

Strategic Perspective: Executive Analytical Report

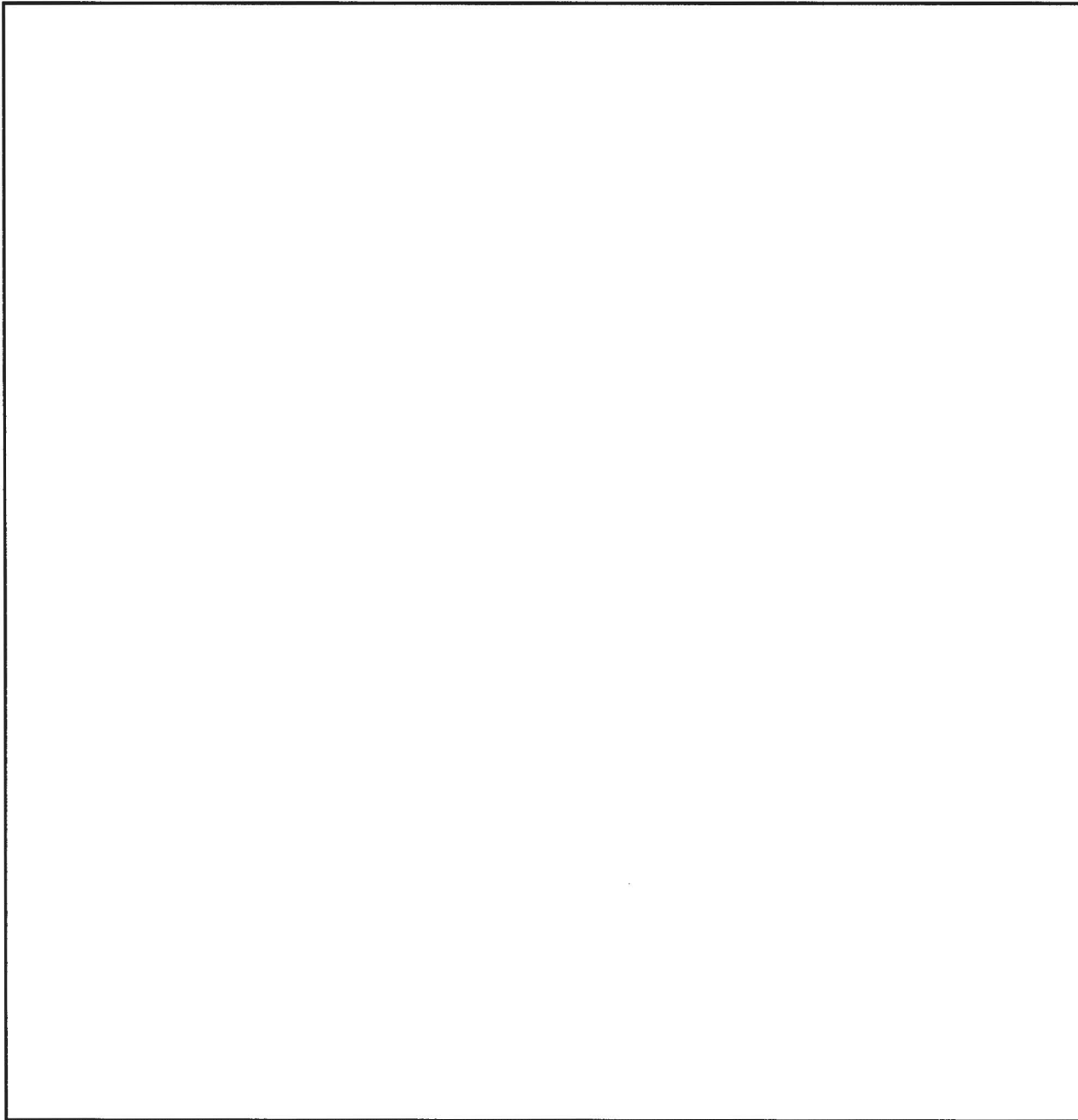
6 August 2015

**(U//LES) Domestic Extremism Threat Likely to Remain Steady in 2015,
Potential for Increased Threat Environment in 2016**



Counterterrorism Division

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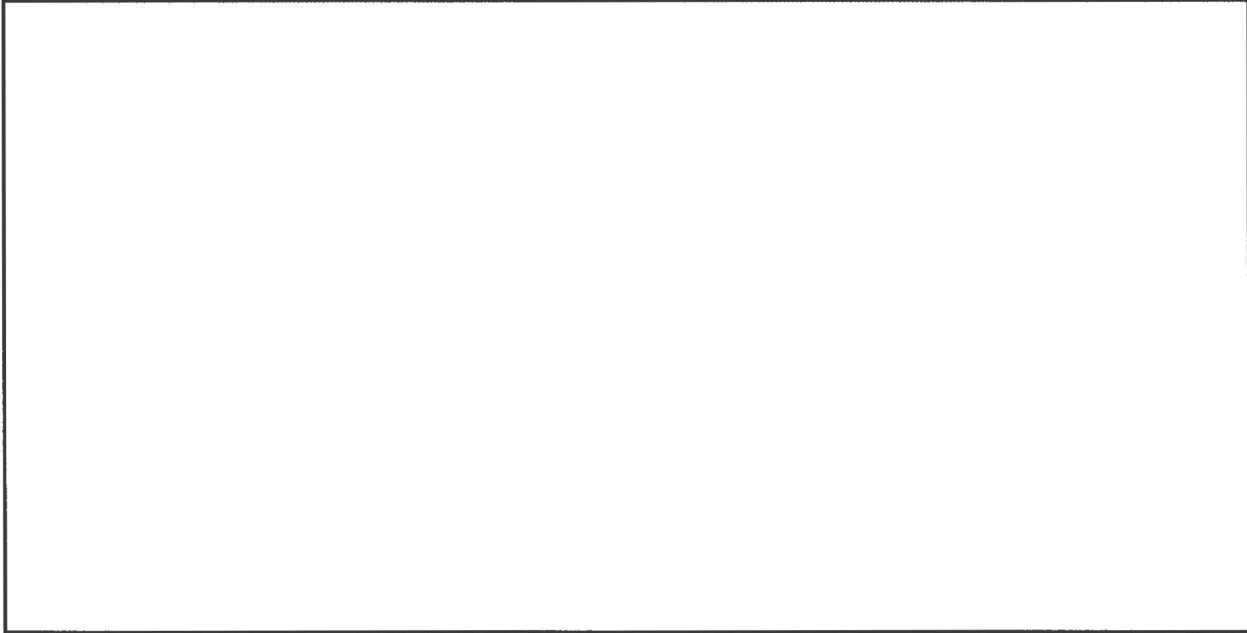
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(U) Recent Arrests Demonstrate Persistent Threat

(U//FOUO) Recent events serve to highlight the continued economic threat and potentially violent nature of individuals ideologically aligned with domestic extremism. The following are examples of recent major arrests associated with a domestic extremist ideology.

- (U//FOUO) In August 2015, the FBI arrested three suspected militia extremists, in North Carolina, on charges of conspiracy to violate laws governing firearms and explosive devices. One subject reportedly intended to buy black powder and explosive tannerite in order to construct pipe bombs, stated concerns about the Jade Helm military exercises,^c and expressed his hatred for the US Government and law enforcement.^{4, 5}
- (U) In July 2015, the FBI arrested two suspected animal rights extremists for their alleged involvement in animal releases and acts of vandalism against various animal enterprises in California, Idaho, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Montana, and Wisconsin in 2013 that resulted in several hundreds of thousands of dollars in monetary loss.⁶
- (U) In July 2015, the FBI arrested a suspected white supremacy extremist, in North Carolina, who was in possession of a large amount of assorted firearms and ammunition and 20 to 30 pounds of tannerite. The subject also possessed hobby fuse and plastic soda bottles filled with metal ball bearings. The subject had a journal containing directions to make an improvised explosive device and a daily tally of how many rounds were fired each day.^{7, 8}
- (U) In July 2015, the FBI arrested the leader of a militia group on federal charges for a Felon in Possession of Firearms after a search warrant at his rural residence recovered two AR-style rifles, a pistol, and approximately 2,000 rounds of ammunition. The arrest has reportedly prompted membership withdrawals that have effectively dismantled the group.⁹
- (U) In June 2015, a suspected white supremacy extremist allegedly shot and killed nine persons at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. In July, the subject was federally charged under the Hate Crimes Act with nine counts of murder and one count of possession of a firearm in commission of a violent crime.^{10, 11}
- (U//FOUO) In late March 2015, the FBI arrested a sovereign citizen extremist who constructed a community in Utah's remote western desert complete with tents, trailers, and vehicles. The subject stated that his group was a militia, which had formed grand juries to investigate elected officials, police, and prosecutors for alleged violations of the US Constitution. The individual pled guilty in June 2015 to one count of Felon in Possession of a Firearm and was sentenced to five years probation with special conditions that he cannot file documents with a court except through a licensed attorney and is not allowed to associate with groups that advocate the overthrow of the US Government.^{12, 13}

^c (U//FOUO) Jade Helm 15 is a military exercise being conducted by the US Army Special Operations Command from 15 July to 15 September 2015 in Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Utah.



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(U) Endnotes

¹ (U) FBI; 2014 National Intelligence Study; *(U) Domestic Extremism Continues to Pose a Medium-Level Threat*; Forthcoming; UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE.

² (U) Ibid.

³ (U) Ibid.

⁴ (U//FOUO) FBI information; UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

⁵ (U//FOUO) FBI information; UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

⁶ (U) FBI San Diego Press Release; Animal Rights Activists Accused of Going on Cross-Country Spree Targeting Fur Industry Defendants Drove 40,000 Miles to Release Thousands of Mink from Farms in Iowa, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Elsewhere; 24 July 2015; UNCLASSIFIED.

⁷ (U) FBI information; UNCLASSIFIED.

⁸ (U) FBI information; UNCLASSIFIED.

⁹ (U) FBI information; UNCLASSIFIED.

¹⁰ (U) FBI information; UNCLASSIFIED.

¹¹ (U) FBI information; UNCLASSIFIED.

¹² (U) FBI information; UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

¹³ (U) FBI information; UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.