

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
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FOI/PA# 24-cv-5722

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Domestic Terrorism – Hate Crimes Fusion Cell

FBI Counterterrorism Division & Criminal Investigative Division

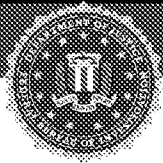
Fall 2019

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION





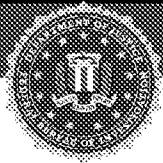
What is it?

- The Domestic Terrorism - Hate Crimes Fusion Cell is a Headquarters unit established to enhance the FBI's capability to detect, deter, and disrupt hate and bias motivated crimes, when such crimes are planned to further a political or social goal.
- The Fusion Cell is comprised of subject matter experts from the Criminal Investigative Division (CID) and the Counterterrorism Division (CTD)
- It was jointly established by CID's Public Corruption & Civil Rights Section and CTD's

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Why is it needed?

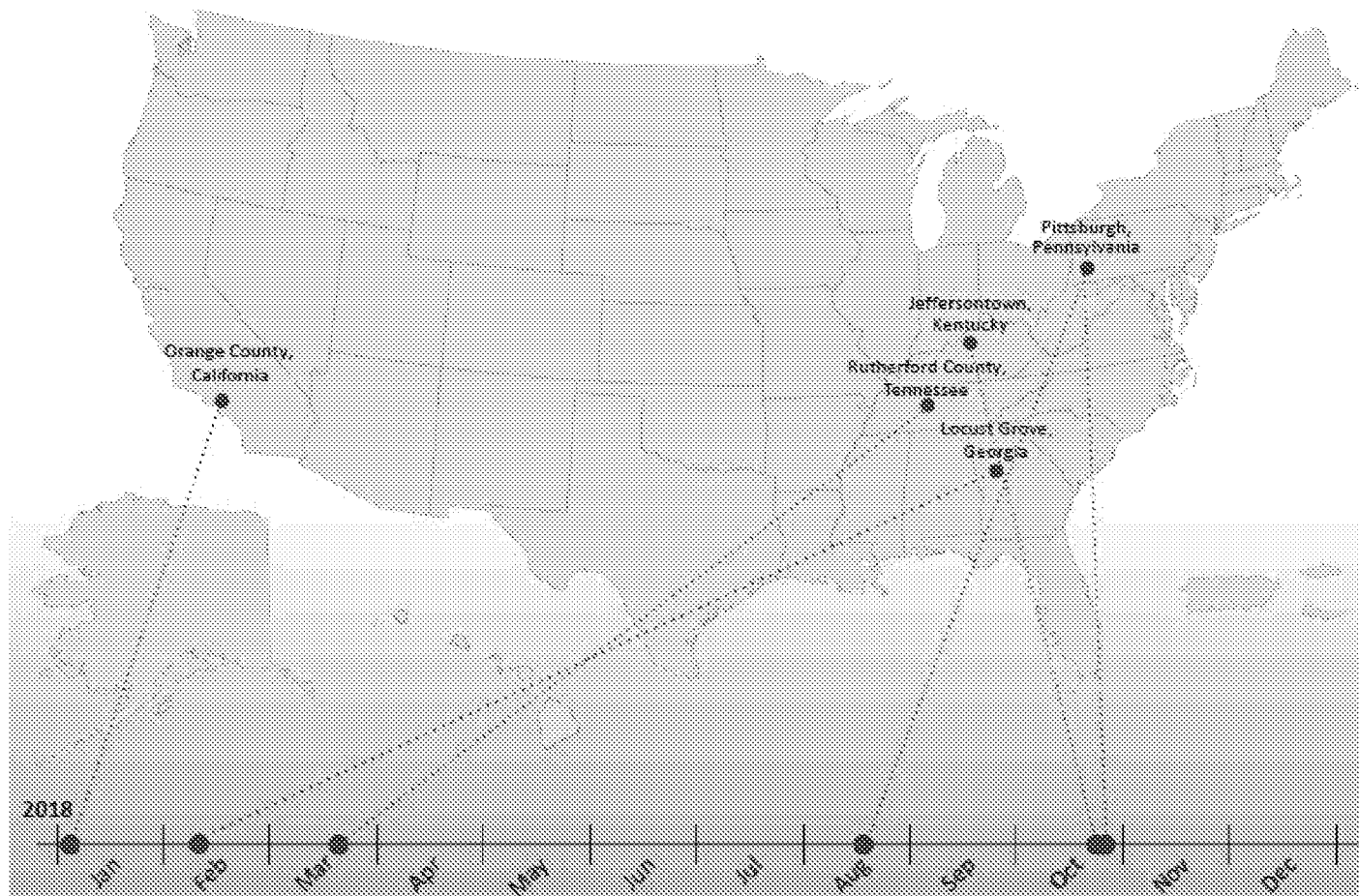
- Increasing overlap between Hate Crime “44” investigations and Domestic Terrorism investigations.
- Domestic Terrorism arrest numbers are higher than ever
- Several high-profile examples of lethal hate crimes were committed in furtherance of domestic violent extremist ideology or to advance a political **or** social goal.
- Without coordination within the FBI, relevant Domestic Terrorism or Hate Crime information could become siloed in one program, potentially resulting in the loss of information needed to prevent a critical incident.

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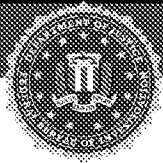
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Lone offender domestic extremists conducted **6** lethal attacks in the US in 2018, resulting in **17** victims killed – the most in a calendar year since 2000.



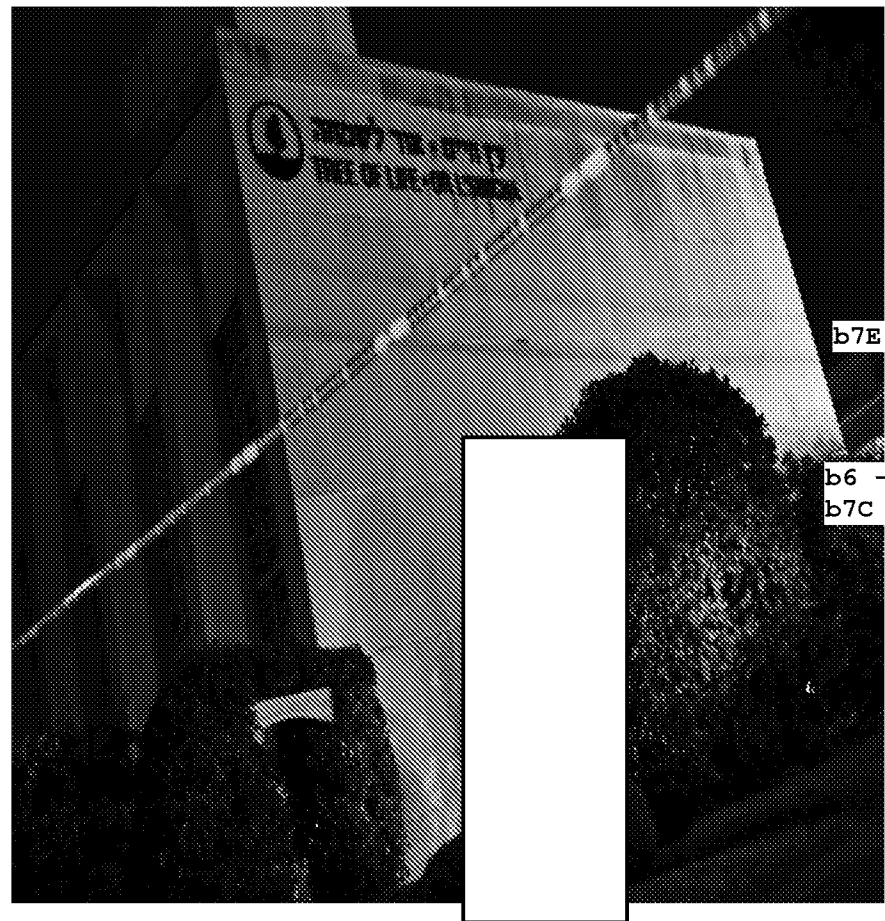
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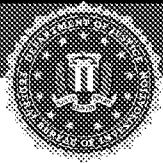
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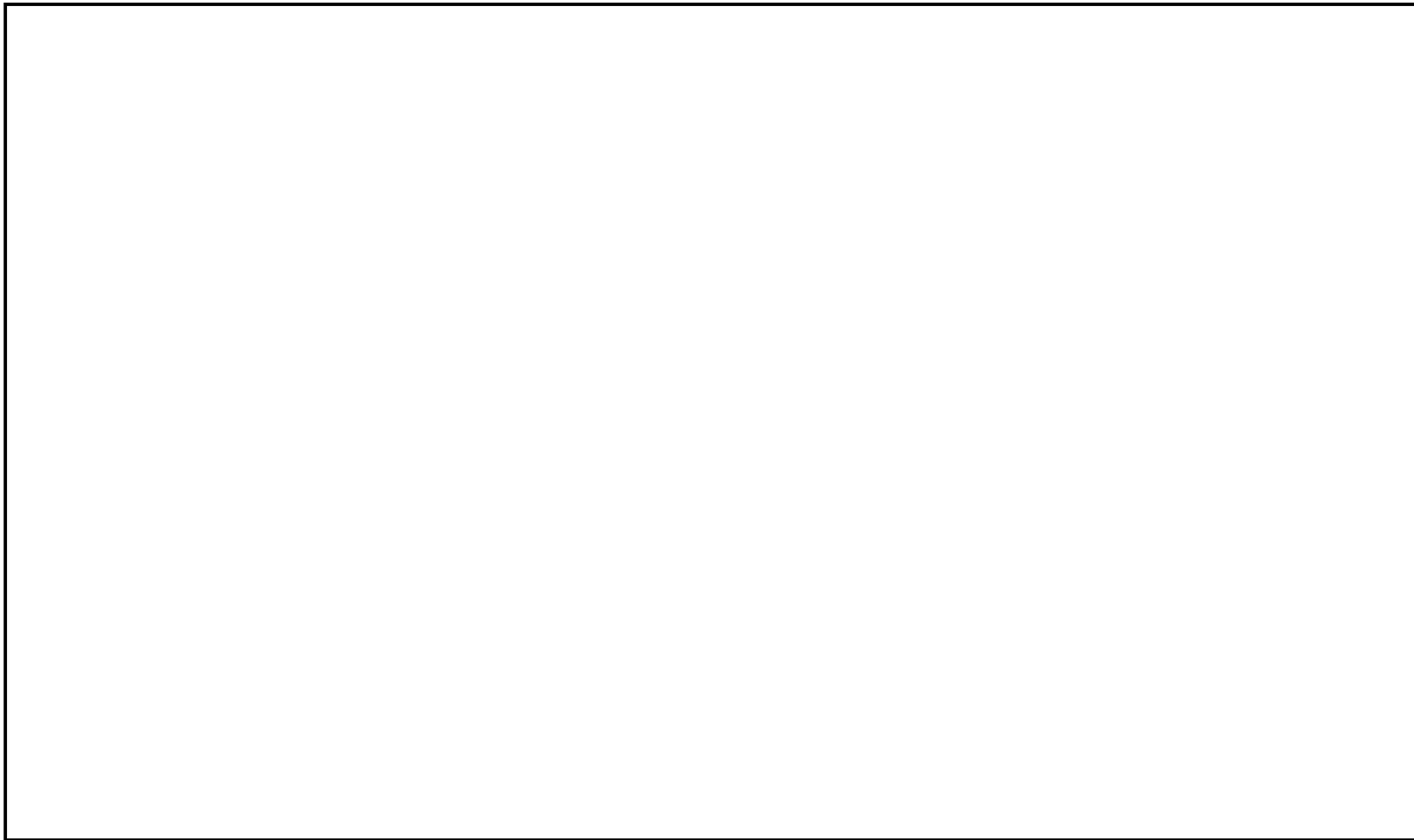
Why is it needed?

- Hate Crime “44” investigations are generally initiated in response to criminal activity
- Domestic Terrorism investigations are generally initiated when there is an indication a crime will be committed
- Enhanced coordination will allow for a much more comprehensive approach to combatting the threat

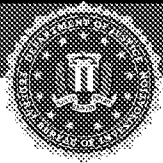




What the DT-HC Fusion Cell will do:



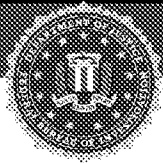
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Program Management

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Domestic Terrorism Definition*

To be categorized as “domestic terrorism,” an investigation must contain information indicating:

1

The existence of
a **potential
federal violation**

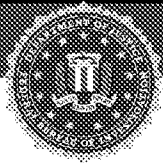
2

The **use of force
or violence**

3

The existence of
**ideological
motivation**

*Source: 18 U.S.C. 2331(5)
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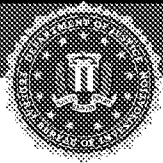


Domestic Terrorism Investigations

- Criminal investigations that support the FBI's top priority to protect the United States from terrorist attacks.
- Domestic Terrorism investigations seek to identify and disrupt individuals who support terrorist activities through the integration of comprehensive investigative collection.

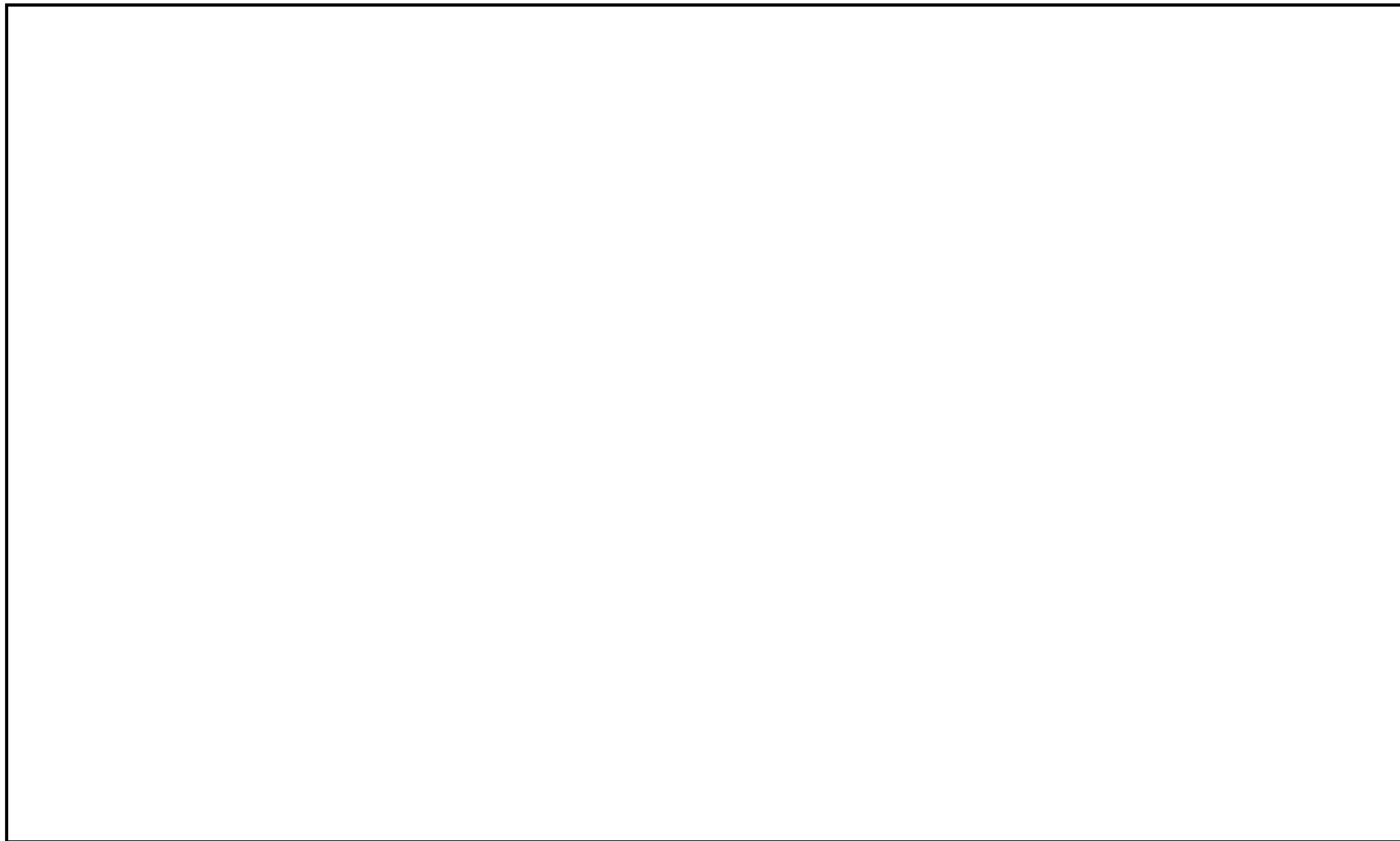


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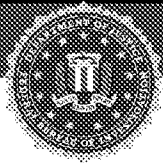
Domestic Terrorism



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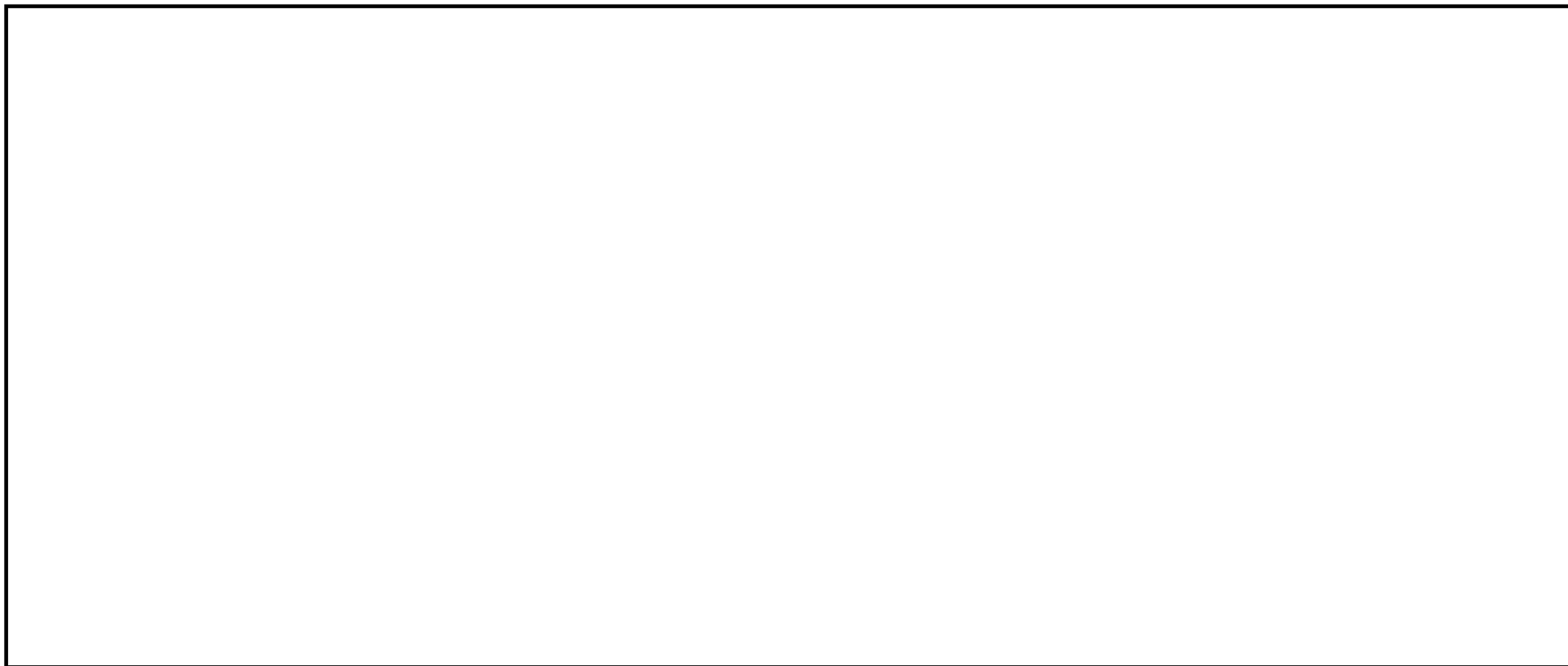
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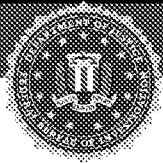
Domestic Terrorism Investigative Focus



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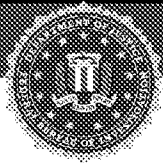
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FBI's Civil Rights Program Mission

- Enforce Federal civil rights statutes and to ensure the protected civil rights of all persons in the United States are not infringed upon
- The FBI is the primary Federal agency responsible for investigating all allegations regarding violations of Federal civil rights criminal statutes





Hate Crimes

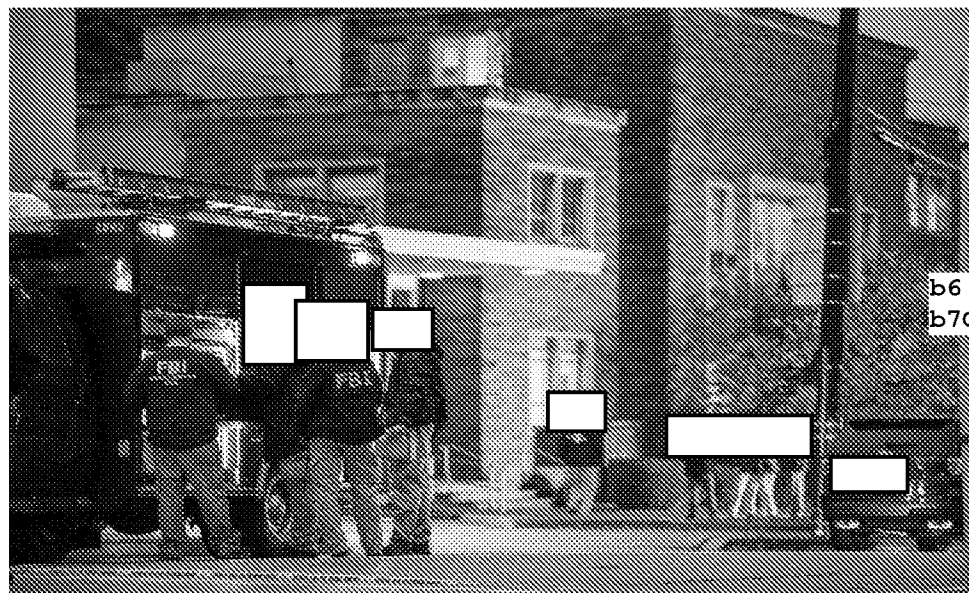
- Criminal offenses motivated, in whole or in part, by the offenders' bias against a race, a religion, a disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity.
- Includes crimes against a property motivated in whole or in part by the offender's bias against a characteristic of the victim property.





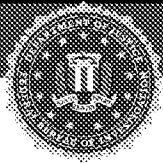
Hate Crimes

- Investigating hate crimes is a top priority of the FBI due to the physical, emotional, and psychological effects these crimes have on victims and the community as a whole.



b6 -1
b7C -1

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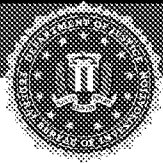
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FBI Hate Crime Cases

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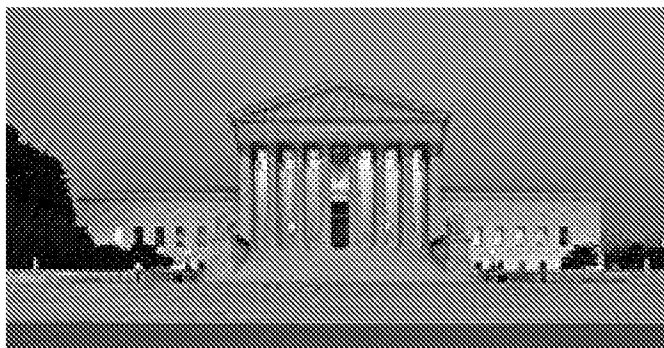


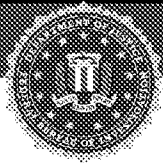
True Threats

The First Amendment does not protect true threats.

The Supreme Court defines a True Threat as:

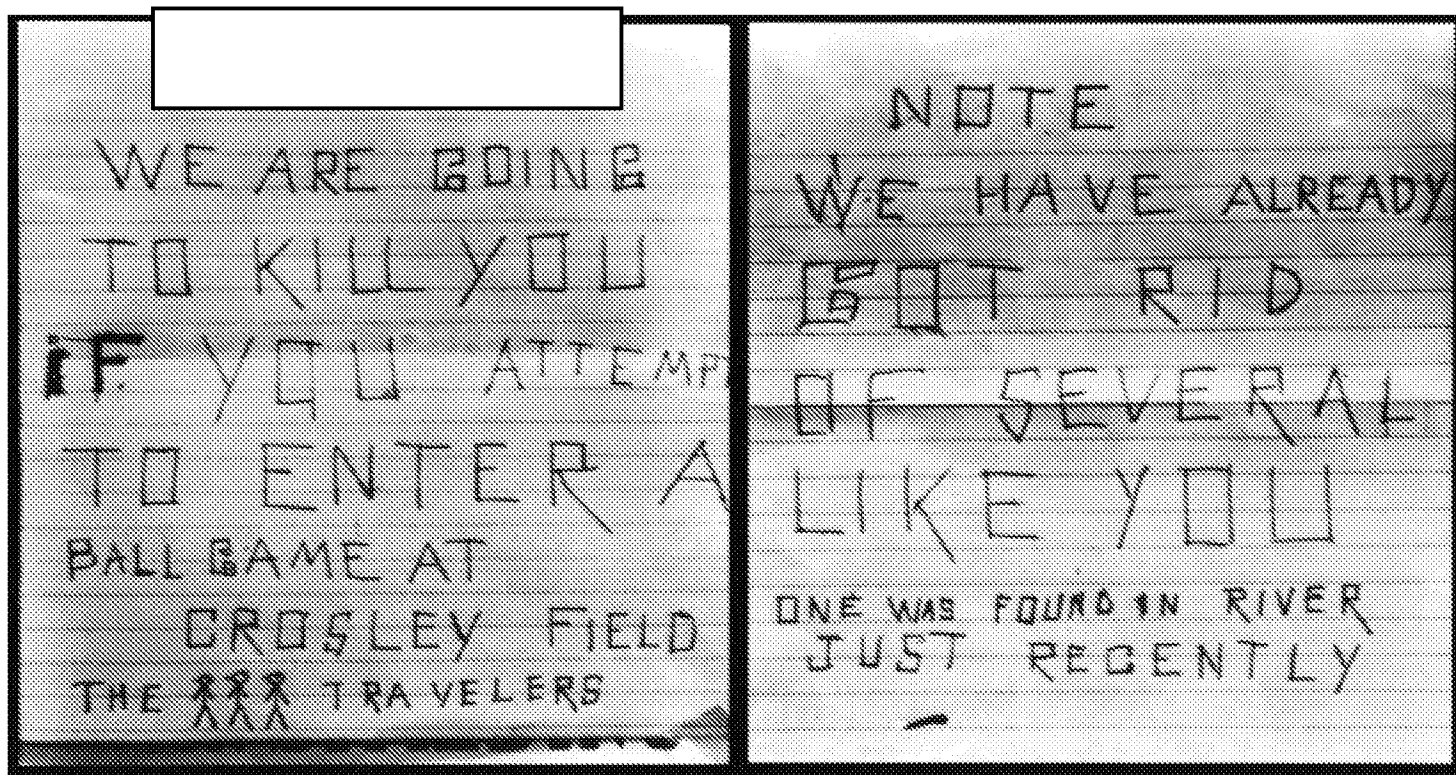
- A serious communication of an intent to commit an act of unlawful violence against an individual or group of individuals.





True Threats

- A True Threat puts the recipient in fear of bodily harm



b6 -3
b7C -3



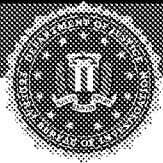
FBI Hate Crime Statutes

245	249(a)(1)	249(a)(2)
Act willfully	Act willfully	Act willfully
Use of force or threat or force	Cause bodily injury or attempts to do so with a dangerous weapon	Cause bodily injury or attempts to do so with a dangerous weapon
Act because of race, color, religion*, or national origin	Act because of race, color, religion*, or national origin	Act because of religion*, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability
Act because the victim is exercising a specifically listed federal right	No limitations	Must prove affects interstate/foreign commerce
Thirteenth Amendment	Thirteenth Amendment	US Constitution Article I, Section 8



FBI Hate Crime Statutes

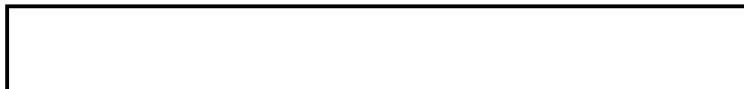
247(a)(1)	247(a)(2)	247(c)	3631
Act intentionally	Act intentionally	Act intentionally	Act willfully
Deface, damage, or destroy religious real property	Obstruct by force or threat of force any person	Deface, damage, or destroy religious real property	Force or threats of force to injure, intimidate, or interfere
Act because of religious character of that property	Act to obstruct person's enjoyment of free exercise of religious beliefs	Act because of race, color, or ethnic characteristics of any individual associated with that religious property	Act because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap, familial status AND because person purchasing, occupying, renting a dwelling
Must prove affects interstate commerce	Must prove affects interstate commerce	No limitation	No limitation
US Constitution Article I, Section 8	US Constitution Article I, Section 8	Thirteenth Amendment	Thirteenth Amendment



Involuntary Celibates

IVEs

- Elliot Rodger (2014)
- Christopher Harper-Mercer (2015)



- Scott Beierle (2018)

Incel Nexus

- Mark Lepine (1989)
- George Sodini (2009)



- Brian Clyde (2019)

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b7C -3,4



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Intelligence

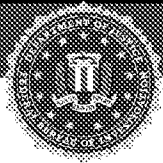


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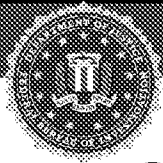
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Intelligence

b7E -4

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Critical Incident Management

b6 -3
b7C -3
b7E -4,8

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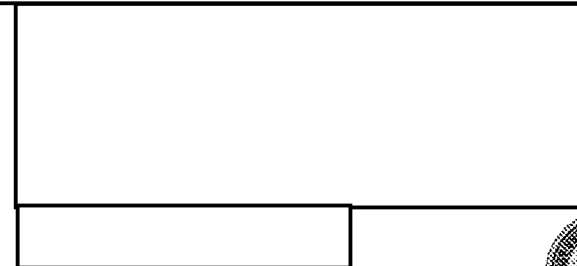
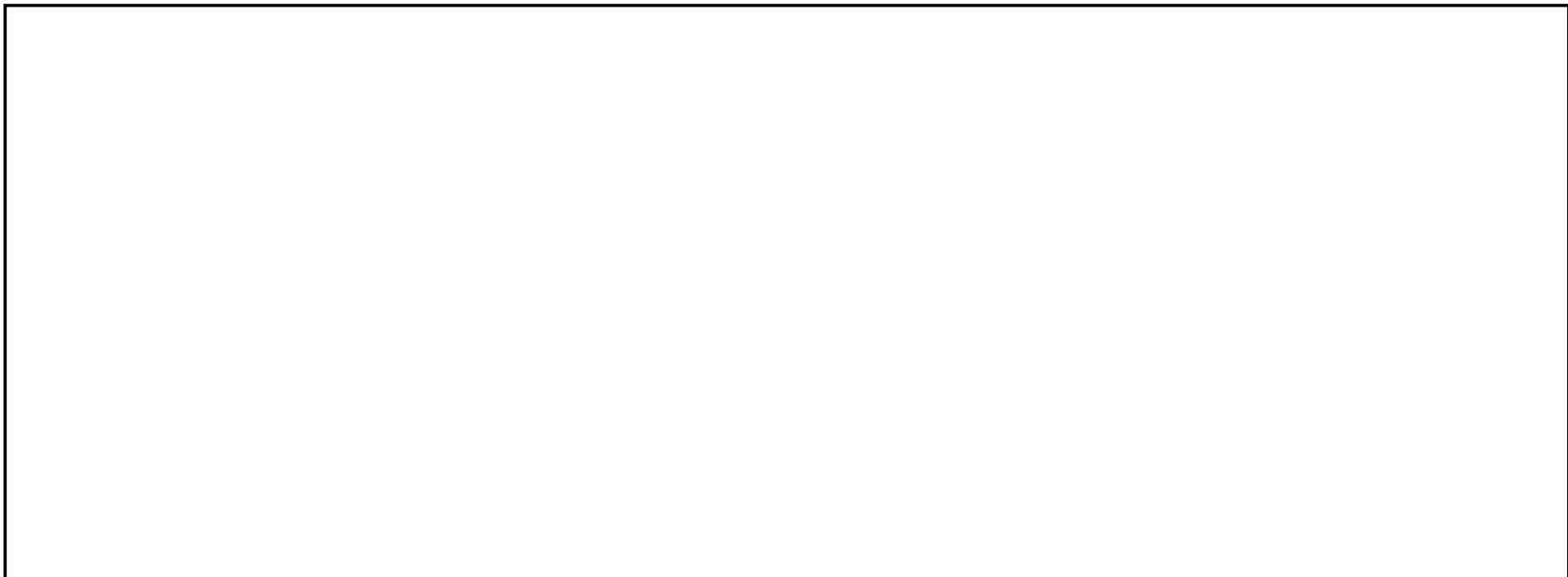
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Organizational Chart

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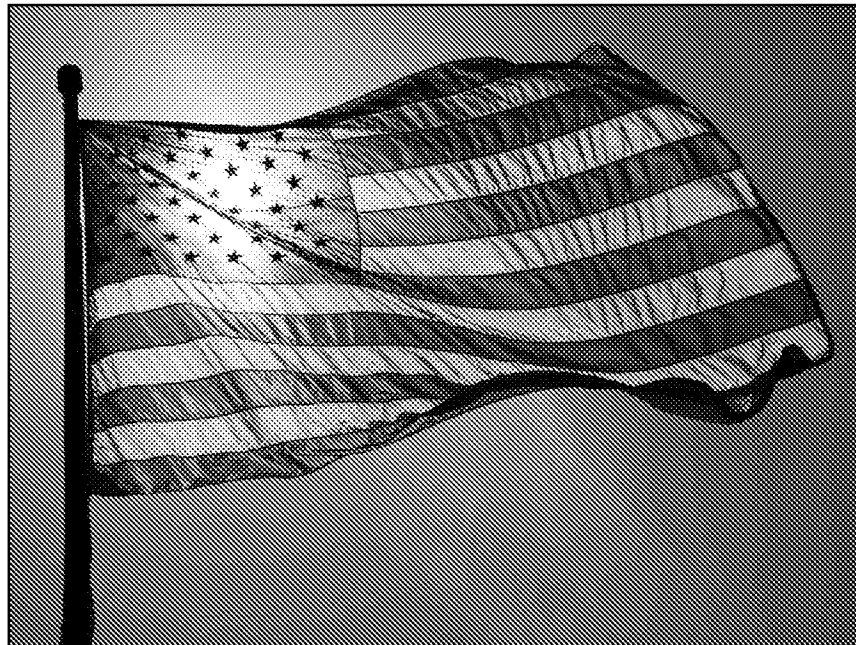


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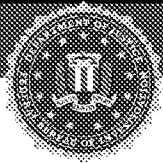
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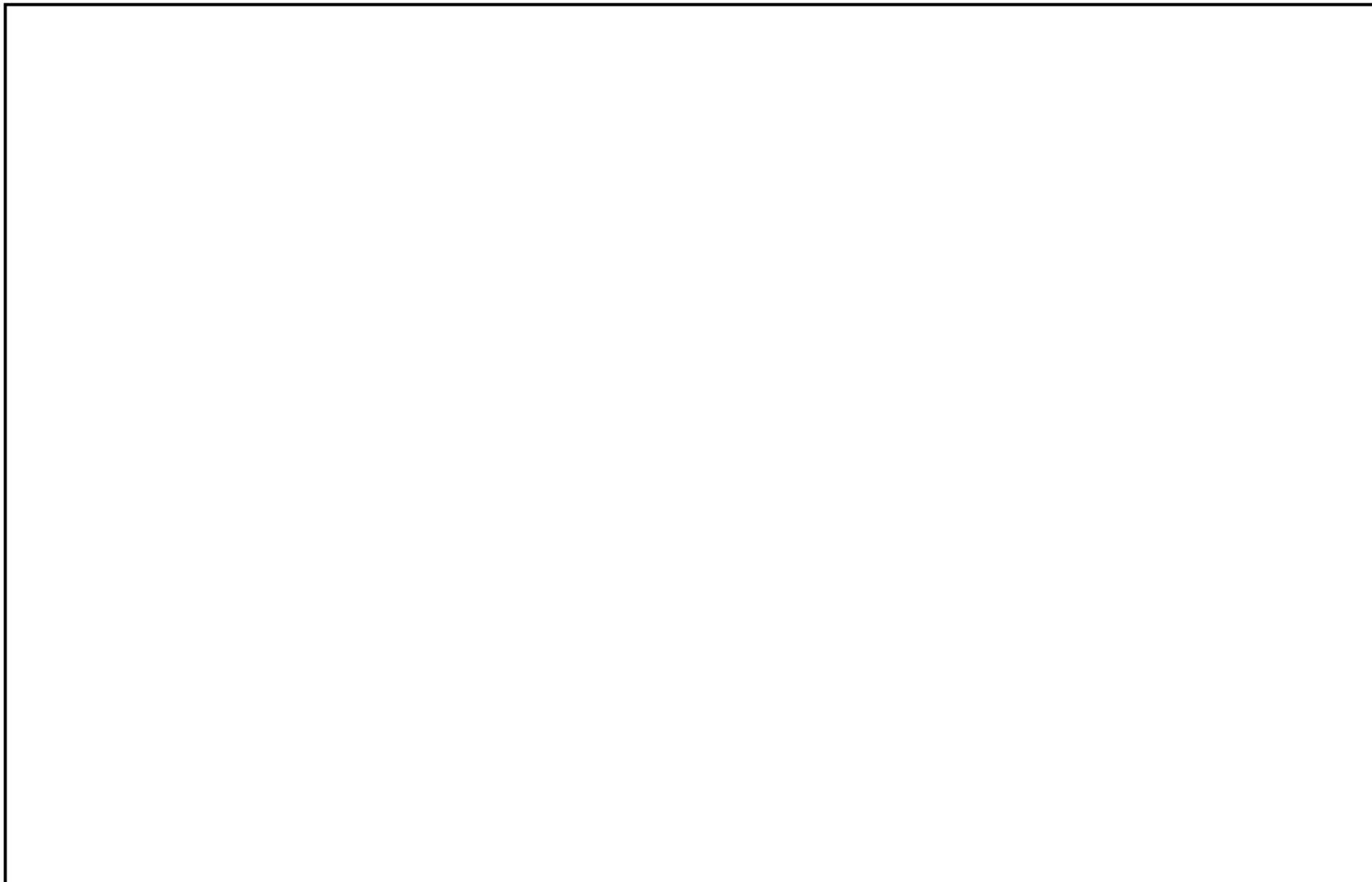
FBI Counterterrorism Division & Criminal Investigative Division

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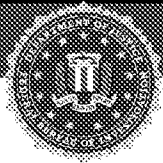
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What the DT-HC Fusion Cell will do:



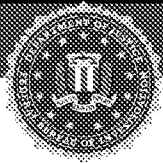
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Program Management Responsibilities

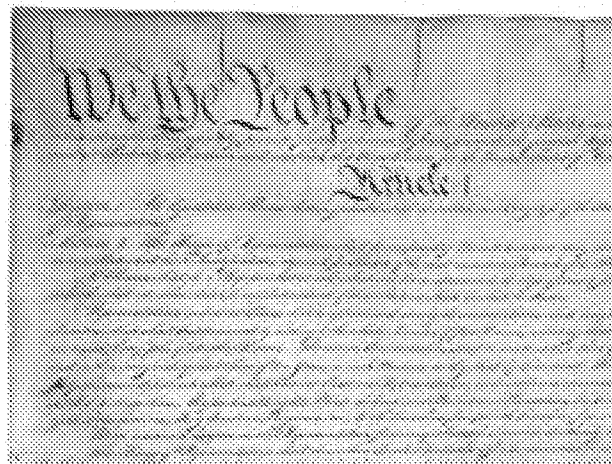
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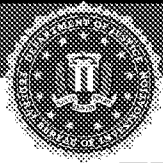
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Domestic Terrorism Investigations

- May not be conducted solely for the purpose of monitoring activities protected by the First Amendment or on the lawful exercise of any other rights secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States





How the FBI Categorizes Terrorist Actors

International Terrorism

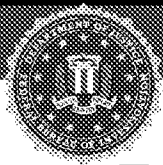
International terrorists include members of designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs), state sponsors of terrorism, and Homegrown Violent Extremists (HVEs)

Domestic Terrorism

Domestic terrorists are US persons who commit violent criminal acts in furtherance of their political or social ideology (e.g., Anti-Government/Anti-Authority Extremists)

b7E -4

Investigation numbers as of March 2019
24-cv-5722-65



Domestic Terrorism Threat Definitions

Racially Motivated Violent Extremism

These extremists display threat of force or violence, in violation of federal law, in furtherance of political or social agendas which are **deemed to derive from bias, often related to race**, held by the actor against others, including a given population group.

Anti- Government/ Anti-Authority Extremism

These extremists display the use or threat of force or violence, in violation of federal law, in furtherance of political or social agendas which are deemed to derive from **Anarchist Extremism, Militia Extremism, Puerto Rican Nationalist Extremism, or Sovereign Citizen Extremism** ideology.

Animal Rights/ Environmenta l Extremism

These extremists believe criminal actions are necessary and justified to end perceived cruelty, harm, or **exploitation of animals** and/or the perceived **exploitation** or destruction of **natural resources and the environment**.

Abortion Extremism

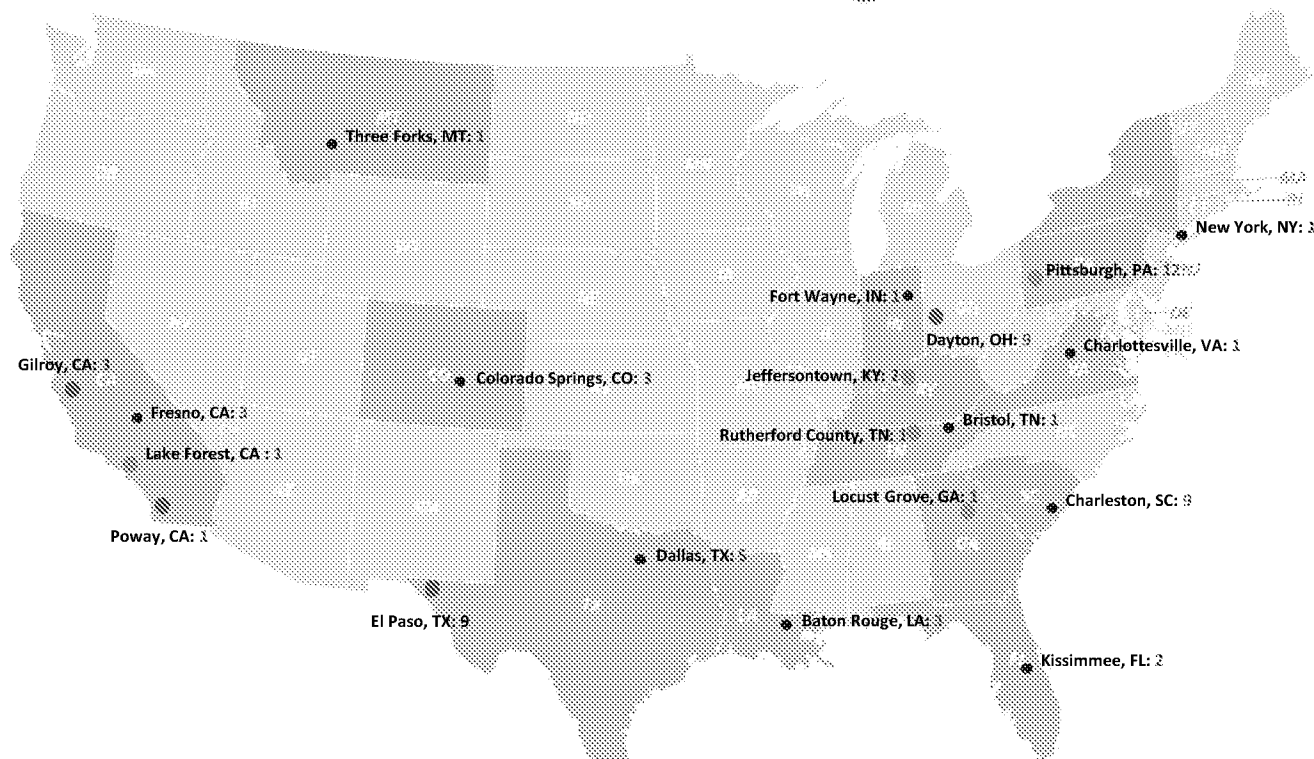
These extremists engage in violent criminal activity to further their **pro-life or pro-choice ideology**. Pro-life Extremists often target reproductive healthcare facilities and staff.

All Other Domestic Terrorism Threats

Threats which are not otherwise defined under a single DVE threat. These individuals radicalize to violence based on **personalized ideologies that are difficult to classify into other categories**. Unique mixture of beliefs from different DVE threats, which results in violent dedication to a cause.

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Domestic Violent Extremism- *Fatal Attacks* (2015- August 2019)



Fatalities = 82 Total | Attacks = 21 Total

DOMESTIC VIOLENT EXTREMIST ATTACKS

2015

- Jun 27 - Charleston, SC (9)
- Nov 27 - Colorado Springs, CO (3)

2016

- Jul 7 - Dallas, TX (5)
- Jul 7 - Bristol, TN (1)
- Jul 17 - Baton Rouge, LA (3)
- Aug 21 - Fort Wayne, IN (1)

2017

- Mar 20 - New York, NY (1)
- Apr 18 - Fresno, CA (3)
- May 16 - Three Forks, MT (1)
- Aug 12 - Charlottesville, VA (1)
- Aug 18 - Kissimmee, FL (2)

2018

- Jan 3 - Lake Forest, CA (1)
- Feb 7 - Locust Grove, GA (1)
- Mar 17 - Rutherford County, TN (1)
- Aug 15 - Pittsburgh, PA (1)
- Oct 24 - Jeffersonton, KY (2)
- Oct 27 - Pittsburgh, PA (1)

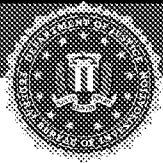
2019

- Apr 17 - Poway, CA (1)
- Jul 26 - Gilroy, CA (3)
- Aug 3 - El Paso, TX (2)
- Aug 4 - Dayton, OH (9)

● Domestic Violent Extremist Attack ▨ Attack Occurred □ No Reported Attacks

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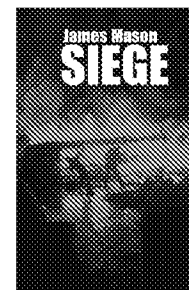
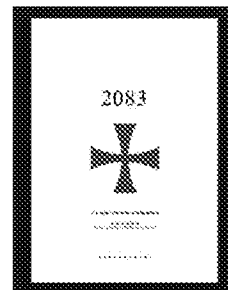


Domestic Terrorism Radicalization & Mobilization

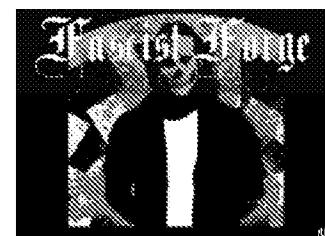
DT actors' **radicalization** and **mobilization to violence** can vary widely depending on individual circumstances. Because of the wide variance, **we must act quickly**.

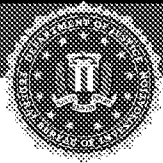
- **Social networking sites and encrypted chat platforms** allow for like-minded individuals to communicate
- **Manifestos and ideologically-driven websites** contribute to DT radicalization

Sharing of Literature (e.g., manifestos)



Pervasiveness of Ideologically-Driven Websites



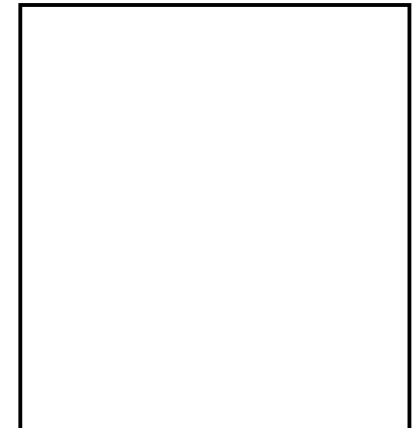


FBI Assessment:

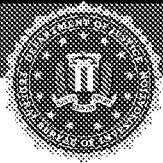
Racially Motivated Violent Extremism (RMVE)

- Other RMVE lone offenders are driven by perceived racism and injustice
- Target violence towards people and organizations perceived as oppressive forces, including law enforcement

b6 -4
b7C -4



Likely to focus threats of force or violence on people and organizations
perceived as oppressive forces



Involuntary Celibate (Incel) Violent Extremism

- Primarily online community comprised of individuals who believe society unjustly denies them sexual or romantic attention, to which they believe they are entitled.

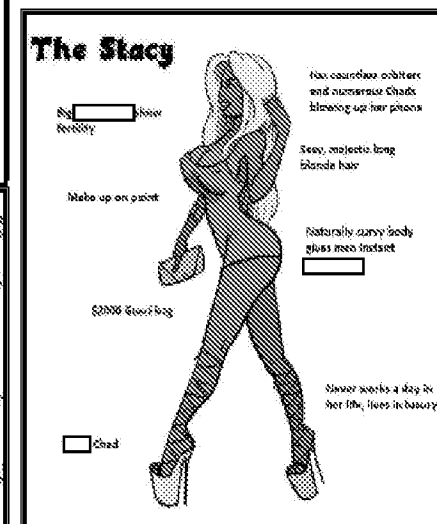
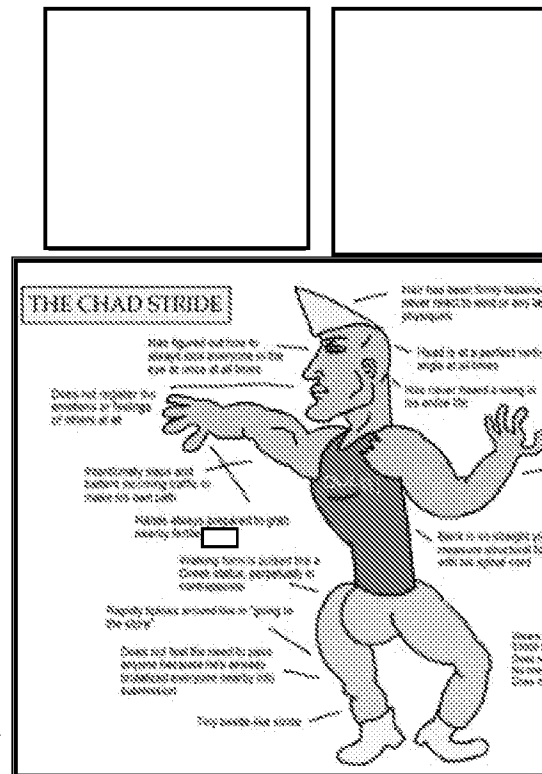
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DT Recent Trend: *Involuntary Celibate Violent Extremism (IVE)*

- Lone offenders pose a persistent threat of mass casualty attacks
- Target women or those who they blame for denying them sexual and romantic attention
- Draw inspiration from previous mass attackers, particularly those who use post manifestos prior to attacks, sharing IVE ideology

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b7C -4

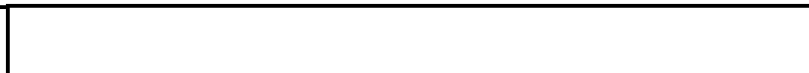
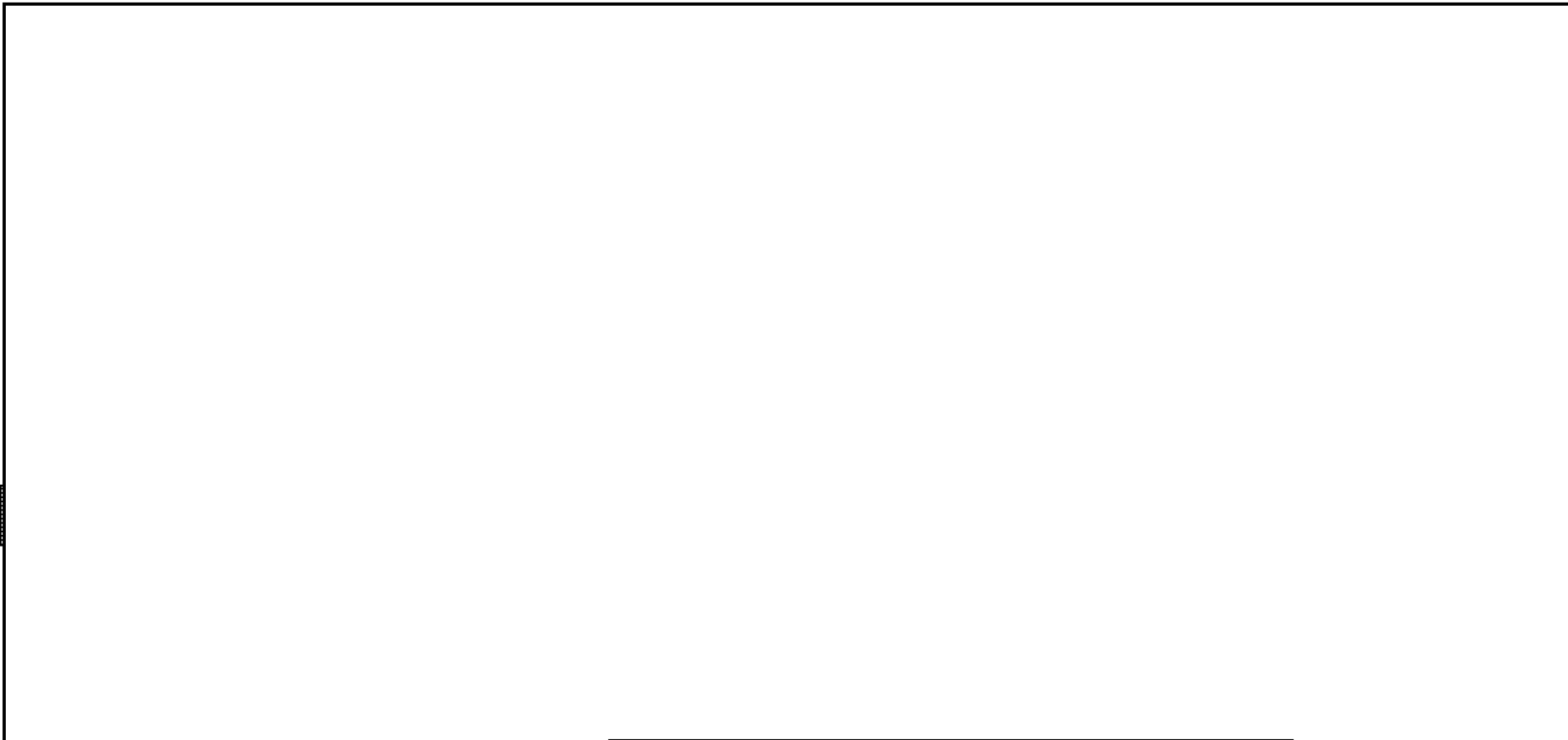
IVEs likely represent a persistent threat of violence in the United States.



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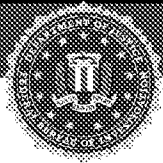
Organizational Chart

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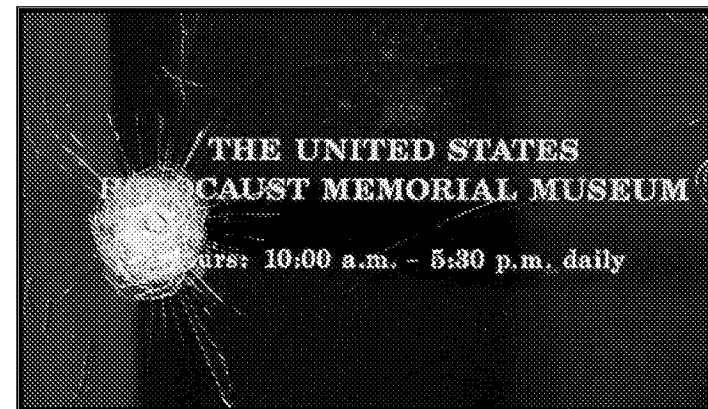
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Domestic Terrorism

- The furthering of political or social goals, wholly or in part, through activities that involve force or violence, and are a violation of Federal criminal law.
- Investigations focus on U.S. persons who commit violent criminal acts in furtherance of their political or social ideology (e.g., Anti-Government/Anti-Authority Extremists)





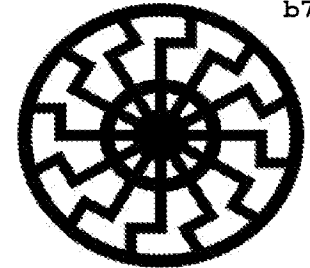
FBI Assessment:

Racially Motivated Violent Extremism (RMVE)

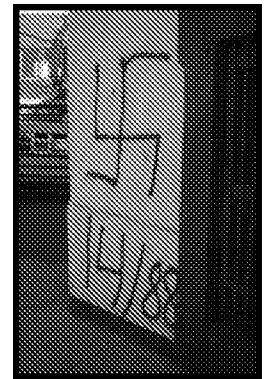
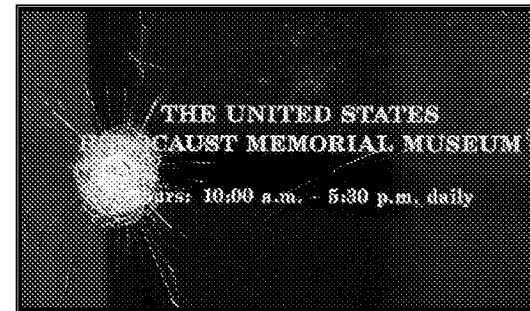
Lone offenders and small cells
conduct the most violence

Target racial, ethnic, and
religious minorities

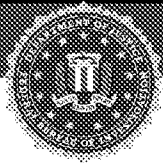
Historically acted within
nationalized, hierarchical
groups; now decentralized lone
offenders or small cells



b6 -4
b7C -4

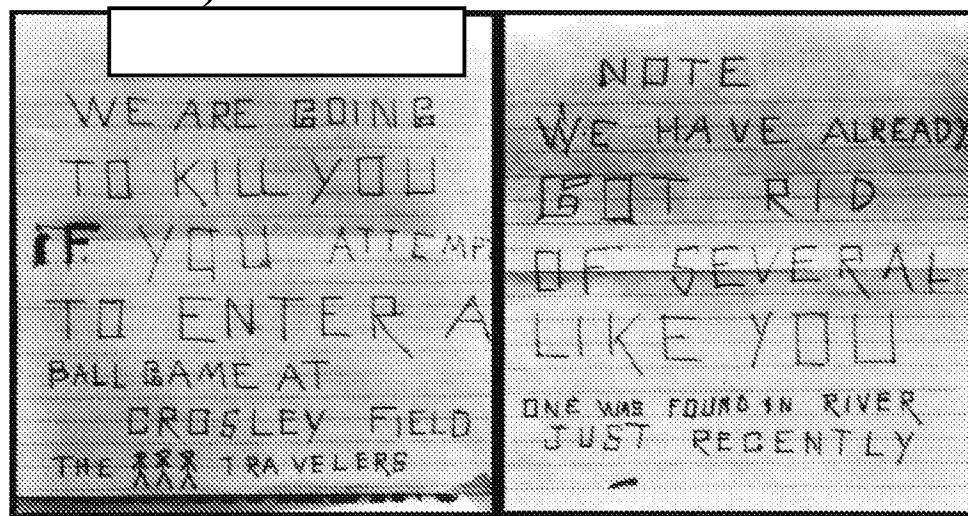


Likely to continue conducting violent attacks using firearms and edged weapons, often
against soft targets like religious facilities



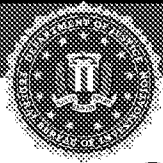
True Threats

- A comment or expression is NOT a true threat if:
 - It is merely “political hyperbole”
 - It threatens financial (or emotional) harm, but not bodily harm
 - It is merely offensive (no matter HOW offensive)



b6 -3
b7C -3

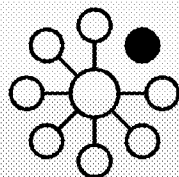
24-cv-5722-134



Challenges in the Counterterrorism Fight



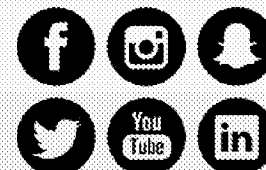
USE OF
ENCRYPTION
TO
COMMUNICATE



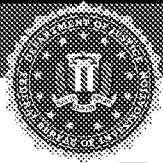
CLOSED
NETWORKS /
"LONE WOLF"
BEHAVIOR



LEGAL
CONSIDERATIONS

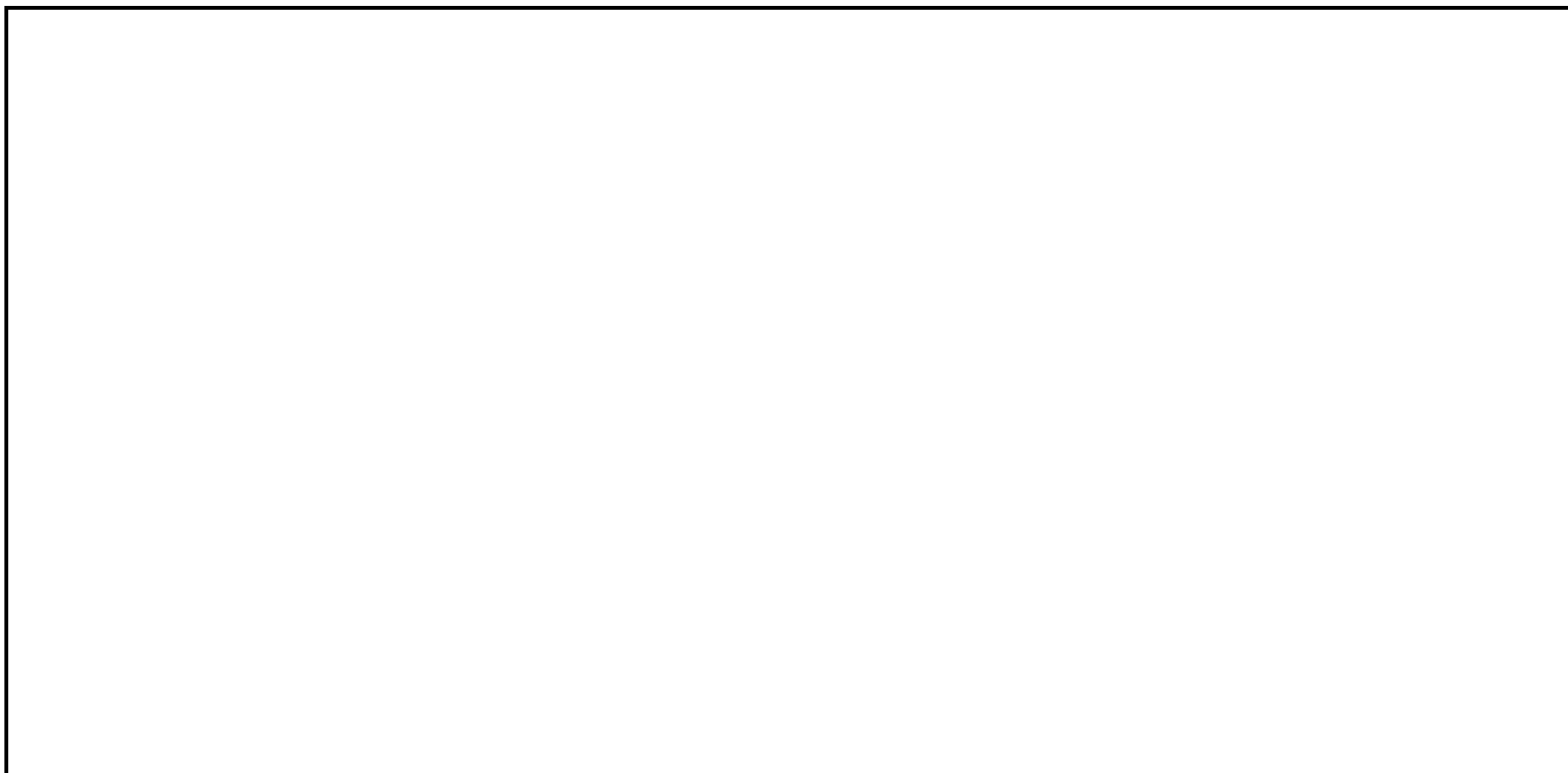


EASE OF ACCESS
TO
EXTREMIST
PROPAGANDA



UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

Identifying and Disrupting Terrorists



b7E -4

24-cv-5722-136

UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~