

Trump Administration Begins Laying Groundwork For Chicago ICE Crackdown

- By Seijah Drake
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Despite escalating threats of lawsuits, executive orders, and public defiance from Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker and Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, the Trump administration is moving full steam ahead with a large-scale illegal immigrant enforcement operation in the Chicago area — and it’s already setting up shop at a major military base.

According to a leaked internal memo obtained by *CBS News*, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has requested support from the Department of Defense (DOD) to stage a federal immigration crackdown from Naval Station Great Lakes, the largest U.S. Navy training facility in the country, located 38 miles north of downtown Chicago.

The Mission: Federal Agents, Tactical Gear, and Detention Logistics

The memo reportedly outlines plans to house approximately 250 federal agents and 140 vehicles at the naval base. DHS is asking the DOD to provide infrastructure for a “command post,” tactical operations center, and storage for medical supplies and less-lethal munitions. Sources say equipment and personnel

began arriving at the base earlier this week, indicating that enforcement operations may begin imminently.

The mission, described as “removal operations” targeting illegal immigrants, is expected to last at least 30 days, with potential for extension.

Blue State Defiance Meets Federal Force

The Trump administration’s plans have prompted furious backlash from top Illinois Democrats, who view the enforcement as both politically motivated and a violation of state autonomy.

Governor J.B. Pritzker has threatened legal action to block the use of military resources in the state for immigration enforcement, saying, “The state of Illinois is ready to stand against this military deployment with every peaceful tool we have.”

Mayor Brandon Johnson has taken a more radical tone. In a recent MSNBC interview, Johnson all but encouraged civil disobedience, saying Chicagoans must rise up against this “unconstitutional” use of federal force.

Last Saturday, Johnson issued an executive order banning local law enforcement from cooperating with federal immigration officers and demanding that the president “stand down.”

Trump Admin Unfazed by Lawsuit Threats

Despite the tough talk from state and local officials, the Trump administration remains undeterred.

President Donald Trump, who has made immigration enforcement a central issue of his second-term agenda, reportedly signed off on the deployment after a recent intelligence briefing on border-to-city trafficking pipelines and rising violent crime linked to illegal immigrants.

Democrats Warn of Escalation, Trump Team Calls It Necessary

Former Biden Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg also weighed in, blasting the use of a naval base for immigration enforcement. He wrote on X, “When I reported for duty at Naval Station Great Lakes, I never imagined that some day a US

President would seek to use it as a base for surveillance and enforcement activity on American soil. Our military was not set up to cater to the whims of a would-be American dictator.”

But Trump administration allies say this kind of secure, strategic infrastructure is exactly what’s needed to enforce immigration law efficiently and safely in a hostile sanctuary city.

A Growing Flashpoint in the National Immigration Debate

The Chicago standoff is shaping up to be a national test case for federal authority in immigration enforcement within hostile blue states. Similar standoffs have already occurred in California and Oregon, where governors and mayors have attempted to block ICE operations and federal detainees.

With Naval Station Great Lakes now in play, Illinois may become ground zero for the growing war between state-led sanctuary policies and the Trump administration’s zero-tolerance agenda.

Background: All Eyes on the Midwest

Earlier this summer, President Trump deployed National Guard units and U.S. Marines to Los Angeles after protests against ICE arrests turned violent.

Now, with Chicago on edge, Illinois Democrats may face the difficult decision of turning rhetoric into legal and political action — or watching federal enforcement proceed without their consent.