

Situation Report: Springfield, Ohio

Date: February 2nd, 2026

Monitoring and Analysis of Military and Border Operations (MAMBO)

UPDATE 2026-02-03 (see executive summary)

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Executive Summary & Strategic Intent

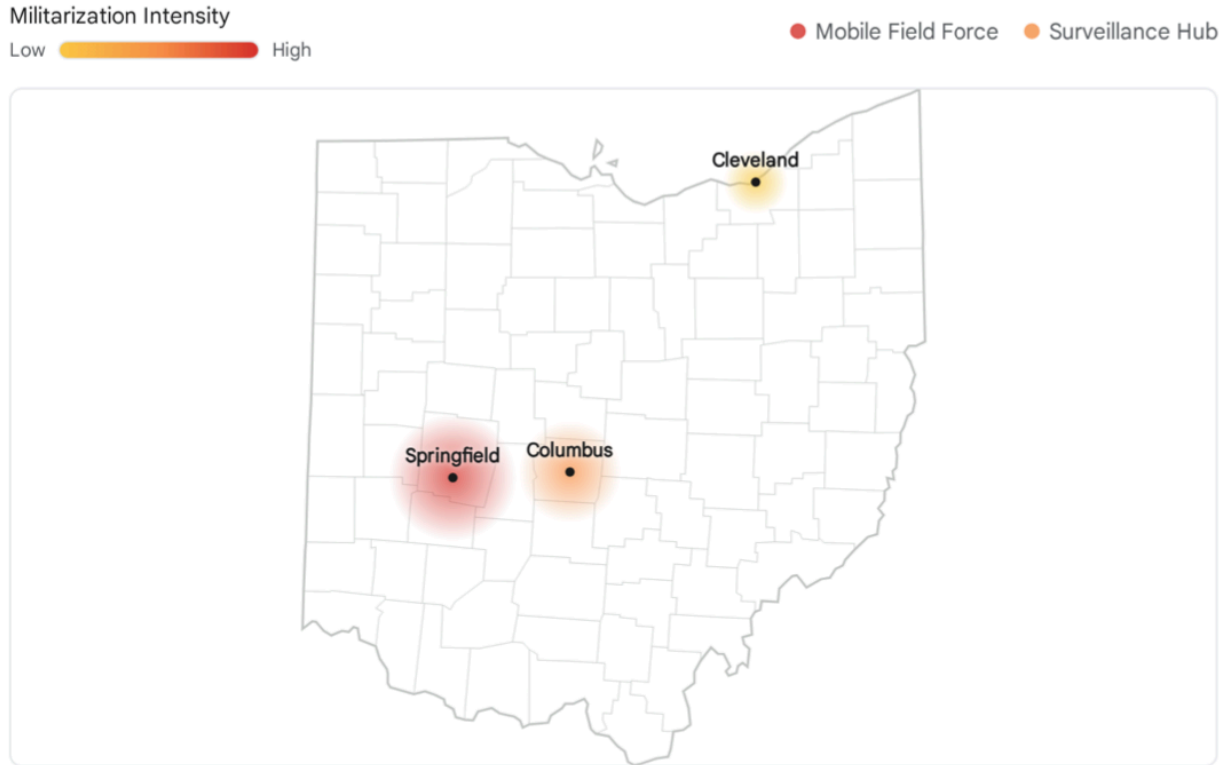
As of January 31, 2026, the operational environment in Springfield, Clark County, Ohio, exhibits high-intensity indicators of an imminent, militarized interior immigration enforcement operation. With the termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian nationals scheduled for **February 3, 2026**, federal and state actors are preparing assets for a large-scale containment strategy.

The operation converges DHS "shock and awe" tactics with a "**Digital Panopticon**"—a surveillance matrix leveraging healthcare data, commercial advertising signals, and military-grade signals intelligence (SIGINT) to maximize apprehensions while minimizing physical footprints until Zero-Hour. The entire state of Ohio is effectively being treated as an "**Internal Border**," normalizing the fusion of local police (OSHP), state militia (ONG), and federal agents (ICE/ERO) into a single apparatus of repression.

UPDATE 2026-02-03

On February 2nd, 2026, federal district court judge Ana C. Reyes issued an injunction indefinitely pausing the suspension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian migrants, citing legal errors and racial bias. The administration has signaled that it will appeal to the supreme court.

The Militarization Index: Mapping the Imperial Boomerang in Ohio



This heat map aggregates three key variables: Value of 1033 Program transfers, frequency of Fusion Center (STACC) reports, and incidents of 'Mobile Field Force' deployments. The resulting 'hotspots' (Columbus, Cleveland, Springfield) indicate the areas of highest domestic militarization.

Data sources: [Governor's Office](#), [OpenTheBooks](#), [The Marshall Project](#), [Ohio Homeland Security](#), [Ohio Legislature](#)

Forecast

The probability of a coordinated, multi-agency enforcement operation ("Operation Metro Surge" variant) commencing between February 4 and February 15, 2026, is **HIGH**. Operations will likely utilize "shock and awe" tactics involving armored assets (BearCats) and overwhelming force ratios to effect rapid psychological dominance, deter resistance, and achieve immediate removal targets before legal challenges can effectively intervene.

Key Findings

- **Imminent Legal Trigger:** The [expiration of TPS on February 3, 2026](#), serves as the primary operational trigger. Despite pending litigation in the Eastern District of New York, DHS has signaled intent to enforce removal orders immediately, leveraging the "termination" notice to bypass standard grace periods. The legal battlespace is currently defined by a high-stakes standoff between executive enforcement priorities and judicial injunctive relief, creating a volatile window of uncertainty.
- **Surveillance Saturation:** Ohio is enveloped in a dense web of [Automated License Plate Readers \(ALPRs\) operated by Flock Safety](#), strategically positioned at ingress/egress choke points along I-70 and SR 41. This ground-level Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) is likely augmented by aerial ISR assets housed at Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport (KSGH), including potential support from defense contractors like MAG Aerospace. The integration of these assets allows for a "target-centric" enforcement model that reduces the need for random sweeps in favor of precision interdiction.
- **Logistical Staging:** Authorities are ramping up detention capacity in Butler and Morrow Counties, signaling a shift toward high-volume operations. By reviving local service agreements and reinforcing existing jails, the region is being prepared for rapid-turnover detention. This framework relies on regional airports acting as primary hubs for a coordinated aerial repatriation pipeline.
- **Volatile Human Terrain:** The operational theater is complicated by the presence of accelerationist groups (e.g., Blood Tribe, KKK) conducting psychological warfare operations (flyering, intimidation) and a highly organized community defense network (G92 Coalition) employing rapid-response counter-tactics. The intersection of federal agents, local police, armed extremists, and community resistance groups creates a high probability of friction and unintended escalation.

Deciphering the Narrative

Rhetoric vs. Reality

- **They Say:** "We are here for school safety and traffic enforcement."
- **The Reality:** They are building an intelligence dragnet. Every "traffic stop" is an opportunity to collect data on who is moving where, which feeds into federal deportation databases. The deployment of troopers to schools normalizes the presence of armed state agents around children, conditioning them to accept occupation.⁴

Psychological Operations (PsyOps)

- **The "Pet Eating" Lie:** The rumor that Haitian neighbors were eating pets was a **PsyOp** designed to dehumanize the community.¹ *Goal:* To make the public accept state violence against "savages."
- **"Hope" the Therapy Dog:** The state deployed a therapy dog named "Hope" alongside armed troopers in schools. *Goal:* To soften the image of the occupation and confuse our instincts. Do not be distracted; a therapy dog does not negate the violence of an armed trooper in a kindergarten.⁴
- **Bomb Threat Hoaxes:** The wave of bomb threats created a "strategy of tension," justifying the massive police surge. The state used these threats (which they admitted came from overseas) as a pretext to occupy the city.¹⁵

Community Posture and Preparation

Targeted Community: Haitian Residents

- **Total Population:** Estimated between **12,000 and 15,000** Haitian immigrants currently reside in Springfield. This represents approximately **20–25%** of the city's total population (based on the 2020 Census of ~60,000).
- **Demographic Shift:** Since the 2024 election, the population has fluctuated. While local schools and health clinics reported some new arrivals from other states in early January 2026, many long-term residents have fled to other cities or Canada due to fear of enforcement actions.
- **Community Response:** Community leaders report that many Haitians are avoiding going to work, grocery stores, or sending children to school to avoid potential contact with authorities.
- **Economic Impact:** Haitian workers have significantly filled vacancies in Springfield's manufacturing and service sectors. Local business owners report that Haitians make up **60–80%** of their customer base, and their removal is projected to cause an economic loss exceeding **\$400 million** in Clark County

Sentiment within the Haitian Community

For the estimated 15,000 Haitians in Springfield, the February 2nd court stay provided a "reprieve" but not a sense of safety.

- **Fear and Isolation:** Many families have transitioned to a state of self-imposed lockdown. **Rev. Reginald Silencieux** of the First Haitian Evangelical Church reported that Sunday service attendance dropped by half in late January as congregants feared leaving their homes (Marietta Times, 2026).
- **Economic Despair:** Residents express that the loss of TPS is not just a legal threat but an economic death sentence. "Without the TPS, they can't work. And if they can't work... you're killing the people," stated resident **Jerome Bazard** (KGW, 2026).
- **Resilience and Prayer:** Despite the panic, the community has leaned heavily on spiritual networks. On February 2, over 1,000 people filled **St. John Missionary**

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Baptist Church for a day of fasting and prayer, symbolizing a unified front against deportation (Religion News Service, 2026).

General Community Sentiment

The prevailing sentiment within Springfield is a mix of high-alert anxiety and civic defiance.

- **A Divided Public:** A survey conducted by the *Springfield News-Sun* in early February 2026 revealed a near-even split: roughly half of respondents expressed profound fear of an "ICE invasion," while a slightly smaller portion welcomed the surge with slogans like "Deport them all" (Sweigart, 2026).
- **The "Minneapolis Factor":** Much of the local fear is fueled by reports of violent federal enforcement actions in Minneapolis earlier this year. Activists and residents frequently cite the deaths of **Renee Nicole Good** and **Alex Pretti** as a warning of what could happen if ICE operations escalate in Springfield (ACLU of Ohio, 2026; 19th News, 2026).

Major Support Groups & Networks

A diverse coalition of local and national organizations has mobilized to oppose mass deportations and provide humanitarian aid.

Group Name	Primary Role & Activity
G92 Network	A faith-based group led by Pastor Carl Ruby (Central Christian Church); provides Rapid Response Training and sanctuary resources.
Haitian Support Center	Directed by Viles Dorsainvil ; serves as the primary hub for legal aid, caregiver affidavits, and community messaging.

Haitian Bridge Alliance	National advocacy led by Guerline Jozef ; provides legal expertise and federal lobbying for TPS extensions.
St. Vincent de Paul	Catholic charity focusing on emergency assistance, food, and securing U.S. passports for American-born children.
ACLU of Ohio	Monitors federal activity for constitutional violations and issues public warnings regarding "lawless ICE officers" (Guess, 2026).

Support Network Preparation

Support groups have moved beyond advocacy into a state of "active faith," implementing practical defense strategies:

- **Sanctuary and Supplies: Central Christian Church** and other congregations have stockpiled air mattresses, refrigerators, and washing machines to house migrants seeking sanctuary, despite the administration rescinding policies that previously protected houses of worship (19th News, 2026).
- **Rapid Response Training:** On January 24, 2026, approximately **200 residents** attended a session at Central Christian Church. Trainees learned nonviolent de-escalation, how to document ICE activity safely, and how to use green plastic whistles to alert neighbors of enforcement presence (WYSO, 2026; Marshall Project, 2026).
- **Caregiver Affidavits:** To prevent children from entering the foster care system—which local officials warn is already at capacity—hundreds of parents have signed **power of attorney** documents and caregiver affidavits to designate legal guardians in the event of their detention (10TV, 2026).

Current Legal Status & TPS Developments

The primary driver of the current crisis is the scheduled expiration of **Temporary Protected**

Status (TPS), which was set for **11:59 p.m. on February 3, 2026**.

- **Federal Injunction:** On February 2, 2026, U.S. District Judge **Ana C. Reyes** issued a temporary stay, blocking Homeland Security Secretary **Kristi Noem's** decision to terminate TPS for approximately **330,000 Haitians** nationwide.
- **Judge's Ruling:** Judge Reyes stated that the administration's decision likely overstepped legal requirements to consult other agencies on Haiti's conditions. She also noted potential bias, citing Secretary Noem's social media descriptions of migrants.
- **Current Status:** While the ruling provides a "last-minute reprieve," the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has labeled the ruling "lawless activism," indicating a likely appeal.

Stated Position of Public Officials

The official stance of Springfield's leadership is defined by a desire for transparency and the protection of local police-community relations.

- **Mayor Rob Rue (Republican):** While Rue has acknowledged the strain on city infrastructure, he has been vocal about the need for federal agents to be identifiable. He describes the city's resolution as a "voted wish" that federal agents treat residents with dignity and "reveal their faces" as local officers are required to do (WYSO, 2026).
- **City School District (Superintendent Bob Hill):** The district has taken a "business as usual" but protective stance. Hill confirmed that while the district will comply with the law if presented with appropriate paperwork, enforcement actions will not be permitted in hallways or classrooms to prevent disruption to students (WOSU, 2026).
- **Governor Mike DeWine:** While providing state resources (such as state troopers and health funding), DeWine has cautioned that mass deportations would be economically "catastrophic" for Springfield's manufacturing sector (The Statehouse News Bureau, 2026).
- **Dialogue vs. Cooperation:** Mayor Rue has stated the city maintains an "open dialogue" with the Department of Homeland Security to understand federal procedures, but emphasized that the city is not a "staging ground" for federal

operations (WHIO, 2026).

Legal Pathways and Blocks

Under Ohio law, local governments have limited power to block federal immigration enforcement, but they utilize "administrative friction" to provide community safeguards.

- **The "Mask and ID" Resolution:** On January 27, 2026, the Springfield City Commission unanimously passed a resolution requesting that ICE agents forgo masks and clearly display identification. While Law Director **Jill Allen** noted the city cannot legally dictate federal policy, the resolution serves as a formal "operational requirement" intended to help residents distinguish agents from vigilante groups (Springfield News-Sun, 2026).
- **Warrant Requirements:** Local officials and advocacy groups have emphasized that ICE administrative warrants (Form I-200) do not grant the same access as judicial warrants. Springfield schools and private businesses have been advised to designate specific "interception" points to verify judicial signatures before allowing entry (Signal Ohio, 2026).
- **Sensitive Locations:** Per federal policy, schools and houses of worship remain "sensitive locations." The local government has leaned on this designation to ensure that city-run services and educational facilities remain operational without the presence of agents (WOSU, 2026).

Cooperative Agreements (287(g) and Detainers)

Springfield's relationship with ICE is currently characterized by a lack of active "force multiplication."

- **Lack of 287(g) Agreement:** As of February 2026, the Springfield Police Division does **not** have a 287(g) agreement, which would allow local officers to perform the functions of federal immigration agents.
- **Information Sharing:** In alignment with the **Protecting Ohio Communities Act**, local law enforcement continues to share fingerprint data with the FBI, which is

automatically accessible by ICE. However, local police have been instructed not to stop or detain individuals solely based on suspected immigration status (Ohio Legislative Service Commission, 2026).

The Paradigm: The Internal Border

This fits into a broader context of state violence where the entire state of Ohio is being treated as an "Internal Border." The tactics used against our neighbors in Springfield—checkpoints, dehumanization, and military-style occupation—are the same ones used at the physical border. The state is testing its ability to fuse local police, state troopers, and federal agents into a single machine of repression. If they can normalize this level of occupation in Springfield, they will expand it to other targeted communities across the state.³

Force Posture & Equipment

Grounded Risk Assessment: *Don't let fear lead.* Understanding what is on the streets helps us move from panic to planning.

Unit Composition: Who is Here?

- **Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) - "Mobile Field Force":** This is not a standard traffic unit. It is a specialized battalion trained for civil disturbance (suppressing protests). They are currently deployed inside Springfield schools and on patrol in migrant neighborhoods.²
- **Ohio National Guard (ONG):** While currently in a support role, their Military Police and Engineer units have upcoming deployment cycles in early 2026. Be aware that "Engineer" units are often used to build checkpoints or clear barricades during uprisings.⁵
- **Private Security (Allied Universal / G4S):** Found on university campuses like OSU. These are corporate mercenaries contracted to protect property and supplement state violence without the same public oversight.⁷

Equipment Analysis

The gear you see on our streets is a direct import from U.S. imperial wars abroad. The state brings the war home to use against us.

Equipment	Function	Imperial Origin
Lenco B.E.A.R. / BearCat	Armored Troop Transport. These are tanks on tires. They are bulletproof and often have roof turrets. Used to intimidate and safely move specialized arrest teams into crowds.	Designed to protect U.S. troops from roadside bombs (IEDs) in Iraq and Afghanistan . Its presence here implies the state views the community as an insurgent threat. ²
LRAD (Long Range Acoustic Device)	Sonic Weapon. It looks like a flat dish. It can project ear-splitting sound to cause pain and force dispersal. Risk: Permanent hearing damage.	Developed for the U.S. Navy after the USS Cole bombing to repel small boats. It is a weapon of war repurposed to silence dissent. ¹⁰
Chemical Weapons (CS Gas / Pepper Spray)	Rebellion Containment Agents (RCAs). Chemical irritants designed to cause pain, blindness, and panic. Note: These are banned for use in actual warfare by international treaty but are legal for use against us.	Used globally to suppress anti-colonial movements. Their use is a form of collective punishment. ²
Mobile Vehicle Barriers	Area Denial. Large portable barricades used to block streets and "kettle" (trap) marches.	Originally used to fortify military bases against car bombs. Now used to dictate where we can and cannot

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		move in our own cities. ²
SkyWatch Towers	Static Domination. Hydraulic scissor-lift pods with tinted windows that sit 25–30 feet in the air. Used in retail parking lots and public squares (like Cleveland's Public Square) to create a "Panopticon" effect—you don't know if you are being watched, so you must act as if you are.	FOB Guard Towers. Direct descendants of the perimeter watchtowers used at Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) in Iraq and Afghanistan. Designed to provide "force protection" and spot insurgents approaching the wire. Their deployment in cities treats the neighborhood as a hostile territory to be secured.
Tactical Micro-Drones	Interior Penetration. Unlike larger surveillance drones, these (like the Brinc Lemur seen in Cleveland inventories) are "tiny," shielded, and designed to smash windows, open doors, and fly inside homes. They allow police to clear rooms and communicate with "suspects" without entering.	Urban Warfare Recon. Modeled on military micro-UAVs (like the Black Hornet) used by Special Forces. They minimize risk to the occupier while maximizing intrusion into the private sanctity of the home.
"Drones as First Responders" (DFR)	Persistent Stalking. Mid-sized drones that launch automatically from rooftops (a program piloted in Ohio) to arrive at 911 calls before officers. They hover and record before, during, and after interactions.	Loitering Munitions / ISR. Derived from the "unblinking eye" doctrine of military Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR). In war, they track targets for strikes; here, they build a permanent archive of community movement.

Escalation Indicators

- **Cut-Teams:** If you see troopers with power tools (grinders, saws), they are preparing to cut people out of lock-boxes or "sleeping dragons." This indicates they intend to arrest people holding space physically, not just disperse them.²
- **Aerial Surveillance:** The presence of circling aircraft (drones or Cessna planes) means they are building a "pattern of life" map of organizers. Assume you are being recorded if you are outside.¹³

Community Safety Recommendations ([VCW](#) Aligned)

Principle: *We keep us safe. The state's version of "safety" is control.*

Formations & Tactics

- **Mobile Units:** Avoid static crowds that can be easily "kettled" (trapped) by Mobile Vehicle Barriers. Stay fluid. Move through streets and avoid direct confrontation with armored vehicles.
- **Perimeter Awareness:** With the high volume of surveillance (drones/planes), umbrellas and banners can help block overhead cameras. Be aware of "snatch squads" trying to target organizers.
- **Tight Networks:** Vetting is critical. The state uses fusion centers (STACC) to mine social media. Do not plan actions on open channels. Trust your affinity groups.
- **Hyperlocal Rapid Response** - Citizen networks organized around neighborhood and community spaces form small, overlapping communication channels (chats in the signal app) in which members can report sightings of DHS, ICE, and collaborating local police forces staging or performing kidnap operations. Nearby members can swarm the location with warning whistles and similar devices.
- **Roving Patrols** - Community members patrol streets, follow ICE vehicles, and coordinate with Rapid Response.

Protocols

- **Verbal De-escalation:** If confronted by state forces or agitated community members, use **L.E.A.P.S.** (Listen, Empathize, Ask, Paraphrase, Summarize). Our goal is to preserve life and prevent arrest, not to win an argument with a trooper.
- **Chemical Weapon Safety:** If RCAs (tear gas) are deployed:
 - **Do NOT** run blindly; this causes panic and injury. Walk briskly.
 - **Do NOT** rub your eyes.
 - Flush eyes with water or saline.
 - Remove contaminated outer clothing carefully.

Care & Aftercare

- **Check-Ins:** The psychological toll of occupation is high. The "Hope" dog PsyOp is designed to mess with our heads. Establish "care teams" to debrief after actions or tense encounters.
- **Jail Support:** With the threat of mass deportation raids, have jail support funds and legal contacts written on your body (permanent marker), not just in your phone.
- **Community Defense:** Prioritize relationship building with Haitian neighbors. Safety comes from knowing who lives on your block, not from the police.

Remember: The "Imperial Boomerang" means the tactics used abroad are coming home. But just as communities globally have resisted imperialism, we can resist it here through solidarity, discipline, and care.

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