



NATIONAL SITUATIONAL INFORMATION REPORT
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Tradecraft Alert
COUNTERTERRORISM DIVISION
DOMESTIC TERRORISM OPERATIONS SECTION

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(U) Sovereign Citizen Extremist Threat to Law Enforcement and Public Officials

(U//FOUO) The Federal Bureau of Investigation identified nationwide trends within the sovereign movement, whereby ideologues, use social media to educate followers on sovereign-style tradecraft and inspire potentially life-threatening action against federal, state, and local governments and public servants whose duties conflict with sovereign goals. Consistent with sovereign ideology and tradecraft, Sovereign Citizen Extremists (SCE) have issued illegitimate warrants and court orders and have made fraudulent court filings in an attempt to establish their government. The escalation of violent rhetoric coupled with reported efforts of SCEs who gain unauthorized access into federal and state facilities, to include courthouses, has raised the threat-level posed by

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SCEs. Furthermore, SCEs have successfully impersonated armed law enforcement officers by displaying credentials/identification and wearing badges and uniforms resembling those worn by the United States Marshals Service (USMS) to further the sovereign agenda.

(U//FOUO) In September 2016, identified SCEs used social media to post aggressive warnings to law enforcement officers and other public servants, to include appointed judges and clerks who “violate” sovereign rights. The threatening statements indicated those in uniform will be arrested for violations against common law, a treasonous crime, of which the penalty is death by hanging.

(U//LES) An organized nationwide effort within the sovereign movement aspires to enforce court orders and grand jury indictments from a "de jure" legal system. Within this movement, SCEs are encouraged to use false identification/credentials, or badges to appear as legitimate law enforcement officers. Some SCEs identify/impersonate sworn law enforcement officers to appear legitimate and leverage authority from the pseudo government and judicial system. Often, the badges resemble those of USMS, and therefore create confusion among untrained/unaware authorities, which has resulted in SCEs obtaining unauthorized entry into facilities.

(U//LES) Armed SCEs have successfully gained entry into federal and state facilities, to include courthouses, when security failed to recognize their identification/credentials as illegitimate. The following incidents orchestrated by nationwide SCEs, highlight the threat posed to law enforcement and court officials. The FBI acknowledges sovereign views may be protected under the First Amendment and may not initiate investigative activity based on protected activity. However, SCEs who seek to advance their agenda through the use of force or violence and in violation of federal law may have law enforcement action levied against them.

- (U//FOUO) On 18 June 2016, an SCE who professed affiliation with the Continental Marshals, a sect of the US-based sovereign group Continental uNited States of America (CuSA), attempted to interfere with the arrest of his daughter’s boyfriend. During the arrest, the individual spoke on the phone with the arresting deputy, identified himself as a “marshal,” and demanded the release of his daughter’s boyfriend. The individual threatened to arrest the deputy and any other law enforcement personnel involved in the arrest.
- (U//FOUO) On 10 January 2017, an SCE who professed affiliation with the Continental Marshals bypassed Pasadena Courthouse (Pasadena, CA) security checkpoint using false law enforcement identification. The marshal was dressed in tactical-style clothing and had a pistol holstered in a Sam Browne-style belt. Courthouse security failed to recognize the marshal as an imposter until after he/she left the courthouse.
- (U//FOUO) On 26 January 2017, individuals armed and dressed in “Continental Marshal” uniforms (resemblance to USMS) with badges, bypassed a security checkpoint at the Spalding County Courthouse (Griffin, GA). An interview with the deputy responsible for verifying credentials claimed he/she saw the word "Marshal," verified their photographs from the provided identification, and allowed both to pass through security.
- (U//FOUO) On 2 February 2017, SCEs who professed affiliation with CuSA Judges sent a communication to the Valencia County Detention Facility (VCDF) located in Albuquerque, NM, requesting the release of a fellow CuSA Judge. On the same day, CuSA sent Continental Marshals to secure the release of the Judge. The marshals were unsuccessful at deceiving authorities or securing the detained CuSA Judge, but instead were arrested and detained on charges of transporting contraband into

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the detention facility. The SCEs demonstrated the competency to plan and execute an aggressive operation across state lines, which represents an escalation in antagonistic behavior.

(U//FOUO) As of February 2017, identified SCEs instructed members to recruit former law enforcement officers and members of the military. SCEs wanted to specifically target these individuals because they had already sworn an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution, and may feel the Constitution and its values have been compromised. SCE leaders sought to exploit the emotions of former law enforcement and military personnel who missed the camaraderie of their old jobs to entice them to join the sovereign movement. As sovereign ideology naturally opposes traditional governance and rule of law, armed and tactically proficient adherents pose a significant threat to unsuspecting law enforcement officers and other public servants.

(U//FOUO) Information has identified ongoing, escalated contention between high-ranking members within several nationwide sovereign groups. This conflict has led groups to fracture into separate factions. Conflict at leadership levels could trigger a situation where factions compete for validation to gain support from sovereigns nationwide and earn legitimacy, potentially resulting in increased violence and danger to law enforcement and public servants. Despite group dissent or competing factions, SCE leadership has demonstrated that the intent and capability to target law enforcement and public officials through deception and force, or paper tactics remains.

(U) This report has been prepared by the COUNTERTERRORISM Division of the FBI.

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