

ABC's *Good Morning America*

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MICHAEL STRAHAN: The President also declaring a crime emergency in our nation's capital as he ordered a federal take over of the D.C. police force even though the mayor says — the city's mayor says violent crime is at a 30-year low. Chief White House correspondent Mary Bruce joins us with the latest. Good morning, Mary.

MARY BRUCE: Hey, Michael, good morning. Well, this is an extraordinary and historic step. For first time, the President seizing control of Washington, D.C., expanding the use of military power on U.S. soil. Now, the President claims crime here is out of control, but that's not what the official figures show.

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BRUCE: President Trump declaring a public safety emergency in D.C., placing Attorney General Pam Bondi in charge of the D.C. Metropolitan Police and activating some 800 National Guard troops. The first time the National Guard has been deployed to D.C. since after the 2021 attack on the Capitol. Overnight, the secretary of defense saying they'll be ready to act.

DEFENSE SECRETARY PETE HEGSETH [on FNC's *The Ingraham Angle*, 08/11/25]: They're gonna be proactive. If you take a shot at them, there will be a consequence. [SCREEN WIPE] We're not going to have them sitting there like this, seeing a crime being committed, and not doing something about it.

BRUCE: The guard is being deployed to assist with law enforcement activities. Guardsmen always have weapons available, according to a U.S. official, but whether they will be armed for these duties is up to their commander. The President is painting an apocalyptic picture of the nation's capital, adamant crime is spiraling out of control, but the official figures show crime in the capital is actually in decline. Violent crime hitting a 30-year low, down 26 percent since last year. Burglary down 19 percent. Murder down 12 percent.

MAYOR MURIEL BOWSER (D): When we think of emergencies, it usually involves surges in crime.

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BRUCE: Guard troops, we're told, will be in position the coming week. Now, it's not clear how long they will stay on the streets of D.C. but the President is willing to go further and bring in additional military forces if needed.

STRAHAN: Yeah, that would have helped on January 6, Mary.