Service (DCFEMS) and DC Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) dated December 31, 2020, requesting the District of Columbia National Guard (DCNG) 33rd Civil Support Team (CST) and traffic management and crowd control for planned demonstrations in DC from 5-7 January 2021.

**Support to the Civil Authorities of the District of Columbia**

DCHSEMA requested that the DCNG CST conduct the following tasks, upon request, for each event: (1) Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) monitoring and hazardous material (HAZMAT) on-site support; (2) liaisons at all required locations; (3) technical decontamination support (on call);<sup>1</sup> (4) Analytical Laboratory Suite (ALS) support (on call); and (5) CST operations and communications capability support. The CST personnel will be partnered with personnel from DCFEMS throughout the course of these missions and will serve solely in a support role to emergency fire and medical first responders.

DCHSEMA also requested six crowd management teams at specified Metro stations and to prevent overcrowding on Metro platforms; and teams to assist at 30 designated traffic posts.

Your mission analysis determined that the DCNG could provide all of the requested support. I approve the DCNG to support the MPD with 340 total personnel. DCNG Disposition will include:

- a. Traffic Control Points: 90 personnel (180 total/2 shifts) operating in non-tactical vehicles
- b. Metro station support: 24 personnel (48 total/2 shifts)

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<sup>1</sup> The requested technical decontamination support will be limited to first responders working with the CST. It will not include the mass decontamination of civilians.

- c. CST Support: 20 personnel
- d. Quick Reaction Support: 40 personnel staged at Joint Base Andrews
- e. Internal C2 and Support: 52 personnel

DCNG are not authorized to perform any additional tasks or duties not authorized in this memorandum. In addition, without my personal authorization, the DCNG is not authorized the following:

- a. To be issued weapons, ammunition, bayonets, and batons.
- b. To interact physically with protestors, except when necessary in self-defense or defense of others, consistent with the DCNG Rules for the Use of Force other than those who pose an immediate threat of physical harm to Federal personnel or destruction of Federal facilities.
- c. To employ any riot control agents.
- d. To share equipment with law enforcement agencies.
- e. To use Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) assets or to conduct ISR or Incident, Awareness, and Assessment (IAA) activities.
- f. To employ helicopters or any other air assets.
- g. To conduct searches, seizures, arrests, or other similar direct law enforcement activity.
- h. To seek support from any non-DCNG National Guard units.

DCNG Soldiers have the inherent right to self-defense. DCNG Soldiers will store their helmets and body armor within vehicles or buildings in close proximity to their positions. In the event of an elevation of the threat requiring immediate donning of this equipment for self-defense, DCNG leadership will immediately notify the Secretary of Army.

At all times, the DCNG will remain under the operational and administrative command and control of the Commanding General of the DCNG, who reports to the Secretary of Defense through the Secretary of the Army.

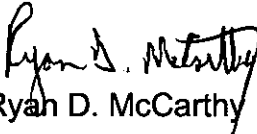
I withhold authority to approve employment of the DCNG Quick Reaction Force (QRF) and will do so only as a last resort, in response to a request from an appropriate civil authority. I will require a concept of operation prior to authorizing employment of the QRF. If the QRF is employed, DCNG personnel will be clearly marked and/or distinguished from civilian law enforcement personnel. You will notify me immediately of any requests for QFR employment.

The support mission for the CST will begin at approximately 0700 hours on January 5, 2021, and will end on January 7, 2021 when DCHSEMA, in coordination with DCFEMS, determines that the mission is complete. Finally, your mission analysis determined that the requested support constitutes valid military training; is within the current capabilities of the DCNG, and will not detract from the readiness of the DCNG.

### Approval

Pursuant to my request, the Deputy Attorney General reviewed and concurred with your plan for support to the civil authorities of the District of Columbia.

All DCNG personnel associated with this support mission will serve under the provisions of Title 32, U.S.C., Section 502(f). They will serve solely in a support role to the named civil authorities and remain under the command and control of DCNG leadership at all times. DCNG will not be armed for this event however, MPD requests that DCNG members be equipped with safety vests and lighted traffic wands to assist with this mission. Further, MPD requests DCNG personnel supporting the mission be appointed as "Special Police" pursuant to D.C. Code § 5-129.03. They will not engage in the domestic surveillance of U.S. persons.

  
Ryan D. McCarthy

CF:  
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense and Global Security)  
Office of the Department of Defense General Counsel  
Department of Defense Executive Secretary  
Chief, National Guard Bureau  
Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7  
Office of the Army General Counsel