

Homeland
Security

INTELLIGENCE NOTE

18 June 2020

(U//FOUO) Domestic Terrorists May Threaten or Incite Violence to Escalate Tensions Amidst Otherwise Lawful Protests

(U//FOUO) Scope: This *Intelligence Note (IN)* provides information regarding some domestic terrorists' exploitation of heightened tensions during recent First Amendment protected activities in order to threaten or incite violence to start the "boogaloo"—a colloquial term referring to a coming civil war or the fall of civilization, according to a federal criminal complaint.¹ This *IN* details specific examples of domestic terrorist actors taking advantage of lawful protest events to incite violence against law enforcement in the name of the "boogaloo."

(U//FOUO) Prepared by the DHS Intelligence Enterprise (DHS IE) Field Operations Division – Rocky Mountain Region (RMR) and the DHS IE Counterterrorism Mission Center (CTMC). Coordinated with the Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC), Minnesota Fusion Center (MNFC), Southern Nevada Counter-Terrorism Center (SNCTC), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

(U//LES) We assess domestic terrorists advocating for the boogaloo very likely will take advantage of any regional or national situation involving heightened fear and tensions to promote their violent extremist ideology and call supporters to action. Their tactics observed during lawful protests of COVID-19 restrictions and a recent law enforcement officer-involved death likely will be repeated in future similar incidents wherein domestic terrorists attempt to shut down or endanger government operations, judging from domestic terrorists' continued calls for attacks using existing tactics.^{4,5,6,7} Attacks on law enforcement officers in California, as well as nationwide arrests and social media posts over the last three months highlight a range of potential targets and tactics potentially appealing to domestic terrorists, according to DHS reporting and federal criminal complaints.^{8,9,10,11}

- » (U) On 29 May 2020, two individuals advocating for the boogaloo allegedly ambushed Federal Protective Service (FPS) officers outside the United States Courthouse in Oakland, California. One of the individuals shot the officers, killing one, according to a federal criminal complaint.¹² On 6 June 2020, the same individual allegedly ambushed two County Sheriff deputies, killing one, after engaging them with firearms and explosives in Santa Cruz, California, according to the same

(U//FOUO) Boogaloo and Boogaloo Boys

(U//FOUO) "Boogaloo" is a colloquial term used by some violent extremists from a variety of movements—including some militia extremists, anti-government extremists, and white supremacist extremists (WSEs)—adhering to their version of accelerationism. The term refers to a coming civil war or the fall of civilization, according to a federal criminal complaint.²

(U//FOUO) "Boogaloo Boys," or "Boogaloo Bois," refers to violent extremists promoting the boogaloo and associated violence. Some users of known online forums—including message boards, social media profiles, and channels—promote the boogaloo and call supporters to action, though the term is not associated with any specific group, according to DHS reporting.³

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criminal complaint.¹³ The shooter was wounded during the 6 June incident, and prior to his arrest, used his own blood to write on a car “Boog” and “I became unreasonable,” language often associated with boogaloo supporters.¹⁴ The shooter allegedly discussed using the ongoing lawful protest activities to shield his actions from detection, according to the same criminal complaint.¹⁵

- » (U//FOUO) From 27 to 31 May 2020, a user of a violent extremist channel of an encrypted messaging service encouraged followers to engage in violence at First Amendment-protected activities across Minneapolis, Minnesota, and start the boogaloo by shooting into a crowd and assaulting both participants and police, according to DHS reporting on threats made through social media.^{16,17} A user of an additional violent extremist channel in the same encrypted messaging service attempted to incite violence and encouraged followers to use “cocktails, chainsaws, and firearms” against riot police, according to similar DHS reporting.¹⁸ The source informed followers that breaking down “the police and the system of control” is just as important as spreading “racial hatred,” according to the same reporting.¹⁹
- » (U) On 30 May 2020, three individuals – self-identified as part of the boogaloo movement – were arrested in relation to a series of alleged plans to engage in and incite violence at otherwise lawful protests in Las Vegas, Nevada, according to a federal criminal complaint.²⁰ These individuals considered a range of attacks, including: using explosives or arson to destroy a US Forest Service ranger station in the area; using fireworks, smoke bombs, and other devices amidst an otherwise lawful protest against COVID-19 restrictions to incite panic and confrontation between law enforcement and protestors; and using a “firebomb” to destroy a local power substation in an effort to incite chaos and a possible riot amidst lawful protests related to a recent law enforcement officer-involved death. The three individuals were arrested while in the process of constructing Molotov cocktails to target law enforcement at a nearby lawful protest event, according to the same complaint.²¹
- » (U//LES) On 1 May 2020, a suspected militia extremist used barricades to prevent law enforcement entry into his residence in Loveland, Colorado, according to FBI reporting.²² The suspected militia extremist constructed four devices identified as pipe bombs to use against law enforcement personnel attempting to enter his residence, according to the same reporting.²³ The individual expressed to a law enforcement officer familiarity with and support of the boogaloo, according to local law enforcement reporting.²⁴ In the same conversation, the suspected violent militia extremist conveyed plans for an impending lawful protest event at the state capital; however, the individual admitted “we will have our guns, loaded, and we will not back down,” and that while shooting people “was not their intent...they would do whatever is necessary for victory...from tyrannical enforcers,” according to the same reporting.²⁵ Concurrently, WSE users in instant messaging groups shared the names and addresses of a local Sheriff and his family members and claimed to be staging a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) to prevent what they believed were impending additional law enforcement raids targeting individuals who planned to open carry firearms at the aforementioned event, according to DHS reporting on threats made through social media.^{26,27} The QRF threatened to incite violence against any federal or local law enforcement officers attempting to raid a home, and also encouraged followers to shoot through their doors at law enforcement, should any follower’s home be subject to a raid, according to the same reporting.²⁸

(U) Report Suspicious Activity

(U) To report suspicious activity, law enforcement, Fire-EMS, private security personnel, and emergency managers should follow established protocols; all other personnel should call 911 or contact local law enforcement. Suspicious activity reports (SARs) will be forwarded to the appropriate fusion center and FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force for further action. For more information on the Nationwide SAR Initiative, visit <http://nsi.ncirc.gov/resources.aspx>.

(U) The DHS IE and Rocky Mountain Region fusion centers are interested in receiving tips and information on activities related to those described in this *Intelligence Note*. Comments, requests, or shareable intelligence may be directed to each participating state's fusion center or via e mail at DHS FOD RMR at iarockymountainregion@hq.dhs.gov and DHS FOD HQ at DHS.INTEL.FOD.HQ@hq.dhs.gov. DHS I&A field operations officers are forward deployed to every US state and territory and support state, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector partners in their intelligence needs; they ensure any threats, incidents, or suspicious activity are reported to the Intelligence Community for operational awareness and analytic consumption.

(U) Tracked by: HSEC-8.1, HSEC-8.3, HSEC-8.5, HSEC-8.6, HSEC-8.8

(U) Source Summary Statement

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(U) Definitions

(U//FOUO) DHS defines **accelerationism** as a concept suggesting the existing social order should be pushed to such a degree that Western countries become failed states, giving rise to changes that would reshape the world in radical ways. Violent extremists following a white supremacist extremist version of accelerationism advocate for acts of social disruption up to and including violence, and taking violent action to prompt responses that would gain support from those advocating for the superiority of the white race.

(U//FOUO) DHS defines **anti-government extremists** as groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in unlawful acts of violence directed at federal, state, or local law enforcement, other government officials, critical infrastructure or government facilities in order to affect the conduct of a government or influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion, in response to their belief that their liberties are being taken away by the perceived unconstitutional or otherwise illegitimate actions of government officials or law enforcement. Some form of this belief is common to several violent extremist ideologies, including sovereign citizen extremism and militia extremism; anti-government extremists differ from these other categories in that they do not subscribe to these violent extremist ideologies in total, but often adopt elements of these ideologies, including the use of violence in furtherance of their ideology.

(U//FOUO) DHS defines **domestic terrorism** as any act of unlawful violence that is dangerous to human life or potentially destructive of critical infrastructure or key resources committed by a group or individual based and operating entirely within the United States or its territories without direction or inspiration from a foreign terrorist group. This act is a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any state or other subdivision of the United States and appears to be intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population, to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion, or to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping. A domestic terrorist differs from a homegrown violent extremist in that the former is not inspired by and does not take direction from a foreign terrorist group or other foreign power.

(U//FOUO) DHS defines **militia extremists** as groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of unlawful violence directed at federal, state, or local government officials or infrastructure in response to their belief that the government deliberately is stripping Americans of their freedoms and is attempting to establish a totalitarian regime. These individuals consequently oppose many federal and state authorities' laws and regulations, (particularly those related to firearms ownership), and often belong to armed paramilitary groups. They often conduct paramilitary training designed to violently resist perceived government oppression or to violently overthrow the US Government.

(U//FOUO) DHS defines **white supremacist extremists** as groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of unlawful violence directed at the federal government, ethnic minorities, or Jewish persons in support of their belief that Caucasians are intellectually and morally superior to other races and their perception that the government is controlled by Jewish persons.

- ¹ (U); US District Court for the District of Nevada; "United States of America v. Stephen T. Parshall, Andrew Lynam, and William L. Loomis"; 2 JUN 2020; Case No. 2:20-m-00456-BNW; pg 4.
- ² (U); US District Court for the District of Nevada; "United States of America v. Stephen T. Parshall, Andrew Lynam, and William L. Loomis"; 2 JUN 2020; Case No. 2:20-m-00456-BNW; pg 4.
- ³ (U//FOUO); DHS; OSIR-04001-0669-20; 29 MAY 2020; DOI: 29 MAY 2020; (U//FOUO); Extremist instant messaging channel incites using 'cocktails, chainsaws, and firearms,' against riot police; Extracted information is (U//FOUO); Overall document classification is (U//FOUO).
- ⁴ (U//FOUO); DHS; OSIR-04001-0706-20; 01 JUN 2020; DOI: 31 MAY 2020; (U//FOUO); Extremist instant messaging user incites others to hit rioters, police, journalists, and bystanders and to 'go after serious infrastructure'; Extracted information is (U//FOUO); Overall document classification is (U//FOUO).
- ⁵ (U//FOUO); DHS; OSIR-04001-0669-20; 29 MAY 2020; DOI: 29 MAY 2020; (U//FOUO); Extremist instant messaging channel incites using 'cocktails, chainsaws, and firearms,' against riot police; Extracted information is (U//FOUO); Overall document classification is (U//FOUO).
- ⁶ (U); US District Court for the District of Colorado; "United States of America v. Bradley Bunn," 2 MAY 2020; pg 1-3.
- ⁷ (U); US District Court for the District of Nevada; "United States of America v. Stephen T. Parshall, Andrew Lynam, and William L. Loomis"; 2 JUN 2020; Case No. 2:20-m-00456-BNW; pg 4-12.
- ⁸ (U//FOUO); DHS; OSIR-04001-0624-20; 29 APR 2020; DOI: 29 APR 2020; (U//FOUO); Social media user incites others to blow up power stations and cell towers; Extracted information is (U//FOUO); Overall document classification is (U//FOUO).
- ⁹ (U//FOUO); DHS; OSIR-04001-0669-20; 29 MAY 2020; DOI: 29 MAY 2020; (U//FOUO); Extremist instant messaging channel incites using 'cocktails, chainsaws, and firearms,' against riot police; Extracted information is (U//FOUO); Overall document classification is (U//FOUO).
- ¹⁰ (U); US District Court for the District of Colorado; "United States of America v. Bradley Bunn," 2 MAY 2020; pg 1-3.
- ¹¹ (U); US District Court for the District of Nevada; "United States of America v. Stephen T. Parshall, Andrew Lynam, and William L. Loomis"; 2 JUN 2020; Case No. 2:20-m-00456-BNW; pg 4-12.
- ¹² (U) US District Court for the Northern District of California; "United States of America v. Steven Carrillo"; 15 JUN 2020; pg 3.
- ¹³ (U) US District Court for the Northern District of California; "United States of America v. Steven Carrillo"; 15 JUN 2020; pg 9-12.
- ¹⁴ (U) US District Court for the Northern District of California; "United States of America v. Steven Carrillo"; 15 JUN 2020; pg 15.
- ¹⁵ (U) US District Court for the Northern District of California; "United States of America v. Steven Carrillo"; 15 JUN 2020; pg 18, 20.
- ¹⁶ (U//FOUO); DHS; OSIR-04001-0654-20; 27 MAY 2020; DOI: 27 MAY 2020; (U//FOUO); Extremist encrypted instant messaging channel incites violence in Minneapolis and encourages others to 'frame the crowd around you'; Extracted information is (U//FOUO); Overall document classification is (U//FOUO).
- ¹⁷ (U//FOUO); DHS; OSIR-04001-0706-20; 01 JUN 2020; DOI: 31 MAY 2020; (U//FOUO); Extremist instant messaging user incites others to hit rioters, police, journalists, and bystanders and to 'go after serious infrastructure'; Extracted information is (U//FOUO); Overall document classification is (U//FOUO).

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- ¹⁸ (U//FOUO); DHS; OSIR-04001-0669-20; 29 MAY 2020; DOI: 29 MAY 2020; (U//FOUO); Extremist instant messaging channel incites using 'cocktails, chainsaws, and firearms,' against riot police; Extracted information is (U//FOUO); Overall document classification is (U//FOUO).
- ¹⁹ (U//FOUO); DHS; OSIR-04001-0669-20; 29 MAY 2020; DOI: 29 MAY 2020; (U//FOUO); Extremist instant messaging channel incites using 'cocktails, chainsaws, and firearms,' against riot police; Extracted information is (U//FOUO); Overall document classification is (U//FOUO).
- ²⁰ (U); US District Court for the District of Nevada; "United States of America v. Stephen T. Parshall, Andrew Lynam, and William L. Loomis"; 2 JUN 2020; Case No. 2:20-m-00456-BNW; pg 4, 11.
- ²¹ (U); US District Court for the District of Nevada; "United States of America v. Stephen T. Parshall, Andrew Lynam, and William L. Loomis"; 2 JUN 2020; Case No. 2:20-m-00456-BNW; pg 4-12.
- ²² (U//LES); FBI; SIR-00333483523; 04 MAY 2020; (U//LES); "Online Messaging Group Inciting Followers to Shoot Law Enforcement Personnel and Suspected Militia Extremist's User of a Barricade to Prevent Entry to Residence and Construction of Pipe Bombs with Intent to Harm Law Enforcement Personnel, as of 1 May 2020"; Extracted information is (U//LES); Overall document classification is (U//LES).
- ²³ (U//LES); FBI; SIR-00333483523; 04 MAY 2020; (U//LES); "Online Messaging Group Inciting Followers to Shoot Law Enforcement Personnel and Suspected Militia Extremist's User of a Barricade to Prevent Entry to Residence and Construction of Pipe Bombs with Intent to Harm Law Enforcement Personnel, as of 1 May 2020"; Extracted information is (U//LES); Overall document classification is (U//LES).
- ²⁴ (U//LES); Larimer County Sheriff's Office; CJ 20-3408; 28 MAY 2020; DOI: 01 MAY 2020; (U//LES); CJ 20-3408; Extracted information is (U//LES); Overall document classification is (U//LES); Source is the transcript of a conversation between a law enforcement officer and the individual referenced.
- ²⁵ (U//LES); Larimer County Sheriff's Office; CJ 20-3408; 28 MAY 2020; DOI: 01 MAY 2020; (U//LES); CJ 20-3408; Extracted information is (U//LES); Overall document classification is (U//LES); Source is the transcript of a conversation between a law enforcement officer and the individual referenced.
- ²⁶ (U//FOUO) DHS; OSIR-04001-0620-20; 02 MAY 2020; DOI: 01 MAY 2020; (U//FOUO); White Supremacist Extremist instant messaging channel incites followers to shoot Law Enforcement officers conducting raids in Colorado; Extracted information is (U//FOUO); Overall document classification is (U//FOUO).
- ²⁷ (U//FOUO); DHS; OSIR-04001-0622-20; 03 MAY 2020; DOI: 03 MAY 2020; (U//FOUO); Image board user posts a threat to a Colorado-based law enforcement official and their family; Extracted information is (U//FOUO); Overall document classification is (U//FOUO).
- ²⁸ (U//FOUO) DHS; OSIR-04001-0620-20; 02 MAY 2020; DOI: 01 MAY 2020; (U//FOUO); White Supremacist Extremist instant messaging channel incites followers to shoot Law Enforcement officers conducting raids in Colorado; Extracted information is (U//FOUO); Overall document classification is (U//FOUO).