



## THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, DC 20318

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE JOINT FORCE

## SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO THE JOINT FORCE

The American people have trusted the Armed Forces of the United States to protect them and our Constitution for almost 250 years. As we have done throughout our history, the U.S. military will obey lawful orders from civilian leadership, support civil authorities to protect lives and property, ensure public safety in accordance with the law, and remain fully committed to protecting and defending the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

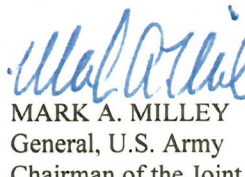
The violent riot in Washington, D.C. on January 6, 2021 was a direct assault on the U.S. Congress, the Capitol building, and our Constitutional process. We mourn the deaths of the two Capitol policemen and others connected to these unprecedented events.

We witnessed actions inside the Capitol building that were inconsistent with the rule of law. The rights of freedom of speech and assembly do not give anyone the right to resort to violence, sedition and insurrection.


As Service Members, we must embody the values and ideals of the Nation. We support and defend the Constitution. Any act to disrupt the Constitutional process is not only against our traditions, values, and oath; it is against the law.

On January 20, 2021, in accordance with the Constitution, confirmed by the states and the courts, and certified by Congress, President-elect Biden will be inaugurated and will become our 46th Commander in Chief.


To our men and women deployed and at home, safeguarding our country—stay ready, keep your eyes on the horizon, and remain focused on the mission. We honor your continued service in defense of every American.




MARK A. MILLEY  
General, U.S. Army  
Chairman of the Joint  
Chiefs of Staff




JOHN E. HYTEN  
General, U.S. Air Force  
Vice Chairman of the Joint  
Chiefs of Staff



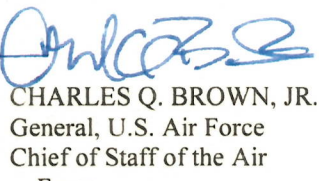
JAMES C. MCCONVILLE  
General, U.S. Army  
Chief of Staff of the Army



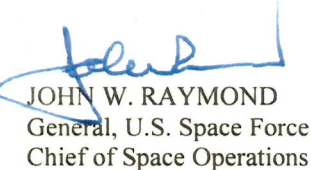
DAVID H. BERGER  
General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commandant of the Marine  
Corps




MICHAEL M. GILDAY  
Admiral, U.S. Navy  
Chief of Naval Operations



CHARLES Q. BROWN, JR.  
General, U.S. Air Force  
Chief of Staff of the Air  
Force



JOHN W. RAYMOND  
General, U.S. Space Force  
Chief of Space Operations



DANIEL R. HOKANSON  
General, U.S. Army  
Chief of the National Guard  
Bureau