



United States Capitol Police

Labor Committee

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PRESS RELEASE

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Capitol Police Officers' Response to IG Bolton's Report

USCP Inspector General Michael Bolton has issued a damning report on the litany of leadership failures leading to the devastating events of the January 6th Capitol insurrection.

In a statement to Congress prior to giving testimony on April 15th, Inspector General Bolton outlines a list of “deficiencies”, including a lack of operational planning, a failure to disseminate relevant information and lack of coordination amongst USCP leaders.

Capitol Police Union Chairman Gus Papathanasiou says, “It’s clear our leaders did not have a clear plan to identify threats before January 6th, nor did they provide the training, equipment, communication or guidance that officers needed to defend the Capitol that day.”

Inspector General Bolton found that the USCP’s own threat assessment finalized three days prior to the insurrection determined that Congress was the likely target:

“Unlike previous post-election protests, the targets of the pro-Trump supporters are not necessarily the counter protesters as they were previously, but rather Congress itself is the target on the 6th,” - January 3, 2021 USCP Threat Assessment

Chairman Papathanasiou says, “The Inspector General’s report confirms that USCP leadership had actionable intelligence and did nothing with it. They can try to blame the FBI or the Department of Homeland Security but the leadership of USCP needs to take responsibility. That must start with Acting Chief Pittman who previously was in charge of intelligence as Assistant Chief for Intelligence and

Protective Operations prior to the insurrection. Congress needs to hold these leaders accountable.”

“Our leaders failed in their basic duty to capably receive and act on intelligence reports of pending threats. No wonder officers were blindsided by the violent attacks of that day.”

“We lost Officer Sicknick in the line of duty. A USCP officer along with an MPD officer traumatized by the events of January 6th tragically took their own lives after years of dedicated service. We had over 140 USCP and MPD officers injured during the insurrection. Some of these officers were hurt so badly they may never return to duty.”

“I hope that Congress recognizes the radical change that needs to take place at this department, starting with new leadership that has the trust and confidence of the front-line officers.”

The changes will require additional investment as outlined in the report from General Honoré’s Task Force, recommending security improvements at the Capitol.

Chairman Papathanasiou says, “The critical component is the officers, and right now we have a serious problem. We are already 233 officers below our authorized level and there are 500 officers who could retire in the next few years.”

“I have lost track of the number of younger officers who have confided in me that they are on the fence about whether to stay. Many are considering applying to other agencies or leaving law enforcement altogether.”

“First and foremost, Congress needs to invest in our officers, those on duty today and the hundreds more that General Honoré’s Task Force recommends hiring. In addition to this investment there needs to be complete support for Law Enforcement at the USCP and throughout this country.”

Inspector General Michael Bolton’s Statement, Committee on House Administration, April 15th 2021:

<https://docs.house.gov/meetings/HA/HA00/20210415/111443/HHRG-117-HA00-Wstate-BoltonM-20210415.pdf>