

# Report: Capitol Police Were Severely Unprepared To Handle Events Of Jan. 6, 2021

U.S. Capitol Police did not have assistance and training to manage the rioters at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, a brand-new report states.

The report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) discovered that most of the 315 officers spoke with felt significantly unprepared to deal with any unapproved breach of Capitol residential or commercial property. The report declares what numerous other guard dog companies identified as an enormous security failure by the Capitol Police and House of Representatives leaders, who stopped working to provide the officers clear instructions and autonomy to make security choices.

At least 211 of the officers affirmed to GAO that they had little to no assistance from leaders in the force prior to the occasions regardless of intelligence suggesting there would be a significant presentation and potentially rowdy crowd. Even throughout the height of the Capitol riot, at least 209 officers confessed that guidelines were “slightly clear, not at all clear, or not offered.”

At least 80 participants likewise declared they were reluctant to use force versus lawbreakers due to “fear of disciplinary actions” from the department and a absence of understanding about what kind of force would be proper to use versus rioters. As a result, more than half of the officers questioned by the GAO, 180, stated they preferred more training that is “realistic” and provides useful actions to control a crowd.

After the 2020 summer season of devastating riots, when surveys revealed a absence of self-confidence in law enforcement, it's no surprise that understaffed authorities departments would desire their officers to cut back on possibly questionable actions to prevent ending up being a target for racial justice rioters. At the time of the Capitol riot, the department's force policy mentioned that “officers are just licensed to use the level of force that appears fairly needed to bring a subject under control while securing the lives of officers and others.”

One officer even affirmed in the GAO report that the Capitol Police department “is constantly anxious about optics and never ever actually desire[s] us to go hands on with the public.”

“Several participants specified that the issue with optics was associated to management's understanding of the desires of Members of Congress,” the report clarified.

The last time we heard about bad “optics” associated to Capitol law enforcement was when previous Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund, who resigned from his management post soon after Jan. 6,

informed The Washington Post that Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, who is eventually accountable for the security of the Capitol, rejected his demand for the National Guard to help his officers. Sund particularly kept in mind that Pelosi's House Sergeant at Arms Paul Irving declared that releasing the Guard would be bad "optics," specifically for House leaders who formerly avoided utilizing the military versus civilian rioters.

Nancy Pelosi slammed the usage of the military to guard the Lincoln Memorial after DC experienced multiple riots last year. [pic.twitter.com/hY5UPNVacE](https://pic.twitter.com/hY5UPNVacE)

— Julio Rosas (@Julio\_Rosas11) January 13, 2021

As a result, at least 151 participants declared there was a "lack of management and interaction" surrounding the occasions on Jan. 6. Approximately 55 officers concurred that the management in the Capitol Police department requires to be "changed or enhanced."

Capitol Police authorities and even D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser have admitted that Jan. 6 exposed essential failures of the law enforcement department, however so far, the department has mostly stopped working to carry out the suggestions made by the Capitol Police Inspector General and others.

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Source: [Report: Capitol Police Were Severely Unprepared To Handle Events Of Jan. 6, 2021.](#)