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Lots of cops to guard Times Sq. for Eve

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Police security for the Times Square New Year's Eve celebration will match the army of cops deployed for the huge millennium celebration two years ago, Mayor Giuliani said.

Some 8,000 cops blanketed Times Square, and a total of 37,000 officers were placed on duty throughout the city over the two-day celebration that drew an estimated 2 million revelers into the city. Only minor incidents occurred.

Crowds were smaller last year because of a snowstorm.

With fears still high after the Sept. 11 terror attack, the Police Department is reviewing the "elaborate security plan" used in 1999 and last year, Giuliani said Thursday.

"We used a tremendous amount of security for the millennium celebration," he noted. "We certainly will do that level, [and] whether we increase it somewhat more than that, I don't know yet."

As a precaution, the Police and Fire departments have nixed the fireworks display at Central Park that was traditionally staged by the New York Road Runners Club.

"The Police Department didn't think it would be a good idea with all they have to deal with on New Year's Eve," the mayor told reporters.

While the city has received no warning of a specific threat, it has remained on high alert since the World Trade Center attack, he said.

"We have to keep assuming that they [terrorists] have other things in store for us, so we have to do the best we can to figure out what they are," Giuliani said.

But he cautioned against excessive concerns, such as the calls for closing the Indian Point nuclear plant in Westchester.

"You can't go back into a prior age of human existence because terrorists can do bad things to you," Giuliani said.

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