

Security and Safety

Sending Members to the Capitol Police Headquarters

The Capitol Police Headquarters on September 11th.

Jim Rohan, Deputy Chief of Police, U.S. Capitol Police

Interview recorded May 19, 2011

So, the Capitol had evacuated. We had reports—yeah, we have procedures in place to remove the leadership, and they were being removed, and, and the Members, upon a general evacuation, were really supposed to go home. You know, if they're dispersed, they're less of a threat—less of a target. And a, a lot of them, a good number of them, just wouldn't, didn't leave. And, and we had reports coming in, you know, from officers out in the field, saying, "Hey, we've got these Members of Congress out here in these sort of evacuated—the areas outside the buildings where you evacuate to, and they're just, they're just hanging around, they're asking where they should go." So, we, we, we told them, you know, tell them advised them they should, they should head home, and that wasn't taken very well because they didn't you know they, they felt there was something they needed to do. So, the ones that hung around, I eventually said, "Well, have any of them that are around, bring them over or direct them over to our headquarters building, and we'll, we'll just—we'll put them in our inter-agency conference room," which was a large a room, a briefing room, we had on the, the first level of the headquarters building.