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City & State New York, August 13

DOCCS Support

Stefanik slams Hochul over prison strike fallout

FingerLakes1.com:

Congresswoman Elise Stefanik is calling on Governor Kathy Hochul to answer for her role in a wave of prison strikes that erupted earlier this year—accusing her of ignoring warnings and failing correctional officers.

In a statement released Wednesday, Stefanik said Hochul “turned her back” on law enforcement and let the crisis unfold despite repeated alerts from the union representing correction officers.

Union says warnings were ignored

The New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association (NYSCOBPA) shared a detailed post-strike report alleging state leaders—including Hochul—were warned about growing unrest. At a February union assembly, members voiced concerns that conditions were worsening and action was needed.

NYSCOBPA says it went as far as showing a video of that meeting to one of Hochul’s top aides. The aide reportedly promised to relay the message directly to the governor—but according to the union, no changes followed.

“Still, nothing happened,” the report said. “State leaders chose to disregard the warnings.”

Strikes broke out across state prisons starting February 17, 2025. Stefanik said the unrest “wreaked havoc” and resulted in the firing of an estimated 2,000 correction officers.

National Guard and soaring costs

Stefanik also criticized Hochul for deploying New York National Guard troops to fill the staffing gap. She claimed the reservists were sent in with “no training,” putting their safety at risk.

The strike reportedly cost the state \$100 million per month, according to estimates cited by Stefanik.

“This could have been avoided,” she said. “Kathy Hochul ignored the warning signs out of incompetence or indifference to law enforcement.”

Stefanik is demanding that Hochul respond directly to the union’s report and explain what she knew, when she knew it, and why she took no action.

<https://www.fingerlakes1.com/2025/08/14/stefanik-slams-hochul-over-prison-strike-fallout/>

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Emergency Response

Hurricane Emergency Preparedness Training Coming To Port Washington

Patch.com:

PORT WASHINGTON, NY — A Hurricane Season Emergency Preparedness Training event is scheduled for 7 p.m. Sept. 17 at the Port Washington Public Library's Lapham Room, located at 1 Library Drive, Port Washington, Town of North Hempstead Councilwoman Mariann Dalimonte announced.

The training is meant to "better equip local families and individuals for increasingly severe weather and disaster events," Dalimonte said.

The community initiative — co-hosted by the Port Washington Fire Department, Port Washington Police Department, the New York National Guard, the Port Washington Public Library, and the NYS Office of Emergency Management — aims to empower residents with the knowledge and tools to prepare for, respond to, and recover from both natural and man-made disasters.

"As storms and emergency events grow more frequent and extreme, the need for community preparedness has never been greater," Dalimonte said in a news release. "This training will help ensure Port Washington families are equipped to protect themselves and their loved ones in the face of disaster."

The training session will cover:

How to develop a family emergency plan.

What emergency supplies to have on hand.

The basics of disaster response and recovery.

Each attending family will receive a free preparedness kit.

Registration is required to attend. To reserve your spot, people may visit [here](#).

Dalimonte encourages all Port Washington residents to take advantage of this "vital opportunity to become disaster-ready."

<https://patch.com/new-york/portwashington/hurricane-emergency-preparedness-training-coming-port-washington>

New York Air National Guard

New York Air Guard's 107th Medical Group Provides Critical Support to Pennsylvania Community

NationalGuard.mil:

ELLWOOD CITY, Pa. — Twenty Airmen from the New York Air National Guard's 107th Attack Wing's Medical Group, stationed in Niagara Falls, New York, were among 160 joint service members supporting Operation Healthy Ellwood, an Innovation Readiness Training, or IRT, mission, July 23 to Aug. 1.

The Department of Defense-led effort provided free medical, dental, optometry and veterinary services to the residents of Ellwood City. No ID, insurance or income requirements were needed.

According to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the IRT program is designed to bring needed care to underserved American communities while giving military personnel realistic, hands-on training. Service members from the U.S. Air Force, Army and Navy participated.

During the 10-day mission, the team conducted more than 3,500 general consultations, 1,255 optometry visits, 836 medical exams and 380 veterinary appointments, said Tech. Sgt. Kimberley Cyna-Capodicasa, a medical technician from Grand Island, New York, assigned to the 107th Attack Wing's Medical Group.

"The majority of our group was able to accomplish a lot of great training during this time — both for the Air Force and for working in a deployed medical setting," Cyna-Capodicasa said.

For Col. Nicole Hurley, a command nurse with Air Force Reserve Command, the mission was personal. Hurley grew up in Ellwood City and has seen firsthand the challenges residents face in accessing care.

"Two years ago, I was invited to a distinguished visitors' event in rural Louisiana," Hurley said. "As soon as I saw the services being provided, the first thing I thought was, 'This needs to come to Ellwood City.'"

The town, located north of Pittsburgh in Lawrence County, once thrived on steel mills, quarries and coal mining. But its primary hospital, Ellwood City Medical Center, closed in early 2020 after years of financial struggles.

The facility has remained inactive despite being sold in 2022 to a California-based investment group.

By bringing critical services to the region, Operation Healthy Ellwood temporarily filled the gap while providing Airmen with the opportunity to exercise their expeditionary skills in a real-world environment.

1st Lt. Eric Marburger, acting assistant logistics officer and transportation officer for the mission, also assigned to the 107th Attack Wing's Medical Group, grew up in nearby New Castle, Pennsylvania.

"To be part of a team dedicated to providing service, not only for a community in need, but to the county I grew up in, was extremely rewarding," Marburger said.

<https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article-View/Article/4274529/new-york-air-guards-107th-medical-group-provides-critical-support-to-pennsylvan/>

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Phoenix airman promoted in Air National Guard

Oswego County News Now:

LATHAM — Air Force Major General Michael Bank, the commander of the New York Air National Guard, announces the recent promotion of members of the New York Air National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

Jayda Blakeman from Phoenix, assigned to the 174th Attack Wing, received a promotion July 2 to the rank of senior airman.

https://www.oswegocountynewsnow.com/news/phoenix-airman-promoted-in-air-national-guard/article_2b564333-8536-43e7-87c7-c8d7fba772f4.html

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Air National Guard Provides Rescue Assets During Historic Pacific Exercise

NationalGuard.mil, August 12, 2025:

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan – U.S. Air National Guard rescue units from Alaska, California and New York deployed about 150 Airmen with five aircraft recently to provide real-world rescue capability in support of exercise Resolute Force Pacific, or REFORPAC, 2025 in Misawa, Japan.

Exercise REFORPAC 25 is the largest Air Force contingency-response exercise ever in the Pacific. It is a first-in-a-generation series of exercises encompassing all branches of the Department of Defense, employing about 400 joint and coalition aircraft with more than

12,000 personnel at more than 50 locations across 3,000 miles.

The U.S. Pacific Air Force requested Air National Guard rescue units be in place July 10 - 29 and ready to perform real-world search and rescue should an incident occur during the exercise, said Maj. Tia Beck, director of operations for the 106th Logistics Readiness Squadron. Beck also said the Air Force is the most highly trained and capable of performing personnel recovery.

Air National Guard units contributing to the rescue mission at Misawa Air Base were from the triad of Air National Guard Rescue units: the 106th Rescue Wing of the New York Air National Guard, the 129th Rescue Wing from the California Air National Guard, and the 176th Wing from the Alaska Air National Guard, with additional assistance from the 150th Special Operations Wing, New Mexico Air National Guard.

“Working with multiple organizations and the end result being the ability for us to be able to work together to come to a common goal is significant,” said Maj. Patrick Osahor, an HH-60W Jolly Green II helicopter rescue pilot assigned to the 106th Rescue Wing. “The more we can do these types of exercises and get this level of integration, the better prepared the squadron will be to execute in any environment in the future.”

Pararescuemen from Alaska integrated with New York helicopter rescue crews operating their HH-60W Jolly Green II rescue helicopters. Two HC-130J Combat King II rescue aircraft from California and New York, along with their crews, provided search and rescue and aerial refueling support.

“It's a really cool experience getting to integrate with the New York team, with the California team, and just see the level of professionalism across the board,” said Staff Sgt. Cash Cutsforth, a pararescueman with the 212th Rescue Squadron assigned to the Alaska Air National Guard.

Cutsforth said the rescue element is the 911 call for the area and would be going to pick up any pilots and crews in the event of a real-world incident.

“The standard in rescue seems to be the same anywhere you go,” Cutsforth said. “I was very excited to work with New York helicopters. It's a new type of helicopter. We had never worked on it before, so it's a great experience.”

Aircraft maintainers from California and New York also were on the scene providing routine and contingency maintenance with 24-hour support capabilities alongside multiple supporting personnel, including but not limited to flight operations, communications, intelligence and logistics.

For some, the exercise provided a new experience and a broader perspective on the Air Force.

“This being my first TDY [temporary duty], I think I've experienced a lot,” said Airman 1st Class Adam Singh, a system aviation resource manager assigned to the California Air

National Guard. “I think this is a great experience, not only because I get to see real-world missions happen, but I also get to see how the Air Force as a whole functions.”

The size and scope of REFORPAC 25, as well as the complexity of real-world rescue planning and operations, were challenges the Air National Guard worked through to accomplish the mission.

“I’ve been very impressed with the professionalism that I’ve seen,” Beck said. “That we’re able to actually get over here on the other side of the world and still do our mission safely and efficiently, I think that’s a win.”

Exercise REFORPAC demonstrates the U.S. commitment to the region by fostering interoperability, establishing multilateral cooperative arrangements with allies and partners, advancing shared interests and promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific region. The intent is to enhance interoperability, strengthen our militaries and demonstrate a collective commitment to maintaining regional stability.

Air National Guard rescue operates and maintains the HC-130J Combat King II search and rescue aircraft, and HH-60, “G” Pave Hawk and “W” Jolly Green II rescue helicopters. Air National Guard Rescue units are home to special warfare squadrons featuring pararescuemen and combat rescue officers who specialize in rescue and recovery operations, deploying for both domestic and overseas missions. These things we do, so that others may live.

<https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Overseas-Operations/Article/4272966/air-national-guard-provides-rescue-assets-during-historic-pacific-exercise/>

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New York Army National Guard

Valdosta native receives new rank, new responsibilities in Air National Guard

The Valdosta Daily Times, August 12, 2025:

LATHAM, N.Y. — Air Force Major General Michael Bank, the commander of the New York Air National Guard, announced the recent promotion of members of the New York Air National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

William Donaher from Valdosta, Ga., assigned to the 107th Attack Wing, received a promotion July 1 to the rank of staff sergeant.

Air National Guard promotions are based on an airman’s overall performance, demonstrated leadership abilities, professionalism and future development potential, the New York National Guard said in a press release.

“The New York Air National Guard is built on a foundation of talented and motivated Airmen, and this month’s promotions are a shining example of that excellence,” Bank said. “I am honored to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of our airmen, and I look forward to seeing their continued growth and contributions to our organization.”

These promotions recognize the best qualified airmen for a career in the New York Air National Guard, the press release said.

Air National Guard citizen airmen who serve the state and nation are eligible for monthly pay, educational benefits (from the state and federal government), travel across the globe, technical and leadership training, health and dental insurance and contributions towards retirement programs similar to a 401(k).

<https://valdostadailytimes.com/2025/08/12/valdosta-native-receives-new-rank-new-responsibilities-in-air-national-guard/>

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New York National Guard Promotions

The Daily Gazette, August 12, 2025:

LATHAM — Major General Ray Shields, the Adjutant General for the State of New York, announces the promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

- Evian Dumey of Amsterdam, and assigned to the Company B, NY Army National Guard Recruiting & Retention Battalion, received a promotion June 18, 2025 to the rank of private.
- Gaberiella Scutt of Fultonville, and assigned to the Company B, NY Army National Guard Recruiting & Retention Battalion, received a promotion June 4, 2025 to the rank of private 1st class.

Army National Guard promotions are based on a Soldier’s overall performance, demonstrated leadership abilities, professionalism and future development potential.

These promotions recognize the best qualified Soldiers for a career in the New York Army National Guard.

Broadalbin National Guard Airman Receives New Rank, New Responsibilities

LATHAM — Air Force Major General Michael Bank, the commander of the New York Air National Guard, announces the recent promotion of members of the New York Air National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

- Brandon Caldwell from Broadalbin, Nand assigned to the 109th Airlift Wing, received a promotion June 22, 2025 to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Air National Guard promotions are based on a Airman's overall performance, demonstrated leadership abilities, professionalism and future development potential.

"The New York Air National Guard is built on a foundation of talented and motivated Airmen, and this month's promotions are a shining example of that excellence," Bank said in a news release. "I am honored to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of our Airmen, and I look forward to seeing their continued growth and contributions to our organization."

These promotions recognize the best qualified Airmen for a career in the New York Air National Guard.

Fonda National Guard Airman Receives New Rank, New Responsibilities

LATHAM — Air Force Major General Michael Bank, the commander of the New York Air National Guard, announces the recent promotion of members of the New York Air National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

- Zachary Phipps from Fonda, N.Y., and assigned to the 109th Airlift Wing, received a promotion July 15, 2025 to the rank of staff sergeant.

Air National Guard promotions are based on a Airman's overall performance, demonstrated leadership abilities, professionalism and future development potential.

"The New York Air National Guard is built on a foundation of talented and motivated Airmen, and this month's promotions are a shining example of that excellence," Bank said in a news release. "I am honored to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of our Airmen, and I look forward to seeing their continued growth and contributions to our organization."

These promotions recognize the best qualified Airmen for a career in the New York Air National Guard.

Air National Guard Citizen Airmen who serve our state and nation are eligible for monthly pay, educational benefits (from the state and federal government), travel across the globe, technical and leadership training, health and dental insurance and contributions towards retirement programs similar to a 401(k).

For more information about the New York Air National Guard or contact a recruiter, visit <https://dmna.ny.gov/ang/>.

The New York National Guard (New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs) is the state's executive agency responsible to the Governor for managing New York's Military Forces, which consists of nearly 20,000 members of the New York Army National Guard, the New York Air National Guard, the New York Naval Militia and the New York Guard.

https://www.dailygazette.com/local-news-in-brief/article_cd9bbcec-2e70-4680-ac1e-5370b34f2d2d.html

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New York National Guard

SU Military expert on the use of National Guard in cities

Spectrum News, August 12, 2025:

Crime in Washington, D.C. [is high](#); at the same time, it's trending in the right direction, [hitting a 30-year low](#). But President Trump is using the issue as a reason to mobilize the National Guard in the nation's capital.

The president also used the guard to help quell protests over immigration in Los Angeles.

Gov. Kathy Hochul has also called up the National Guard to monitor crime in the New York City subways, and more recently, to backfill positions left open when correctional officers engaged in a wildcat strike in the spring.

Guardsmen are [still serving in the state's prisons](#), five months later.

Capital Tonight discussed why the National Guard is being used in such ways, and whether the president could call up troops to serve in cities other than D.C., like New York City, with William C. Banks, professor emeritus in the Department of Public Administration and International Affairs at the Maxwell School at Syracuse University.

Banks is also the founding director of the "Institute for Security Policy and Law." His most recent book is "Soldiers on the Home Front: The Domestic Role of the American Military," published by Harvard University Press.

<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/udson-valley/politics/2025/08/12/su-military-expert-on-the-use-of-national-guard-in-cities>

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Trump took over the DC police. In NYC, a takeover would be harder, legal experts say

Gothamist:

President Donald Trump signaled Monday that federal law enforcement could become more prominent in New York City — as he moved to seize control of the Washington, D.C., police department and deploy the National Guard in the nation's capital.

“I’m going to look at New York in a little while,” Trump said at the White House Monday. “Let’s do this. Let’s do this together.”

In Washington, Trump invoked a federal law that allows him to take control of the city’s police for two days in an emergency and for up to 30 days if he notifies certain members of Congress, said Peter Smith, a former Justice Department attorney and professor at George Washington University. But Smith and other legal experts said Trump may have a more difficult path if he attempts to exert federal control in cities other than Washington.

The legal experts said Trump could deploy the National Guard under specific circumstances, as he did during immigration protests in Los Angeles earlier this year. During his first term, Trump also deployed federal agents to guard federal property and buildings during protests in cities like Portland, Oregon. But there is no clear legal path for him to take over a police department like New York’s which is not subject to the same federal control as Washington.

“There is not a clear legal pathway to take over the New York City government,” said John Fishwick, an attorney and former federal prosecutor from Virginia.

He added that Washington’s unique governmental position gives the president and the federal government wide discretion to take over the city’s police force and potentially its local rule.

Trump’s leverage over New York will likely be limited to funds meted out by the federal government, Fishwick said. But he added Trump does have the power to call in the National Guard if he concludes ICE agents are under attack.

Smith, the George Washington professor, said the law Trump invoked in Washington would have no authority outside of the nation’s capital.

“The statute would not grant authority for a federal takeover of police in other cities, including New York,” Smith said in an email. But Smith also added Trump does have the ability to call in the National Guard in certain circumstances.

Since Trump retook the presidency in January, he has been testing the limits of how federal authorities can be utilized in U.S. cities. He’s deployed federal agents from a range of agencies to enact his immigration agenda in cities across the country. He has also deployed the National Guard in California after protests in the Los Angeles region.

“Mr. Trump’s administration seems to do first and ask questions later. So, yes, I think we can be alarmed,” said Lenni Benson, a professor at New York Law School.

Any intervention by federal authorities would need to be accompanied by a description of what federal statute the agents are enforcing, Benson added.

When Trump sent federal agents to cities like Portland, Oregon, during protests in his first term they largely secured federal property, such as the federal courthouse in the city.

New York State has a number of federal lands where agents could be sent, she said.

“It could be a National Park,” Benson said. “It could be a waterway that is navigable and covered by the Army Corp of Engineers for safety. It could be our harbors.”

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President Trump deploys National Guard in DC. Can he do the same in NY?

Pix 11:

NEW YORK (PIX11) – National Guard troops are roaming the streets of Washington, D.C. after being deployed by President Donald Trump, who declared an emergency in the nation’s capital earlier this week.

Around 800 National Guard members arrived in D.C. on Tuesday. Trump also took over the Metropolitan Police Department under the city’s Home Rule Act, despite Mayor Muriel Bowser and the MPD arguing that violent crime is at a 30-year low.

“Then I’m going to look at New York,” Trump said during Monday’s announcement. “Let’s do this together and we’ll see—it’s going to go pretty quickly.”

It may be difficult for Trump to take over the NYPD like he did the MPD. But could he deploy the National Guard into New York City?

He could – but would likely face pushback from New York lawmakers. The Trump administration is facing a lawsuit connected to deploying the National Guard in California during protests over immigration raids.

The state of California is arguing that Trump violated a law that bans the president from using the military to police civilians. Federal authorities are fighting back, saying that the National Guard was deployed to protect federal buildings amid the rallies.

The National Guard usually only answers to the governor of the state they’re in. The only exceptions to this are if members are called into federal service or if troops are under the Washington, D.C. National Guard.

Democratic mayoral nominee and Queens Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani promised to hire 200 more city attorneys to combat Trump. Former Gov. Andrew Cuomo said he’s the only mayoral candidate who could stop Trump from sending troops into the Big Apple, arguing he thwarted similar efforts during the president’s first term.

Mayor Eric Adams said through a spokesperson that while crime has dropped in New York City, he would welcome federal help in certain circumstances.

This story comprises reporting from PIX11's Henry Rosoff, Reuters and The Associated Press.

Erin Pflaumer is a digital content producer from Long Island who has covered both local and national news since 2018. She joined PIX11 in 2023.

<https://pix11.com/news/politics/president-trump-deploys-national-guard-in-dc-can-he-do-the-same-in-ny/>

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President Trump's threat to send National Guard to NYC is insulting to local police, Gov. Kathy Hochul says

CBS News, August 12, 2025:

[Gov. Kathy Hochul is slamming President Trump](#) for threatening to send the National Guard to New York to fight crime.

The president announced Monday that [he is deploying members of the National Guard to Washington, D.C., as the federal government takes control of the capital's police](#). Mr. Trump says it's in an effort to "rescue our nation's capital from crime, bloodshed, bedlam and squalor and worse." Data shows crime has declined in D.C. in recent years.

"Focus on something else"

Mr. Trump also suggested [New York state could use his help in fighting crime](#) by sending in National Guard to patrol the streets.

"You're gonna now militarize our streets like that? I mean, focus on straightening out the rest of the world, all the tariffs you screwed everything up with. You know, try to make it up with Canada. Focus on something else," Hochul said.

She added, "If he crosses that bright line and decides that the 32,000 dedicated members of the NYPD are not doing their jobs, if he's going to stand there and insult our law enforcement officers, I think there'll be people in outrage over that alone."

Hochul, who herself deployed the National Guard into the subway system last year says she will do everything in her power to prevent the president from sending troops to New York if he decides to do so.

"I will look at all my powers, but I have a feeling that right around that time, my National Guard might be really busy on other issues," she said.

In [an exclusive interview with CBS News New York's Ali Bauman](#), Mayor Eric Adams also asserted New York state doesn't need the National Guard to patrol its cities.

"I could only say it in three words: we got this," he said.

Adams said the Trump administration has not spoken to him about sending the National Guard to New York City.

"This is the safest big city in America, and you're seeing the numbers continue to decrease," Adams said. "If the federal government wants to partner with us to go after some real laws to stop dangerous people from having guns, those with mental health issues getting access to guns, we look forward to having that coordination in that manner."

President Trump calls to change cashless bail laws

New York was also the focus of the president's call for national legislation to change cashless bail laws.

"Every place in the country where you have no cash bail is a disaster. That's what started the problem in New York, and they don't change it," Mr. Trump said Monday.

Upstate Congresswoman Elise Stefanik supported the president on the issue.

"New York's failed cashless bail law fuels devastating crime that harms law-abiding families and emboldens violent criminals," she said in a statement.

Hochul laid into both Stefanik and the president.

"Why don't you call her out for lying? Call out the president for lying," Hochul said. "We do not have cashless bail in the state of New York ... They're wrong. They're both wrong. They're making stuff up. Get used to that for the duration of the next campaign year."

New York law does, however, limit the use of cash bail for misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies. Judges do have discretion to set bail in some cases, like violent felonies.

Stefanik gaining on Hochul in polls for potential gubernatorial race matchup

Stefanik is a potential challenger for Hochul in the 2026 gubernatorial race, and a new Siena poll out Tuesday sees Stefanik's chances improving. Hochul's lead over Stefanik has fallen from 23 points to 14 points.

Downstate suburban voters, including those on Long Island and in Westchester and Rockland counties, went from favoring Hochul by 11 points in June to now narrowly favoring Stefanik.

Upstate voters who gave Hochul a 12-point lead are virtually evenly divided.

Meanwhile, Adams trails his competitors in the mayoral race. The incumbent is at 7%, 18 points below former Gov. Andrew Cuomo and 37 points below Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani.

"This is going to be the most unique mayoral race in the history of this city," Adams said. "And a lot of first-time voters are going to come out. That's gonna change this dynamic."

Former Gov. David Paterson is expected to officially endorse Adams on Wednesday.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/newyork/news/president-trump-national-guard-nyc-gov-kathy-hochul-response/>

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Hochul to Trump: Hands off our National Guard

City & State New York, August 13:

Gov. Kathy Hochul on Tuesday strongly condemned the prospect of President Donald Trump forcefully deploying the National Guard in New York City, an idea he floated after doing the same in Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles. The governor didn't say what exactly she might – or frankly could – do in order to prevent such a move, but she suggested that she would keep the state's National Guard members busy to make it harder for Trump to federalize them.

Speaking to reporters at an unrelated press conference in Queens, Hochul pointed to decreases in major crime in the city over the past several years and praised the work of the New York City Police Department. "If he crosses that bright line and decides that the 32,000 dedicated members of the NYPD are not doing their jobs, (if) he's going to stand there and insult our law enforcement officers, I think there'll be people in outrage over that alone," she said.

Hochul referenced her own limited deployment of the National Guard in the city's subway system, but drew a distinction between their role as a deterrent for crime without arresting power, and what Trump wants to do with them. "(Trump) should not be saying they're going to be able to have arrest powers," the governor said. "My God, you're going to now militarize our streets like that?" (Although Trump has federalized National Guard troops in California, he has not invoked the Insurrection Act, which would give them arrest powers in states.)

Generally, the governor of a state would need to give permission to the president to federalize the National Guard, which is otherwise controlled by the state for state purposes. Republicans called on Hochul to do that when she deployed National Guard members to state

prisons in order to fill in for striking corrections officers, a move that would have entitled those members to enhanced federal benefits. But the governor declined to do so.

The president also has limited power to activate National Guard troops in times of emergency to assist in executing federal law without going so far as claiming a rebellion under the Insurrection Act. The Trump administration relied on that authority to deploy the California National Guard, without the permission of California Gov. Gavin Newsom, to respond to protests against federal immigration enforcement in Los Angeles. California accused the federal government of acting illegally and filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration, which is ongoing.

The outcome of the California lawsuit could have a major impact on Trump's attempts to activate the National Guard in other Democratic cities like New York. The supremacy clause in the U.S. constitution means that state governors have few legal avenues to countermand federal orders that are considered lawful.

But Hochul on Tuesday said that she is still exploring her options when it comes to combating an attempted National Guard takeover by Trump. "I will look at all my powers," she said when asked whether she would order Guard members to ignore a federal deployment. "But I have a feeling that right around that time, my National Guard might be really busy on other issues."

Hochul didn't elaborate on what she meant with the remark, but it suggests that she is considering activating the National Guard herself for various purposes to try to prevent Trump from federalizing them. But under federal law, active mobilization for state purposes would not prevent the president from federalizing and reassigning units, according to Joseph Nunn, counsel for liberty and national security at the Brennan Center for Justice. That would hold true even if they were assisting with a major natural disaster response, Nunn said, adding that the logistics and politics of redeploying them would likely still be fraught. Hochul may simply be banking on the potentially unfavorable political optics of reassigning National Guard units who are already addressing issues like subway crime in the state.

Many National Guard troops remain at correctional facilities in support roles to alleviate stress from understaffing, following the end of the correction officers' strike earlier this year, while others have been deployed to assist the NYPD in maintaining order in the subways. Mobilizing the National Guard for purposes like that could dissuade the federal government from moving them to New York City to assist with federal issues like immigration enforcement under the guise of rampant crime.

Any attempt by Trump to bring the National Guard to the Big Apple could also see opposition from Trump's sometimes ally, Mayor Eric Adams. Although the mayor has tried to increase local cooperation with federal immigration enforcement, he told reporters on Tuesday that "we don't need anyone to come in and take over."

<https://www.cityandstateny.com/politics/2025/08/hochul-trump-hands-our-national-guard/407402/>

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