

## Security and Safety

### D.C. National Guard

Supplemental security at the Capitol in the months after the attacks.

*James Varey, Chief, U.S. Capitol Police*

*Interview recorded May 18, 2011*

So it was discussed amongst the board. I think the, the Senate Sergeant at Arms proposed using the D.C. National Guard to supplement the perimeter posts that are maintained by the Capitol Police, in order to give us a break, and also to give our people to get back to eight-hour shifts, and give them their two days off. We had also had discussions about the possibility of bringing in a federal support, such as the U.S. Marshals, and other federal agencies, to help maintain the post, but I can't recall for what reasons where they decided that it was more preferable to use the, use the National Guard. We had roughly about 120 National Guard troops working with us, I think, from somewhere around the first or second week of, of December, until the crisis abated. We also called, during the course of both 9/11 and the anthrax crisis, we were working very closely with the D.C. government, and the police department, and fire department, I might add, as well as their, their rescue units. Prior to 9/11, we had practiced evacuation drills from the Capitol, and we had also utilized, in our training exercises, the D.C. Fire Department, since we knew that they were the principle agency to respond to, fire, or any type of calamity, you know, that would occur there at the Capitol. And we'd also liaised with the military for excavation services, should one of our buildings get blown up, and collapse, and so forth. So, we had a game plan there to, you know, coordinate with the military to provide the necessary resources to deal with that.