



State Capitol Security Overview

September 22, 2025



Data Collection



Interview

- Contacted all 50 states with survey questions
- Collected data directly from 41 states



Research

- Supplemented interviews with digital research and existing NCSL resources



Aggregate

- Aggregated the data for privacy



Visitor Firearms in Capitol Buildings

Does your state capitol prohibit the public from carrying firearms?

Status	Number of States
Prohibited	27 states
Not prohibited	6 states
Combination	9 states

Visitor Firearms in Capitol Buildings

Exceptions



Are there any exceptions for the public?

Exceptions	Number of States
None	15 states
Law enforcement, military, or security personnel	11 states
Concealed carry	1 state

Visitor Firearms in Capitol Buildings

Exceptions

Examples and Stipulations

- Some states require law enforcement to be uniformed and on official business
- Enhanced concealed carry licenses
- Carry in the building, but not the chambers or select offices
- Concealed carry allowed, open carry prohibited
- Open carry allowed, concealed carry prohibited

Public Entrances

How many public entrances does your capitol building have?

Number of Public Entrances	Number of States
1-2 entrances	24 states
3-5 entrances	16 states
More than 5 entrances	2 states



Public Entrances

Are there screenings at the capitol building's public entrances?

What do they entail?

Screenings	Number of States
Metal detector and bag search	33 states
No screening	9 states

Other Approaches

- Some states have capacity or devices on hand for certain occasions
- Some states prohibit firearms but have no screening
- No screening but stationed security or law enforcement

Public Entrances

- There can be differing policies between buildings or even offices within a single building
- Staff and members typically have access to separate entrances or lines



Photo source: tuscon.com

Cameras

Does your capitol building use cameras and/or technology for security purposes?

- Almost every state we spoke with answered “yes”
- Several states cited this as a recent upgrade
- For those who shared, the number of cameras ranged from 100-330
- Some only include public areas



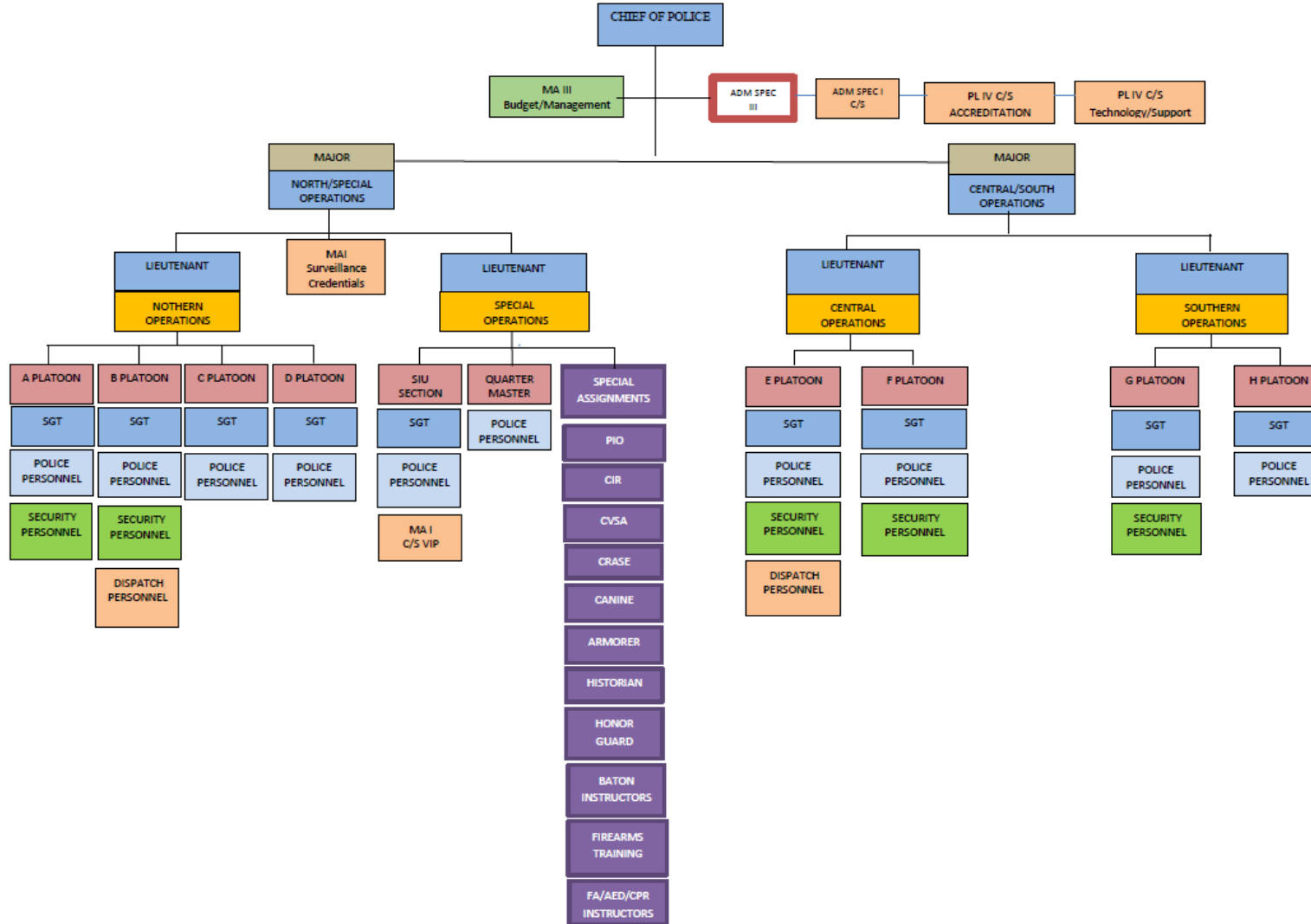
Security and Law Enforcement



Who is the primary law enforcement or security agency?

Security Type	Number of States
Capitol or state police	38 states
Legislative police department	4 states
Legislative security	1 state exclusively 6 states supplementally
Private security	5 states supplementally

DELAWARE CAPITOL POLICE



99 Full-Time Employees
4 Casual Seasonal

80 Police Officers
1 Chief
2 Majors
4 Lieutenants
10 Sergeants
63 Capitol Police Officers I-III

11 Senior Security Officers
5 Communications Dispatchers
1 Administrative Specialist III

1 Management Analyst I
1 Management Analyst III

Casual Seasonal

1 Management Analyst I (Admin)
1 Management Analyst I (VIP)
1 Planner (Accreditation)
1 Planner (Technology/Support)

Updated 1/12/23

Source: <https://capitolpd.delaware.gov/about/index.shtml?dc=divisions>

Capitol Complex Buildings



How many buildings are on your capitol grounds?

Number of Buildings	Number of States
One building	3 states
2-5 buildings	23 states
6-9 buildings	9 states
10+ buildings	7 states

Sergeants at Arms

Where do your sergeants at arms have jurisdiction?

Sergeant Role and Jurisdiction	Number of States
Chamber space only	35 states
Armed or LEO	4 states
Ceremonial and decorum	19 states
Session only	6 states
No Sergeant at Arms	1 state



Capitol Security Funding



How is your capitol security funded?

Funding Source	Number of States
Legislative operations budget	7
Agency appropriations	23
Combination	10

- Specific amounts for capitol police are often not broken out
- At least two examples of legislative budgets paying for overtime or making up for costs beyond the agency appropriations line item
- At least one example of a one-time legislative appropriation for enhanced security improvements



Thank you!



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