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WASHINGTON

TRUMP: ARCH WILL BE
MILITARY COMPLEX



EVELYN HOCKSTEIN, REUTERS

A model of a proposed arch is displayed June 4 ahead of a public comment period during a National Capitol Planning Commission meeting in Washington.

President cites national security concerns; experts question rationale

NATHAN LAYNE AND ANUSHA SHAH
Reuters

President Donald Trump said Sunday the triumphal arch he plans to build near Washington would double as a “military complex” housing drones and snipers, the second major construction project he sought to justify on national security grounds.

The president cited national security concerns for the move, though he did not identify specific threats. It echoes the rationale he offered for the estimated \$400 million ballroom complex under construction on the site of the White House’s former East Wing.

The arch and ballroom are part of Trump’s broader effort to remake the nation’s capital, including the renovation of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, the redevelopment of a golf course

in East Potomac Park and a push to add his name to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The initiatives drew criticism from preservationists and others who argue they would alter some of Washington’s most prominent historic landmarks.

Trump said in a social media post that, at the “strong request” of the military, he agreed to turn the 250-foot arch “into a top grade Military Complex/Triumphal Arch, to house, store, and have the rapid ability to use large numbers of drones, plus Snipers, on both the roof and plaza areas, and additionally have and hold large quantities of sniper ammunition in storage.”

A U.S. military official told Reuters that the Defense Department had nothing to add beyond Trump’s social media post. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Trump did not elaborate on why such capabilities would be needed at the arch. His proposed White House ballroom already was touted as a drone facility to protect Washington.

Mark Cancian, a retired Marine colonel, said the move appeared aimed at countering opposition to the arch, which is planned for a traffic circle near Arlington National Cemetery, about a mile from Fort Myer, an active Army installation, and about 2 miles from the Pentagon.

“It looks like it’s tacked on in order to strengthen the rationale for construction,” Cancian, a senior adviser with the Defense and Security Department at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington-based think tank, told Reuters.

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Native Hawaiians face
Medicaid work rules

Other Indigenous groups
exempt from mandates
set to take effect in January

ASHLEY MIZUO
KFF Health News

WAIANAE, Hawaii — Native Hawaiians will need to comply with new work requirements to qualify for Medicaid after being excluded from exemptions carved out for other Indigenous groups, an omission clinicians fear will exacerbate the challenges the marginalized population already faces in getting healthcare.

In 43 states and the District of Columbia, President Donald Trump’s signature One Big Beautiful Bill Act will require most adults to work, go to school or enter a training program or volunteer for at least 80 hours a month. Native Americans and Alaska Natives are exempt from the mandates, which take effect in January.

Of the almost 700,000 Native Hawaiians in the U.S., about 47% live in Hawaii. Within the contiguous states, California, Washington, Nevada, Texas and Oregon have the largest populations of Native Hawaiians.

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ASHLEY MIZUO, KFF HEALTH NEWS

Kapono Chong-Hanssen says new Medicaid work requirements will erode the trust healthcare providers worked hard to build among Native Hawaiian patients.