

Security and Safety

Briefing Members at the Capitol Police Headquarters

Updates for Members at the Capitol Police Headquarters on September 11th.

Jim Rohan, Deputy Chief of Police, U.S. Capitol Police

Interview recorded May 19, 2011

I would venture to say, at that point, there was probably, oh, 60 to 80 Members of Congress, Senators and, and House Members, and this, the female officer or senior official, her office was near there, and on her desk, she had this little, 4-inch, black-and-white TV, a little desk TV with a, with a single-stick, you know, retractable antenna. And she had plugged that in and moved the antenna around to get some sort of a picture, and all these people were crowded around this 4-inch, itty-bitty TV, and that's the only updates they were getting. So, when, when I came in, they were—some were angry, some were understanding, some were frustrated and, so, I came in and just told them everything we knew at the time, and then promised them I would have, you know, somebody come back about every 15 minutes and give them updates on everything we knew. And, and there was some understanding that we were in the middle of something, so I wasn't—I wasn't chastised too much, but it was, it was, it was not what I expected when I walked in there. I couldn't believe that, that they were all still there, that many of them. So, I went back up, and then we had representatives from the Sergeant at Arms' Office, both of them, both sides there, and they, we would send them down along with the intelligence updates, to let them, to let them know. And then, we started finding places throughout the headquarters building to put key Members in leadership—not leadership, but sort of chairmen and the like—so that they could, you know, get on the phones and, and, and start making some needed communications, in their mind.