



CORPORATE RISK SERVICES

January 2021 Washington, D.C., Security Outlook

INTELLIGENCE REPORT
PART THREE
JAN. 4, 2021





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This report is the third in a series monitoring the security environment leading up to, during and following the U.S. presidential election. It aims to prepare businesses for possible contingencies during the election period and how these contingencies may impact physical security.

OVERVIEW

January 2021 brings a turbulent security situation to Washington, D.C. Substantial political protests – as well as counter-protests – have been planned between Jan. 6 (when Congress counts and certifies electoral votes) and Jan. 20 (Inauguration Day). Isolated violence is very likely, and there is a potential for more widespread violence, particularly around these key dates. Even in public forums online, current rhetoric suggests that there will be attendees who have violent intent, including armed militia groups. Current rhetoric, in addition to recently disrupted plots, suggest that the risk of domestic terrorism is also elevated during this period (particularly by right wing extremists, due to current election proceedings.) There are also additional security implications to these events, including expected road closures, reduced availability of emergency response and a heightened risk of property damage. G4S strongly recommends that individuals and businesses in the downtown Washington, D.C., area assess their security environment and take mitigating precautions.



Figure 1: 'March for Trump' Banner, Including Dec. 19 Tweet By @realDonaldTrump



CURRENT SITUATION

As of Jan. 4, the U.S. Presidential Election has widely been called for Democratic candidate Joe Biden based on both the popular vote and votes cast by the Electoral College. This result has been accepted across bipartisan mainstream media, unilaterally by the Democratic Party, as well as by key Republican leaders such as Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell, former President George W. Bush and Senator Mitt Romney. States have counted their electoral votes (although these still need to be counted by Congress [see below]), and have found that Biden won by 306 electoral votes (exceeding the required 270).

However, the Trump campaign continues to allege that voter fraud took place in the popular vote, primarily using affidavits as evidence. Various legal challenges to election results remain, although most have been dismissed by courts at this point (including one dismissed by the U.S. Supreme Court on Dec. 11). No court or investigation has thus far found credible evidence of significant election fraud or tampering, and bipartisan groups such as the Center for Election Integrity have stated that the election results are clear for a Biden presidency. Nevertheless, a poll conducted between Dec. 1 - 6 found that only 64% of voters polled trust the 2020 Presidential election results (and only 24% of Republicans polled do).

This report is limited in scope to a security assessment, and does not further examine election results.

Regardless of whether election tampering has taken place or not, distrust of election results is having a detrimental security impact within the U.S. There are individuals and groups who interpret the 2020 election as a usurpation, and consider themselves justified in standing against the transition of power, including with violent means. This, combined with the current status of the U.S. elections, has elevated the risk of protests (including violent protests), domestic terrorism, and overall deteriorates the security situation in Washington, D.C., through January 2021.

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KEY DATES

Jan. 5 – Georgia Run-Off Elections

Runoff elections take place in Georgia for two Senate seats. These seats are currently held by Republicans, who control the Senate because of them.

Jan. 6 – Congress Certifies Electoral College Votes

Congress formally counts and certifies Electoral College votes. Vice President Mike Pence (as the incumbent vice president, acting as Senate president) presides over this process per the Electoral Count Act of 1887, and declares the winner based on Congress' count in what is historically seen as a ceremonial role.

Jan. 20 – Inauguration Day

Inauguration Day is set by the U.S. Constitution (this year set for Jan. 20, 2021.)

ELECTORAL COLLEGE COUNT

If at least one House member and one senator both object to the electoral count (which looks increasingly likely), this objection is put to a vote after two hours of debate by Congress.

However, any objection is considered unlikely to pass, as it would need to pass by a majority vote in both chambers, and the Democratic Party currently hold the House.

A recent lawsuit contesting the ceremonial aspect of Vice President Pence's role argued that Pence should be able to choose which votes are counted. This was not approved of by Pence, and has since been dismissed. A further proposal not to allow representatives to vote from states where Trump is challenging results has also been rejected by a resounding 371-2 vote.



CIVIL UNREST

President Trump has made multiple Twitter posts calling for protestors to come to Washington, D.C. on Jan. 6. These tweets have included, “Big protest in D.C. on January 6th. Be there, will be wild!” on Dec. 19 [Figure 1], and more recently, “JANUARY SIXTH, SEE YOU IN DC!” on Dec. 30 [Figure 2].

This protest is to coincide with Congress certifying Electoral College votes. Protests are expected particularly at and near the Washington Monument, Freedom Plaza and the Capitol Building. Additionally, large numbers of Trump supporters are expected to be staying at nearby hotels, including particularly the JW Marriot, Hotel Harrington and Trump Hotel. Caravans are being organized to bring protestors from across the country to D.C. for this event.



Figure 2. December 30 Tweet By @realDonaldTrump

At least four pro-Trump marches have been organized for Washington, D.C., on Jan. 6, including by the groups who previously organized the November and December ‘Million MAGA March.’ Members of the Right-wing militia groups including the Ill%ers, Proud Boys and Oath Keepers, and white supremacists have confirmed that they plan to attend these protests. The Proud Boys have announced that they plan on wearing all black to blend in with antifa supporters.

Online discussions suggest that some protestors plan to arrive a few days before Jan. 6, and that some further plan to remain in the area through

until at least Jan. 20 (Inauguration Day). As such, the protest risk will remain elevated throughout January, largely dictated by how events transpire, and this risk is most significant on Jan. 6, Jan. 20 and on Saturdays throughout January. Moreover, there are isolated references to a plan to intentionally block traffic in downtown Washington, D.C., during this period.

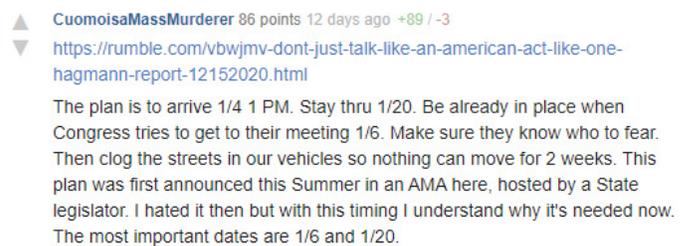


Figure 3. Post By ‘CuomoisaMassMurderer’ on thedonald.win.

G4S assesses that these protests are likely to reduce in scale during other weekdays, particularly as many of the protestors will not be able to attend for two weeks due to other commitments. However, traffic disruptions are very likely at least on Jan. 6. Additionally, security forces are expected to make proactive road closures. Likely roads that may be closed include parts of Constitution Avenue, Independence Avenue, the 9th Street Tunnel and the 12th Street Tunnel. There are also unconfirmed references that some truck drivers may be participating in a strike, to disrupt deliveries.

Due to recent incidents and current online rhetoric, G4S assesses that isolated violence is very likely, and that there is a potential for more widespread violence, particularly on the aforementioned dates of Jan. 6, Jan. 20 and Saturdays.

Even in public forums online, current rhetoric suggests that there will be attendees who have violent intent, including armed militia groups. Counter-protests have also been organized, and clashes or other violence between these groups are considered likely if they meet in any areas.



Online Discussions

Regardless of the context or intent in which President Trump posted the aforementioned Tweets, there are a large number of individuals who are seeing this as a “marching order.” While many online discussions about this are occurring in forums such as Minecraft and Discord, the below are a sample of open discussions on pro-Trump website thedonald.win. G4S notes that online threats of violence often do not then correspond with actual violence. Many individuals posting threats online may not intend actual violence, or indeed even be attending these protests. However, due to the significant number of individuals posting openly and evidence of long-time planning, G4S assesses that isolated acts of violence are likely, and that there is also an elevated risk of attempted widespread violence and attempted acts of domestic terrorism.

Figure 4: Sample posts from thedonald.win

▲ **MrMcGreenGenes** 3100 points 12 days ago +3133 / -33
▼ Well, shit. We've got marching orders, bois.
permalink save report block reply

▲ **Buttfart88** 62 points 12 days ago +62 / -0
▼ He can't exactly openly tell you to revolt. This is the closest he'll ever get.
permalink parent save report block reply

▲ **bbxx** 19 points 12 days ago +19 / -0
▼ Yes, but we have a moral obligation to do some extreme stuff at this point.
permalink parent save report block reply

▲ **PraiseBeToScience** 11 points 12 days ago +13 / -2
▼ “ we don't break things like children
Saying you're not going to cause any damage is why nobody is going to be intimidated by your bullshit.
These rodents only know pain and fear. If Antifa can burn things then so can we. DC is 200% leftist, burn them all out. Smash their city to ruins.
permalink parent save report block reply

▲ **pede-o-saurus** 28 points 12 days ago +30 / -2
▼ When the Rule of Law is broken, we fall back to the next level, the Rule of War (don't kill non-combatants if you can avoid it, don't bomb hospitals or ambulances or shoot medics, etc). We appear to be there now. If that breaks, we fall down the the Rule of Force (might makes right).
permalink parent save report block reply

▲ **HillarysClothRag** 13 points 12 days ago +13 / -0
▼ Will a "citizen's arrest" be legal? Oh what am I saying...just do it for the optics.
permalink parent save report block reply

▲ **Stukov** 233 points 12 days ago +234 / -1
▼ If you aren't marching armed by then is there a point at all to marching?
permalink parent save report block reply

▲ **ianpatrick1966** 30 points 12 days ago +30 / -0
▼ Then don't arrest. Citizens firing squad.
permalink parent save report block reply

▲ **SvixGale** 17 points 11 days ago +21 / -4
▼ Patriots who STILL, AT THIS POINT IN TIME, are too cowardly to condone violence, are part of the problem.
IT. NEEDS. TO FUCKING. HAPPEN.
permalink parent save report block reply

▲ **LostMyAccount** 151 points 12 days ago +161 / -10
▼ After the 6th, Biden is legally the incoming president. If something extreme was going to happen, it would make no sense to wait until after.
There's nowhere left to move the goalposts. Be there on the 6th ready for 1776.
permalink parent save report block reply

▲ **Moreme** 19 points 12 days ago +20 / -1
▼ The question is: if we organize in, let's say VA and then drive to DC armed who will stop us? Serious question that depend son the number of people that will show up. Who will stop even 10 thousand armed patriots? Military? Police? They have NO CHANCE with such numbers
permalink parent save report block reply

▲ **Freedom_burger** 63 points 12 days ago +66 / -3
▼ You can check firearms and such and both major airports for DC are actually in northern VA, but driving and bringing *everything* you may need will be the best bet for those that can. Who knows what fuxkery will happen in airports and I'll never trust an alphabet agency, esp one as incompetent as TSA.
There are a lot of patriots around DC still—even if we're embedded—that will countrymen beside us have the means to defend themselves.

▲ **AmericanRaised** 16 points 11 days ago +17 / -1
▼ Numbers and organization will matter. The lone wolf armed patriots will be picked off deep in the city.
permalink parent save report block reply

▲ **slipperysnek33** 4 points 11 days ago +5 / -1
▼ This cannot simply be a protest. It has to be the establishment of the MAGA militia with command offices set up, with all further militia tactical missions spreading from there.
permalink parent save report block reply

▲ **anon101101** 3 points 10 days ago +3 / -0
▼ We will have to achieve a an actual tactical victory like storming and occupying Congress, to have the intended effect
permalink parent save report block reply

▲ **Cyer6** 21 points 11 days ago +21 / -0
▼ I will be shocked if we just stand by waving a bunch of flags while they go right ahead and certify an illegitimate president. The idea of showing up to "protest" and air grievances should not be the goal. The goal should be that they WILL hear our voices or there WILL be consequences. The need to know that 100% or this will be a failure on epic proportions.



Current Trends

In addition to the known planned protests, G4S has observed a number of trends amongst U.S. protests and political violence. These include:

- Protests are significantly more likely on Saturdays. 27% of recorded incidents from May 1 through Dec. 12 occurred on a Saturday, followed by 14-15% on Fridays and Saturdays, and 11% on all other weekdays.
- In addition to D.C., the states of New York, California, Oregon and Florida have witnessed the most frequent protests in recent months.
- From Nov. 1 – Dec. 12, the ten cities with the most protests or acts of political violence were New York City (NY) (86 incidents), Washington, D.C. (52), Los Angeles (CA) (43), Portland (OR) (35), Atlanta (GA) (28), San Francisco (CA) (22), Chicago (IL) (20), Boston (MA) (19), Phoenix (AZ) (17), and Philadelphia (PA) (16).
- While certain states have had a much higher propensity for protests, protests within states are generally becoming more distributed (previously heavily focused on state capitols and major cities, they are tending to become more dispersed.) However, this trend is observed across all protests, and political protests like those discussed in this report are still assessed as likely to focus on capitols and major cities.
- Since May 2020, there have been more than 70 training events recorded amongst militia groups such as the III%ers, American Contingency and Mountain Man Militia. This number is expected to be a very low estimate of the actual number of these events.

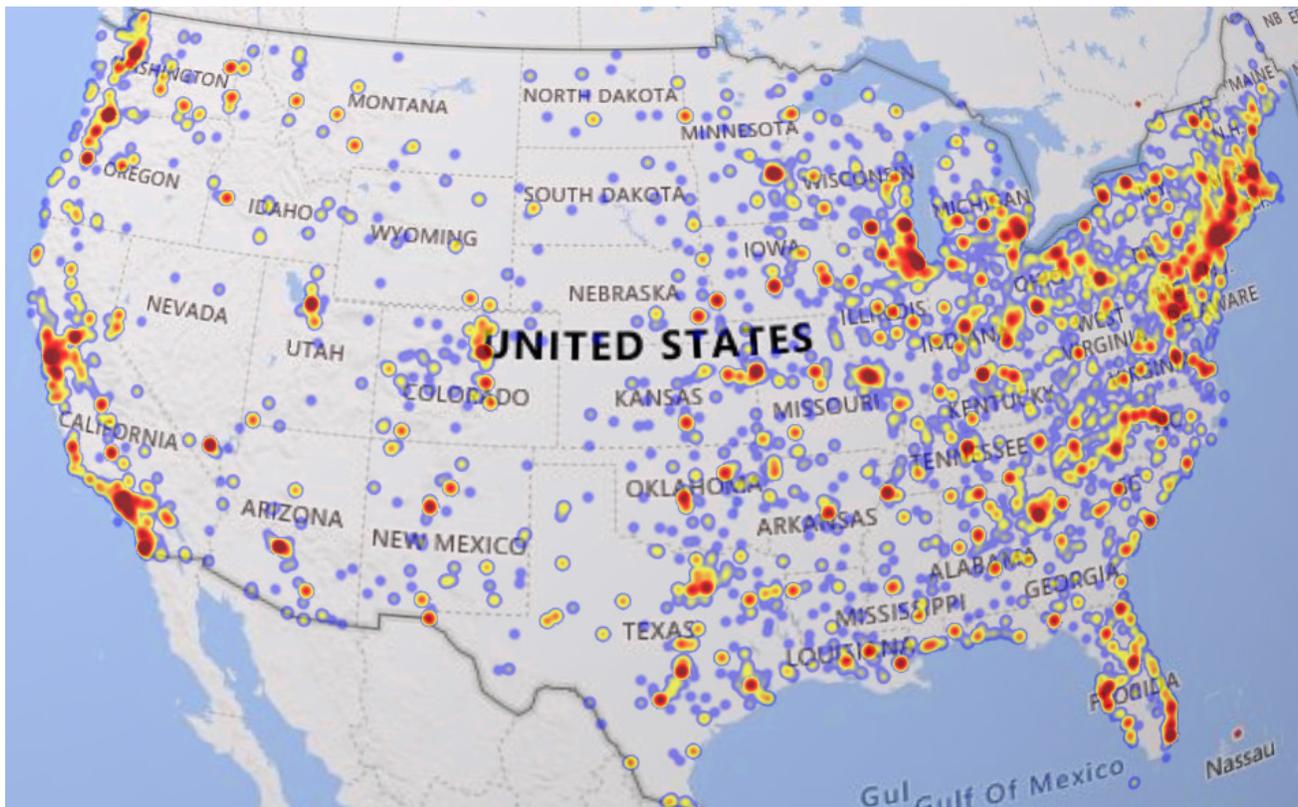


Figure 5: Heatmap of Protests and Political Violence (May 1 - Dec. 12, 2020)



Additional Factors

Security risk in D.C. will be significantly impacted by a number of factors, which could escalate or mitigate the threat. These include, but are not limited to:

- Security Response and Posture
- Political Response to Protests (Including the deployment of the National Guard, or use of the Insurrection Act)
- Statements By Key Political Figures (particularly President Trump, and to a lesser extent Vice President Pence and President-Elect Biden)
- How Key Political Events Transpire (particularly the Electoral College Vote Count)
- Weather Conditions
- Acts or Attempted Acts of Violence (Including against a political figure, civilians or supporters of either Presidential candidate.)

Associated Security Concerns

The aforementioned civil unrest is expected to affect other security conditions. These include:

- **Disruption to Emergency Response.** Emergency responders will likely be focused in protest areas, potentially experiencing staffing shortages in other areas. Moreover, traffic disruptions and road closures may severely reduce emergency response times, particularly downtown and during key protest dates.
- **Property Damage:** There is an elevated risk of property damage near protest sites, and some individuals have indicated intent to cause damage. Any buildings, vehicles or other assets that show a political affiliation are more likely to be targeted.
- **Other Crime:** Potential criminals may see the emergency response resources being dedicated to the protest, and use this as an opportunity to commit crimes in other areas. This has been seen on multiple occasions across the U.S. in recent months. For example, on Nov. 3, as many as 50 armed people systematically broke into at least seven businesses in Oakland, California, seemingly

with the understanding that police were focused on political demonstrations in other areas. This looting continued on November 4.

Other Protests:

Protests unrelated to the presidential election are expected to also continue through January, as they have in previous months. For example, a 'March for Reparation' has been scheduled in cities nationwide, including in D.C., for Jan. 21. The risk of violence is assessed as heightened this month across protests generally – but particularly any that are associated with a political party, protesting or supporting the police or Black Lives Matter. This is due to overall heightened tensions, as well as the increased risk that there will be counter-protesters in the area of Washington, D.C.

Moreover, while the risks outlined in this report are primarily focused in Washington, D.C., G4S assesses that there will also be an elevated risk in other major cities (particularly those that have experienced heightened unrest or prolonged violence over the past year.) G4S recommends a heightened security posture throughout January, particularly on Key Dates (Jan. 6 and Jan. 20) and on weekends. Any significant events that occur during the Washington, D.C., protests could cause protests in other cities as a response.

TERRORISM & OTHER VIOLENT CRIME

G4S assesses that there is a heightened risk of domestic terrorism and other violent crime in Washington, D.C., throughout January 2021. This is based on current online rhetoric, and recently disrupted plots.

Disrupted Plots

- **December 2020:** New Hampshire Republican Governor Sununu reported that the New



Hampshire outdoor inauguration ceremony would be cancelled after an armed individual was caught trespassing in his backyard.

- **October 2020:** A man was arrested for threatening Biden supporters in his town, and also threatening to execute Biden and Harris on national television.
- **October 2020:** 13 individuals were arrested for plotting to kidnap Democratic Michigan governor Gretchen Whitmer, and potentially also target the Michigan Capitol building and Michigan State Police.
- **September 2020:** A Canadian suspect mailed letters containing ricin (a highly lethal toxin) to the White House, addressed to President Trump.
- **May 2020:** A 19-year old was arrested on suspicion of planning to assassinate Joe Biden. He was arrested, and police seized four rifles (including an AR-15), a handgun, ammunition and a canister of the explosive material Tannerite.
- **2019 - Summer 2021:** A white supremacist plot to attack power stations in the southeastern U.S. was disrupted.

Targets

In addition to the potential of domestic terrorism and acts of political violence against key political figures, G4S also assesses an elevated risk to civilians. Vehicular rammings, in particular, have occurred over the past year targeting left-wing protests and especially Black Lives Matters and Defund Police protests.

RECOMMENDATIONS

While these recommendations particularly relate to Jan. 6, Jan. 20, and Saturdays in January, G4S emphasizes that there is an elevated risk throughout the month. The security situation should be continually monitored and reassessed as new events occur that could impact the threat level. These recommendations are particularly geared toward businesses with locations near protest sites and federal buildings (notably the Washington Monument, Freedom Plaza, Capitol

Building and Congress.)

- Businesses with assets located within a 0.5 mi radius of planned protest sites should consider closing their locations starting at 4 p.m. on Jan. 5 through 8 a.m. on Jan. 7 at which point the local security situation can be reassessed. Protests can change quickly and companies are urged to monitor local police social media feeds and reach out to G4S Security Risk Operations Center for situational updates. Depending on the events that transpire up until then, it will also likely be advisable to close sites near to planned protest locations from the evening of Jan. 19 through Jan. 20. In addition to potentially closing businesses in the days immediately surrounding Jan. 06 and Jan. 20, G4S recommends preparing for additional business closures if/when protest activity increases.
- G4S emphasizes the need for continued monitoring and vigilance through at least Jan. 2021.
- While risk is heightened on Jan. 6, Jan. 20, and on Saturdays, it is considered relatively likely that a heightened security posture will be needed through the month of Jan. 2021 in downtown Washington, D.C. This should only be relaxed upon completion of an updated security assessment.
- Transportation routes should be reviewed and contingency plans made with alternative backup routes, particularly if the primary route comes near the aforementioned higher risk areas. This is especially the case if needing to move people or goods through these areas on Jan. 6 or Jan. 20.
- All unsecure motor vehicles should be moved ahead of any planned protests in the area. If facilities do not have secure parking (underground garage or fenced in) any vehicles left in open parking lots or on the street should be moved, if it is safe to do so.
- Businesses should remove any unattended merchandise or other valuables that are not well secured ahead of any planned protests



- and either stow them in a non-visible, non-accessible location, or move them off-site if possible and if it is safe to do so.
- Companies with business sites near planned protests should assess the outside of their critical infrastructure to see if there are any unsecured objects that could be used by individuals for blockades or projectiles. These items should be removed and secured. If renting, work with the landlord to secure items or mitigate access to them.
 - Businesses should review emergency procedures with staff members. Employees who may be working at business sites should not be alone and be prepared with an evacuation plan if needed. Employees should remember that emergency services response times may be impacted in areas where there are protests.
 - Businesses should ensure that all smoke detectors are functioning, fire extinguishers are available and exit doors are clear and working and plan for possible delays to emergency response times.
 - Employees should continually monitor local news coverage to stay up to date on nearby protests and breaking events. The default should be to act with extreme caution and leave sooner rather than later.
 - No employees should be at facilities after dark when there are ongoing protests in the area until the situation appears to be calming down. After reviewing protests since May 2020, G4S notes that most acts of violence —clashes with police, clashes among individuals, vandalism, looting and arson — occurred in the evening and night. If physical presence is absolutely necessary near a protest site, additional security measures should be adopted to ensure employee safety. G4S is able to provide tailored assessments for this purpose.
 - Facilities within a 15-20 block radius of protests should consider locking doors and covering up large glass windows that face the street.
 - Companies may wish to remind employees of

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the risk associated with political stickers on personal cars parked near busy streets or other highly transited areas that could become easy targets for property damage and vandalism.

- Companies may want to consider the presence of any political signs on their property that could highlight their business as a target for property damage and vandalism.

METHODOLOGY AND SCOPE

This intelligence assessment relies on an analysis of intelligence gathered via open-source networks such as online search engines, media and social media pages. Darknet sources were also reviewed.

This report is analytical and should be viewed as a method for preparing for potential security risks rather than a list of guaranteed outcomes. This report is intended for a wide audience and individual businesses' risks will vary depending on their business type, key leadership and the locations of their assets. G4S is able to provide tailored risk assessments upon request.

This assessment is not intended to examine how different political policies or ideologies may impact businesses, nor is it an assessment of election result validity. This report is limited in scope to a security assessment.

Data on previous protests and political violence is largely taken from the dataset provided by the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) in conjunction with Princeton University and has been added to and analyzed by G4S.

The information cut-off date for this report is Jan. 3, 2021.



CORPORATE RISK SERVICES

G4S SECURITY RISK OPERATIONS CENTER

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