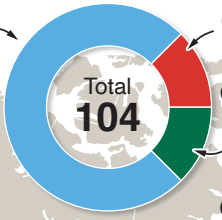
World Cup poses security challenge

The largest sporting event ever staged arrives at a moment of heightened geopolitical tension and growing fears of AI-fuelled disruptions, presenting security planners with an unprecedented challenge

NUMBER OF MATCHES



UNITED STATES
Around **7 million** visitors expected during World Cup, with each match given same high-level federal security designation as ***Super Bowl***, ensuring federal, state and local coordination

CANADA
Security efforts led by ***Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)*** alongside provincial and municipal police, backed by up to **$145 million** in federal funding for Toronto and Vancouver



ICE Agent: *Organisers say there will be no immigration raids at World Cup matches, though authorities may take action against individuals suspected of crimes*

Vancouver
Seattle
CANADA
UNITED STATES
Toronto
Boston
FINAL: New York / New Jersey
MetLife Stadium
Kansas City
San Francisco
Philadelphia
Los Angeles
Atlanta
Dallas
Houston
Monterrey
Miami
Guadalajara
MEXICO

Tijuana: Iran's team training base relocated to Mexico from U.S. amid security concerns

OPENING
Mexico City
Estadio Azteca

International Police Cooperation Center (IPCC), Washington DC: Police from participating nations share intelligence and monitor threats

- **Security costs: $625 million** allocated to 11 U.S. host cities, with additional **$250m** directed to counter-drone technology
- **Drones:** Unauthorised aircraft prohibited within **5.5km** of stadiums and **1.8km** of fan zones. FBI-trained state and local police will detect and disable hostile drones
- **AI:** AI-generated videos are key concern, with fears they could be used to spread misinformation and panic – FBI-led joint operations centres in each host city will coordinate security threats in real time

Member of Mexican Army's special anti-drone battalion tasked with protecting venues



MEXICO
Plan Kukulcán: Security plan named after Maya feathered serpent deity, deploying around **100,000** personnel across three host cities, including roughly **20,000** military personnel and **55,000** police and supporting security staff



K9-X robot: *Police in Monterrey to deploy robot dogs to patrol and transmit live video to security forces*

Sources: AP, Reuters, BBC, FIFA
Pictures: Newscom, Getty Images
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