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Memphis calls MPs; Presley fans converge

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — With thousands of fans of the late Elvis Presley converging on Memphis, National Guard units headed into the city Friday to assume the duties of striking city police officers.

The military police were called in to relieve squads of supervisory personnel and reserve sheriff's deputies patrolling Tennessee's largest city since 1,100 city policemen walked off the job Thursday night.

Meanwhile, city officials were going to court to request an injunction that would force the members of the Memphis Police Association back to work.

National Guard troops were called in from Camp Shelby, 312 miles south of Memphis near Hattiesburg, Miss., where the Tennessee National Guard was bivouacked for two weeks of annual training.

Mayor Wyeth Chandler, while advising the city's 650,000 residents "there is no cause to be alarmed" on Friday imposed a 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew.

Mixed in with the traffic were thousands of Presley fans bound for his Graceland Mansion prior to the first anniversary of the rock 'n' roll singer's death on Aug. 16, 1977.

Shortly before midnight Thursday, about an hour after police picket lines went up at the city's four precinct headquarters, Chandler called Gov. Ray Blanton to request the Guard troops.