

## **Monitoring and Analysis of Military and Border Operations (MAMBO)**

**Last Edited: 15OCT2025**

**Confidence Level: High**

**Analysis Purpose:** National Guard escalation under “Operation Midway Blitz” related to 2025’s ICE deployments.

**Request for Information:** Narrative on National Guard escalation, current nation-wide political landscape, near-term projections.

### **Overview**

As of October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the National Guard has been consistently mobilized by the Trump administration to serve as a highly televised show of force for stated goals of reducing crime and supporting ICE raids throughout the US. As of this current report, the National Guard is slated to deploy in Memphis, Tennessee, Chicago, Illinois, and Portland, Oregon. The “Operation Midway Blitz” deployment will be the primary focus of this report.

### **Background**

Since the previous report on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, the nature of the National Guard's deployment in the US has changed considerably. The scope and focus of the National Guard has expanded from simply securing the border to counter-cartel and now counter-insurrection missions under the guise of protecting ICE agents as they conduct immigration raids in mainly liberal-leaning US cities. The National Guard has been deployed to cities such as Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., with much televised controversy and mixed results. In the background of a highly politicized United States with an erratic administration in power, these National Guard deployments are very likely to continue.

### **Timeline of Events**

**March:** Since our last report in March, the focus of the National Guard has shifted from operations along the southern border of the US to operations in liberal-leaning cities throughout the United States.

**June:** The Pentagon announced a Title 10 deployment, described as part of a broader effort to “maintain sovereignty”, territorial integrity, and security of the United States. Up to 700 active-duty troops were committed to support ICE in Florida, Louisiana, and Texas.

**Mid-June:** President Trump ordered approximately 5,000 National Guard and US Marines to Los Angeles to guard federal facilities during ICE deportations.

**August:** Six Republican-led states (Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Tennessee, Virginia, South Dakota) have activated National Guard troops to assist ICE administrative and logistical roles that could involve up to 1700 guard members through mid-November under Title 32.

- The other states with authorization but no activation are Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Texas, Utah, Vermont, and Wyoming. Vermont has twice refused to deploy its National Guard.

**August 11<sup>th</sup>:** Trump announces federal takeover of DC police and mobilization of 800 National Guard under Title 32 and Section 740 of the D.C. Home Rule Act.

**Section 740 Source:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Declaring\\_a\\_Crime\\_Emergency\\_in\\_the\\_District\\_of\\_Columbia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Declaring_a_Crime_Emergency_in_the_District_of_Columbia)

**August 12<sup>th</sup>:** The Pentagon reported that it drafted plans for a “quick reaction force” of hundreds of Title 32 National Guard members who would be ready to help quell civil unrest.

**August 16<sup>th</sup>:** Signs of friction regarding National Guard deployments are showing on the national stage, including governors reaffirming that the National Guard would only be used for emergencies.

- The same day, it was reported that the Ohio National Guard was sent to Washington, DC In this case, approximately 150 military police were dispatched.

**August 18<sup>th</sup>:** New Mexico's governor called in 60 to 70 of the state's National Guard to address crime issues, indicating a growing trend of using National Guard for law enforcement purposes.

**September 17<sup>th</sup>:** Trump's deployment of troops climbed to approximately 35,000.

**October 4<sup>th</sup>:** Secretary of War Hegseth issued a memo stating the President had called up to 300 members of the Illinois Guard into federal service under Title 10 for 60 days to assist ICE and other federal law enforcement officials in Chicago.

**October 8<sup>th</sup>:** 200 Texas Guard troops were sent to Illinois to start working in the Chicago area in what is titled "Operation Midway Blitz."

**October 9<sup>th</sup>:** A federal judge ordered a halt to Trump's Chicago military deployment, casting doubt over the extent to which Title 10 and Title 32 can be used to federalize National Guard troops.

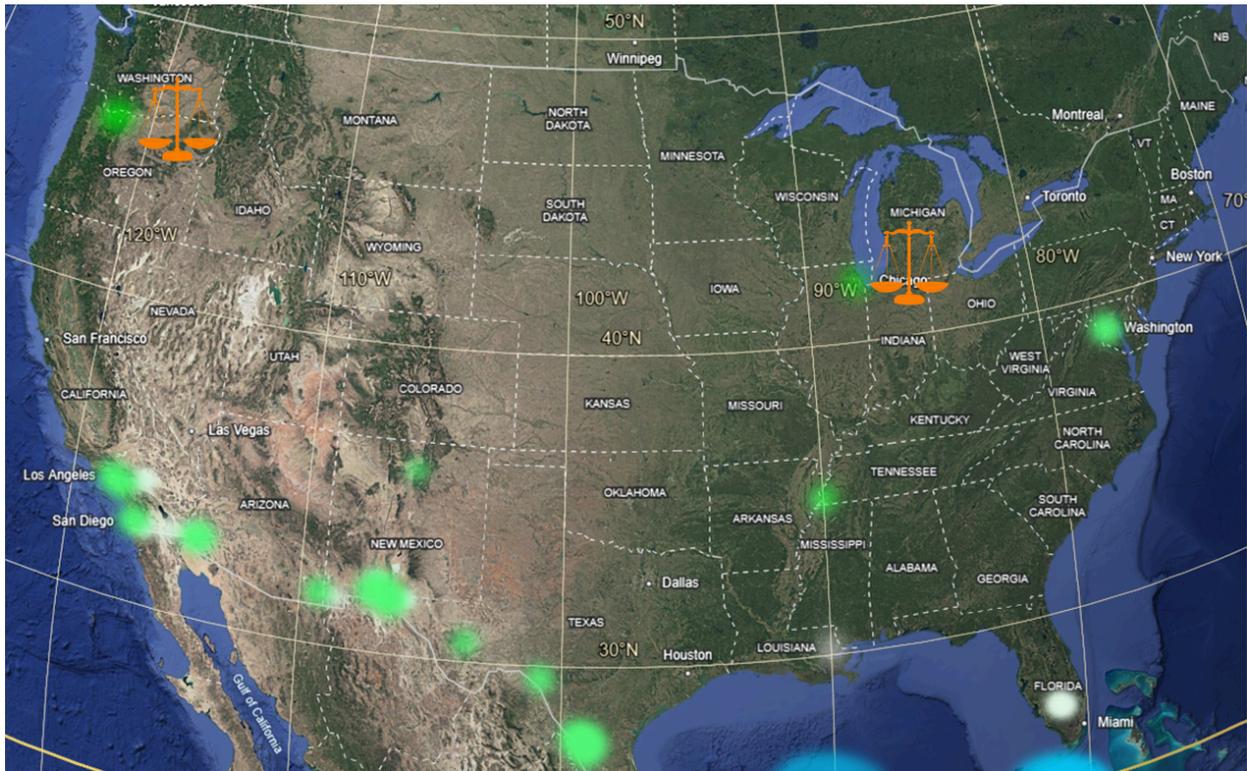
**October 10<sup>th</sup>:** National Guard patrols begin in Memphis, totaling approximately 700 troops for the Memphis Safe Task Force.

**October 10<sup>th</sup>:** Oregon National Guard members remain under federal control following a decision by a three-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, which upheld the federalization of troops but maintained a temporary ban on their deployment within Oregon, including Portland.

**October 11<sup>th</sup>:** The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals holds that National Guard troops can remain in Illinois but cannot be deployed on the streets. Northern Command states that troops are engaged in “planning and training.”

**November 15<sup>th</sup>:** Title 32 authorizations of the National Guard are set to expire, but the Pentagon has often left the possibility of extensions if ICE requests continued support.

# Deployments



*(Note: Chicago and Portland currently have legal friction complicating the presence of the National Guard.)*

# Border Operations Tracking



## Structure of Forces

Based on current analysis, the National Guard forces are primarily of an administrative, logistical, and military police nature. Many National Guard troops are not allowed to bring a weapon or give crowd control loadouts during their deployments to assist ICE.

## Observed Operations

The National Guard has been observed alongside ICE and other federal law enforcement in immigration raids and is increasingly being used in situations to suppress perceived acts of insurrection.

As more legal authorities are found and precedents established, the National Guard will be deployed more aggressively, as strongly indicated by Trump on September 30<sup>th</sup> when he told US generals to turn US cities into “training grounds” for the military.

## Legal Authorities

President Trump has been leveraging a federalized National Guard through Title 10, Title 32, and disaster-law funding via the Stafford Act for his US deployments. He has also repeatedly threatened to employ the Insurrection Act.

### **Title 10 Status (Federalized Guard)**

The President takes state National Guard units into federal service. Once federalized, they count as the US Military. The key hook is 10 U.S.C. §12406 and specific call-up provisions. Under Posse Comitatus, National Guard troops cannot engage in law enforcement unless the Insurrection Act is invoked.

#### **Source:**

<https://www.publicrightspj.org/national-guard-fact-sheet/>

### **Title 32 (State-controlled, federally funded)**

Under Title 32, National Guard troops remain under the governor, but the federal government pays for the mission under 32 U.S.C. §502(f). Traditionally, this is utilized

for border support and natural disasters. Since these are still state troops, Posse Comitatus does not apply in the same way, and they can perform more law enforcement-adjacent tasks based on state law. Prior precedent includes Trump's 2018 border support mission under Title 32.

**Source:**

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2023-title32/pdf/USCODE-2023-title32-chap5-sec502.pdf>

## **The Insurrection Act (10 U.S.C. §§ 251–255)**

The Insurrection Act can be invoked when the President finds insurrection, rebellion, or obstruction that makes law enforcement “impracticable”. In this case, the President can use armed forces domestically, including federalizing the National Guard for law enforcement. Historically, this is rare but not unprecedented: Eisenhower utilized the Insurrection Act in Little Rock (1957), George H. W. Bush used it in Los Angeles (1992), and Johnson used it for multiple 1960s riots. Trump is threatening to invoke the Insurrection Act, and the Courts will be the determining factor about whether it meets statutory predicates.

**Source:**

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/trump-keeps-bringing-up-insurrection-act-what-is-it-2025-10-07/>

## **The Stafford Act**

The Stafford Act was initially designed for deployment in the case of natural disasters or similar situations, but it provides a mechanism of funding when statutes like Title 32 are invoked. The Stafford Act is primarily a funding tool, not a permission engine.

**Source:**

[https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/stafford-act\\_2019.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/stafford-act_2019.pdf)

# **Assessment**

## Stakeholder Intent

This assessment is meant to give a bird's-eye view for those who are trying to understand the current troop deployments and make informed decisions.

## Political Rhetoric

### **White House/Trump:**

Core line: "law and order," "protect federal personnel and property," "Democratic cities won't enforce the law," and the dangling threat to invoke the Insurrection Act if judges or governors get in the way. In the last week, Trump increased his violent rhetoric by calling for jailing Democratic leaders, tying deployments to immigration enforcement, and "violent agitators."

Style tells: Maximalist claims of crisis, repeated warnings that "the left" is obstructing DHS and ICE, and an open flirtation with broader military authorities if courts slow-roll his agenda. Public remarks and pressers since August track this cadence.

#### **Source:**

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/trumps-threat-invoke-insurrection-act-escalates-show-down-with-democratic-cities-2025-10-07/>

### **DHS:**

Core line: Chicago and other cities have seen coordinated efforts to obstruct federal law; DHS is duty-bound to protect ICE staff, facilities, and operations; local officials are spreading "lies" about the operation. They also insist assaults on officers are rising, which they cite when pushing back on court limits.

#### **Source:**

<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/10/06/dhs-debunks-governor-pritzkers-harmful-lies-about-operation-midway-blitz-chicago>

## **Pentagon:**

Core line: In Washington, DC, National Guard support is Title 32 under presidential direction, defined as support to local and federal law enforcement. Weapon carrying in DC was explicitly authorized; public affairs pieces stress training, coordination, and that posture is defensive. Outside DC, DoD talks logistics and status, not street policing.

### **Source:**

<https://dc.ng.mil/Public-Affairs/News-Release/Article/4284293/national-guard-authorized-to-carry-weapons-in-support-of-law-enforcement/>

## **Democratic Governors, Mayors, AGs:**

Deployments are unconstitutional, a political stunt, and violate Posse Comitatus unless the Insurrection Act predicates are actually met. Illinois and Chicago say there is no “danger of rebellion,” and they sued to block federalization and cross-state Guard imports. Their filings and statements emphasize federalism and thin evidence from DHS.

### **Source:**

[https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/News-Room/Current-News/Illinois%20v.%20Trump%20-%20NG%20suit%20-%202025-12174.pdf?language\\_id=1](https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/News-Room/Current-News/Illinois%20v.%20Trump%20-%20NG%20suit%20-%202025-12174.pdf?language_id=1)

## **Judges:**

Core line from the bench this week: Show your work. Two separate orders in Illinois curtailed both troop deployment and federal agents’ treatment of journalists and protestors, with judges noting poor evidentiary support and risk of First Amendment violations. One judge called federal accounts “unreliable,” another barred the use of riot-control munitions against journalists and protestors.

### **Source:**

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/trumps-national-guard-deployments-face-pair-court-challenges-2025-10-09/>

## **Congress:**

Core line: mainly posture and letters, limited brake-pulling. The legal reality is that statutory cleanups to the Insurrection Act or sharper oversight on Title 32 have not materialized, so the President keeps testing the edges while Republican members spread their rhetoric on social media. This vacuum is part of why the courtroom is the arena now. (Synthesis from the week's litigation posture and agency moves.)

### **Source:**

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/what-to-know-about-trumps-national-guard-deployments-in-chicago-and-portland>

## **Response**

### Macro Scale

A Reuters/Ipsos poll in October found 58% of Americans believe the military should only be deployed for external threats (i.e., defense, not policing).

### **Source:**

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/oct/08/military-external-threats-survey-trump>

Similarly, 83% support military neutrality (i.e. that armed forces shouldn't be a political tool) across parties.

### **Source:**

<https://taskandpurpose.com/news/poll-cities-national-guard/>

On deploying troops even when a governor objects: only 37% support such presidential authority; 48% oppose it.

### **Source:**

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/most-americans-dont-want-troops-deployed-without-a-n-external-threat-reutersipsos-2025-10-08/>

## **Challenges**

### Logistical

#### **1. Fragmented command structures**

Each state's Guard reports to its governor unless formally federalized. When the President orders multi-state operations without governor consent, every unit's lawyers start sweating about which Title they're under, Title 10 (federal), Title 32 (state-controlled but federally funded), or pure state status. A single mission can involve all three simultaneously. The bureaucratic chaos alone can stall deployment hours or days, as well as impact military members personal, and civilian professional lives

#### **2. Equipment and readiness disparities**

The National Guard is not a uniform force. Some units have modern armored vehicles and UAVs; others have barely-serviced trucks and analog radios. Moving troops across state lines creates maintenance nightmares, insurance issues, and inter-jurisdictional liability (who pays when a Humvee runs over a Prius in another state?).

#### **3. Inter-agency friction**

Federal agencies, DHS, FBI, ICE, FEMA, and DoD each claim partial jurisdiction. Guard commanders complain about mission creep and "task saturation," juggling riot control, disaster relief, and border surveillance. Troops often get conflicting rules of engagement from different bureaucracies.

#### **4. Urban terrain & crowd control**

Guards are trained for disasters, not city policing. In real riots, urban acoustics, traffic density, and camera saturation make traditional tactics obsolete. In D.C. 2020 and again in recent Chicago disputes, Guard units waited in staging zones because they had no apparent crowd-control authority or coordination with local police.

## **5. Logistics of perception**

Every phone is a camera; every movement is live-streamed. Troops now train for “narrative containment” as much as physical control, learning how to stand still under insults without flinching, because one twitch becomes a viral symbol of tyranny. That’s a logistical constraint borne from the information ecosystem.

## Legal

### **1. Posse Comitatus Act (1878)**

Prohibits the federal military from domestic law enforcement unless Congress or the Constitution specifically authorizes it. Once National Guard troops are federalized, they become subject to it. Commanders obsess over the line between “support” (legal) and “law enforcement” (illegal without the Insurrection Act).

### **2. The Insurrection Act’s ambiguity**

Written for the 1790s rebellions, it lets the President deploy forces when “unlawful obstructions” make law enforcement impracticable. But what counts as “impracticable”? That’s the legal knife-edge. Courts have historically deferred to the President, but may intervene if the evidence looks thin, as in the current Illinois TRO halting deployments.

### **3. Federalism friction**

Governors can refuse Title 32 missions; presidents can override under Title 10. The legal clash produces lawsuits about the separation of powers and state sovereignty. Expect temporary restraining orders, dueling injunctions, and cases making their way to the Supreme Court.

### **4. Liability and jurisdiction**

If a Guard soldier injures a civilian during a disputed deployment, who gets sued—the state, the feds, or the individual? Case law is a patchwork. This uncertainty makes commanders risk-averse, and insurers nervous.

## **5. Congressional abdication**

Congress technically can curb or rescind emergency declarations, but in practice, it rarely does. The statutes remain vague, enabling presidents to stretch them and forcing courts to act as reluctant referees.

# Political

## **1. The optics of “occupation”**

When citizens see uniformed soldiers patrolling U.S. streets, the psychological shift is profound. Supporters call it restoring order; opponents call it the beginning of authoritarian rule. Presidents risk blowback if even one protester is injured on camera.

## **2. Party polarization**

**Republican base:** largely pro-Guard deployment, seeing it as defense of sovereignty.

**Democrats and independents:** skeptical or hostile, reading it as overreach.

This split makes bipartisan oversight nearly impossible; every deployment becomes campaign material.

## **3. Command loyalty ambiguity**

Guard officers swear oaths to both the state and federal constitutions. When directives conflict, the governor says “stand down,” the president says “mobilize”, loyalty becomes a live legal and moral question. Narratively, that’s gold for resistance movements as it is the moment when institutional identity fractures.

## **4. Civil-military trust**

Regular military leadership tends to despise the politicization of troops. The Joint Chiefs’ caution in 2020 (and again now) reflects fear of losing the apolitical reputation the military enjoys. If that norm collapses, recruiting and morale follow.

## **5. Information warfare**

Misinformation campaigns amplify confusion: AI doctored videos of “troops firing on civilians,” bots boosting both pro- and anti-narratives. The administration and its critics each claim the other side is orchestrating “deepfakes.” Public trust erodes faster than any court can issue rulings.

## **6. Rise of the Paramilitary**

As some political theorists have recently argued, Trump and his ilk are seeking to create an omni-force — one that would remove dissidents — to generate a centralized force that would take the place of police, ICE, and the military, and patrol American streets. As Radley Balko argues, this force would be: “an amalgamation of border cops, ICE agents, Homeland Security, sheriff’s deputies, Guardsmen, and military (and probably soon, militia and extremist groups). This force is fiercely loyal to Trump; they operate in masks and unmarked vehicles, and they’re wholly unaccountable.”

Sources: <https://donmoynihan.substack.com/p/purge-merge-and-surge>;  
<https://radleybalko.substack.com/p/the-police-militarization-debate>.

# Resistance

## **1. State-level legal resistance**

Governors and attorneys general sue immediately, citing a lack of statutory predicate or a violation of state sovereignty. Illinois’ recent TRO is textbook. Expect discovery requests, FOIA floods, and whistleblower leaks undermining federal justifications.

## **2. Local passive resistance**

Police departments drag their feet on cooperation, claiming confusion over jurisdiction. City councils withhold logistics (barracks, fuel, communications links). The resistance isn’t open defiance, it’s bureaucratic molasses.

## **3. Civil society & protests**

Veteran groups, journalists, and clergy become optics shields for protesters. The presence of cameras, livestreams, and legal observers deters overt repression.

Non-violent resistance evolves into “information attrition”, forcing the government to burn political capital for every televised encounter.

#### **4. Military internal dissent**

Within the Guard, quiet discontent simmers. Soldiers join to help their communities, not police them. Whistleblowers leak after-action reports, morale surveys, or body-cam footage. Commanders must police their own ranks to prevent refusals or resignations.

#### **5. Cyber & infrastructure sabotage**

Hackers probe Guard communication systems during crises, and as logistics get stretched and discontent continues, there likely will be significant chances of cyber break-ins.

## **Outlook and Likely Scenarios**

### Impacts on Targeted Communities

#### **1. Psychological and social trauma**

Constant Guard or DHS presence cultivates ambient paranoia. Communities, especially immigrant-heavy ones, learn to live under surveillance. Kids grow up reading body language for uniforms the way earlier generations read the weather.

Fear fractures cooperation. People stop calling 911, avoid hospitals, and skip voting locations near checkpoints. You get “invisible zones” where public life evaporates.

In sociological terms, this produces civic withdrawal: citizens disinvest from state institutions, strengthening informal networks (churches, ethnic associations, mutual aid groups). Those can evolve into either resilience engines or shadow governments.

#### **2. Economic compression**

Local businesses near protest sites or Guard staging areas lose customers. Insurance spikes. Property values dip. Capital flees; gentrifiers wait it out and then buy cheap.

Contractors, security firms, surveillance tech, and private logistics profit. Inequality widens along lines that correlate with ethnicity and political dissent.

### **3. Cultural radicalization**

When enforcement becomes theater, culture becomes counter-theater. You get protest art, underground journalism, and songs that mythologize resistance. Chicago, Portland, and L.A. already show microcosms: murals of angels with gas masks; poets using QR codes to share banned footage.

The longer repression lasts, the more identity solidifies around opposition. “Sanctuary city” morphs into “autonomous culture.”

### **4. Legal choke points**

Targeted residents face chronic court backlogs. Legal aid systems choke on deportation hearings and protest arrests. The justice system becomes a deterrent weapon: the process itself is punishment.

Over time, local DAs and judges start using prosecutorial discretion to quietly nullify federal aims, another layer of institutional rebellion.

### **5. Intergenerational memory**

Kids remember soldiers in the streets. Ten years later, they vote with that image burned in. Political historians call this cohort imprinting: what happens at 15-25 defines one’s lifelong baseline for legitimacy. That’s how the Vietnam generation became antiwar and the 9/11 cohort became security maximalists. A “Guard generation” could emerge with new hybrid instincts, simultaneous suspicion of government, and craving for stability.

## Trajectory Shifts in Political Opinion

### **1. Polarization deepens but clarifies**

Republicans consolidate around “order over liberty.” The rhetoric reframes freedom as freedom from chaos. That solidifies their 35–40 % base.

Democrats counter conservative heavy-handedness with constitutionalism, as patriotism and states' rights arguments, but with a progressive flavor. Democrats continue their counter-insurgency strategy by co-opting left-movement demands. The narrative flips: resistance to federal overreach becomes liberal orthodoxy.

Independents drift according to fear. In areas directly affected by unrest or Guard patrols, many swing right (seeking safety). In unaffected metros, watching the footage, many swing left as they perceive authoritarian excess.

## **2. Regional divergence**

Blue states entrench “sanctuary” legal infrastructure, state-level civil rights compacts, digital privacy laws, and local Guard reforms.

Red states formalize security compacts with the feds, trading autonomy for funding and immigration enforcement help.

America's map morphs into an archipelago of mutually suspicious jurisdictions—effectively a soft partition.

## **3. Trust collapse and replacement**

Pew-type trust metrics (already low) nosedive. Citizens retreat to identity-based trust circles: church, tribe, online community.

National identity fragments into competing mythologies: “Restoration of Order” vs “Struggle for Liberation.”

This polarization becomes self-sustaining; every crackdown validates both sides' narrative of victimhood or heroism.

## **4. Media ecosystems fork**

Right-wing outlets glorify Guard actions as defense against “urban insurgents.”

Left and centrist independent media focus on human-rights abuses, with decentralized livestreams acting as pseudo-institutions of record.

Traditional mainstream networks lose authority entirely; algorithms replace editors as gatekeepers.

# Scenarios

## **1. The Authoritarian Drift (high risk, short-term)**

Courts bend to executive pressure (as is already happening). Insurrection Act is enabled. Guard deployments become a routine occurrence for “urban disorder.”

Federal-state clashes escalate into defunding threats. Some states comply out of exhaustion. Others resist, triggering selective enforcement, “Favored States” vs “Rogue States.”

Public apathy grows; politics fossilizes into loyalty oaths disguised as patriotism tests. Think Brazil meets Byzantium.

## **2. The Federalist Reformation (medium risk, mid-term)**

Courts keep clipping the executive’s wings. Governors form a multi-state compact codifying limits on Guard use without mutual consent.

Congress, shamed by paralysis, rewrites the Insurrection Act for clarity. It’s messy but stabilizing.

Culturally, this produces a rebalancing ethos: renewed respect for state sovereignty, localism, and civic education. America half-accidentally stumbles into a more confederal identity.

## **3. The Civic Resistance Cascade (low-probability but potent)**

Repeated deployments radicalize new movements, veterans, faith leaders, journalists, who cross partisan lines to reject militarized politics.

A populist “Peace Guard” movement emerges, repurposing the Guard’s own ethos into community resilience networks: medical, logistical, disaster response minus guns.

Narratively, this becomes a new American myth, citizens reclaiming their institutions from the inside.

## **4. The Fractured Union (slow-burn, speculative)**

Continuous jurisdictional conflict leads to economic fragmentation. Supply chains, policing data, and digital IDs get balkanized by the state.

Cyber infrastructure divides into “FedNet” vs “CivicNet.” Commerce adapts; law lags.

A century later, historians call this the Quiet Secession: the U.S. never split formally, but legal, digital, moral, and interoperability died.

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