

The U.S. Capitol Police: Brief Background

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U.S. Capitol Police (USCP)

The U.S. Capitol Police is a department within the legislative branch with security, protection, and administrative responsibilities. The USCP is responsible for law enforcement and security within the Capitol Complex, including the U.S. Capitol building, the Capitol Visitor Center, Capitol grounds, the House and Senate office buildings, the U.S. Botanic Garden, Capitol Police buildings, Library of Congress buildings, and adjacent grounds.

The USCP performs these roles in coordination with the House and Senate Sergeants at Arms. The House and Senate Sergeants at Arms are charged with maintaining order in their chambers, and they each perform a number of law enforcement, security-related, decorum, and protocol duties. The House and Senate have each had an elected Sergeant at Arms since 1789.

Capitol Police Powers and Duties

The duties and responsibilities of the Capitol Police have developed over time and are set forth in several sources, chief among them the *U.S. Code* (in particular, but not limited to, Chapter 29, subchapter II, of Title 2). Additional authorities may be found in policies, regulations, and guidelines issued by the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration and the Committee on House Administration; the Rules of the House of Representatives and Senate; policies adopted by the Capitol Police Board; and custom and precedent. Additional duties of the Capitol Police may be defined by the committees on appropriations in reports accompanying the annual appropriations bills. The most recent legislative change, the Capitol Police Emergency Assistance Act of 2021 ([P.L. 117-77](#), enacted December 22, 2021), amended the procedure by which the USCP can request emergency assistance from executive departments and agencies ([2 U.S.C. §1970](#)).

In addition to responsibilities on the Capitol campus, the Capitol Police also provide protection for Members of the House and Senate leadership, protect additional Members based on a risk-based analysis, collaborate with the House and Senate Sergeants at Arms to assess Members' security in their states or districts (including office security), coordinate with local law enforcement regarding threats or in response to investigations, and provide protection for certain off-campus events, including the presidential nominating conventions. According to a [USCP news release](#), "In 2022, the USCP Threat Assessment Section (TAS) investigated a total of 7,501 cases."

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Capitol Police Board

The Capitol Police Board is comprised of the Senate and House Sergeants at Arms, the Architect of the Capitol, and the chief of the Capitol Police, who serves as an ex officio member.

Pursuant to [2 U.S.C. §1901a](#), “the purpose of the Capitol Police Board is to oversee and support the Capitol Police in its mission and to advance coordination between the Capitol Police and the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives and the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, in their law enforcement capacities, and the Congress.” The Board is responsible for the design, installation, and maintenance of security systems for the Capitol buildings and grounds, under the direction of the Committee on House Administration and Senate Committee on Rules and Administration ([2 U.S.C. §§1964-1965](#)).

Funding

The USCP is funded in the annual legislative branch appropriations acts.

Table 1. U.S. Capitol Police Funding
(in millions of dollars)

FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20 ^a	FY21 ^b	FY22	FY23
\$340.1	\$321.3	\$338.5	\$348.0	\$375.0	\$393.3	\$426.5	\$456.3	\$464.3	\$515.5	\$602.5	\$734.6

Sources: [P.L. 112-74](#), [P.L. 113-6](#) (as reduced by sequestration and a rescission), [P.L. 113-76](#), [P.L. 113-235](#), [P.L. 114-113](#), [P.L. 115-31](#), [P.L. 115-141](#), [P.L. 115-244](#), [P.L. 116-260](#), [P.L. 117-103](#), and [P.L. 117-328](#).

Notes:

- The FY2020 total does not include the \$12.0 million provided for salaries in [P.L. 116-136](#). The Capitol Police were also provided authority to transfer this funding to the “general expenses” account without the approval requirement provided in [2 U.S.C. §1907a](#).
- The FY2021 total does not include funding provided in the Emergency Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 ([P.L. 117-31](#)), which was enacted on July 30, 2021. The act [provided](#), among other funding, \$106.86 million for the Capitol Police and \$321.87 million for the Architect of the Capitol (including \$300.00 million for Capitol Police buildings, grounds, and security).

For FY2024, the USCP requested \$840.9 million (+14.5%). The House-reported bill ([H.R. 4364](#), [H.Rept. 118-120](#)) would provide \$780.9 million (+6.3%). The Senate-reported bill ([S. 2302](#), [S.Rept. 118-60](#)) would provide \$792.5 million (+7.9%).

Since FY2003, appropriations for the police have been contained in two accounts—a *salaries account*, which includes overtime and benefits, and a *general expenses account*, which funds “motor vehicles, communications and other equipment, security equipment and installation, uniforms, weapons, supplies, materials, training, medical services, forensic services,” and other services and programs. The USCP can transfer funding between the accounts with “the approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate” ([2 U.S.C. §1907a](#)). Most recent actions for these accounts include the following:

- Salaries—the FY2023 act provided \$541.7 million for salaries. The USCP requested \$612.3 million (+13.0%). The House-reported bill would provide \$588.1 million (+8.6%). The Senate-reported bill would provide \$588.6 million (+8.7%).
- General expenses—the FY2023 act provided \$192.8 million for general expenses. The USCP requested \$228.7 million (+18.6%). The House-reported bill would continue the FY2023 enacted level. The Senate-reported bill would provide \$203.8 million (+5.7%).

Another appropriation relating to the USCP appears within the Architect of the Capitol account for Capitol Police buildings and grounds. The FY2023 level was \$402.9 million. For FY2024, \$119.8 million (-70.3%) was requested, the House-reported bill would provide \$81.2 million (-79.9%), and the Senate-reported bill would provide \$86.8 million (-78.5%).

Appointment of Chief

[2 U.S.C. §1901](#) states: “The Capitol Police shall be headed by a Chief who shall be appointed by the Capitol Police Board and shall serve at the pleasure of the Board.”

[J. Thomas Manger](#) was sworn in as Chief of the U.S. Capitol Police on July 23, 2021.

Previously, Yogananda D. Pittman served as the Acting Chief of Police/Assistant Chief of Police for Protective and Intelligence Operations from January 8, 2021, until Chief Manger was sworn in.

Previous chiefs appointed in the last 20 years include the following:

- Steven A. Sund, appointed effective June 13, 2019.
- Matthew R. Verderosa, appointment effective March 20, 2016.
- Kim Dine, appointment effective December 17, 2012.
- Phillip D. Morse, Sr., appointment effective October 30, 2006.
- Terrance W. Gainer, appointment effective June 2002.

Sources of Oversight

Oversight of the Capitol Police has been provided by a number of entities.

The Senate Committee on Rules and Administration and the Committee on House Administration have jurisdictional oversight over many congressional security-related activities. The Senate Committee on Rules and Administration has held [hearings](#) individually and jointly with the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs regarding the events of January 6, and the two committees jointly issued a [joint staff report](#) in June 2021. The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs issued an additional staff [report](#) in 2023. The [Committee on House Administration](#) has also conducted multiple hearings. A [joint hearing](#) of the Committee on House Administration and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration has been announced for July 26, 2023 (see joint committee language in the Capitol Police Emergency Assistance Act of 2021 [[P.L. 117-77](#), enacted December 22, 2021; [2 U.S.C. §1901b](#)]).

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees, through their legislative branch subcommittees, provide oversight of funding, administration, operations, and policies, through the annual appropriations hearings, reports, and bill language. They may also conduct additional investigations.

On June 30, 2021, the House established the [Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol](#) ([H.Res. 503](#), 117th Congress).

Additional committees have historically also examined various aspects of Capitol security.

House and Senate leadership may also provide oversight and direction on matters pertaining to their respective chambers.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has performed evaluations of various aspects of the USCP, including, for example, [work related to January 6th](#) (including, most recently, a report on the [identification of threats](#)); the [Capitol Police Board](#) (2017); and [USCP administration and management operations](#) (2008).

The USCP also has a statutorily established [Inspector General](#).

Line of Duty Deaths

The USCP [announced](#) the death of USCP Officer Brian D. Sicknick on January 7, 2021, and the death of USCP Officer Howard Liebengood on January 10, 2021. On April 2, 2021, the USCP [announced](#) the death of USCP Officer William F. Evans.

Prior to 2021, the USCP saw five officers die in the [line of duty](#), including two officers killed during an intrusion in 1998.

Following the 1998 shootings, the USCP established the [United States Capitol Police Memorial Fund](#). The provision of additional benefits, including death gratuities, is addressed in [2 U.S.C. §1907\(e\)\(2\)](#).

For information on additional benefits that might be available when an officer dies in the line of duty, see CRS Report R45327, *Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) and Public Safety Officers' Educational Assistance (PSOEA) Programs*; and CRS Report R42107, *The Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA): Workers' Compensation for Federal Employees*.

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