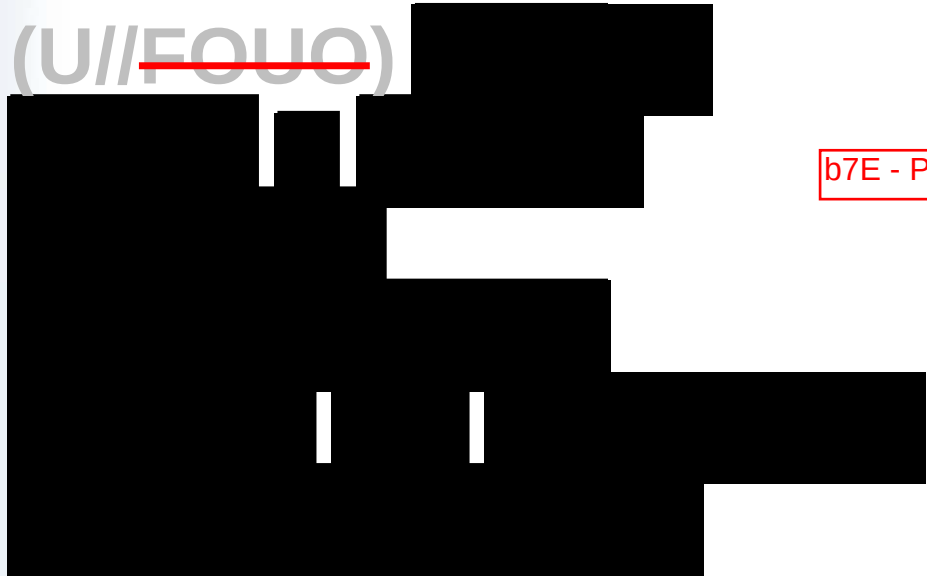


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NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM CENTER

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NCTC SPECIAL ANALYSIS REPORT 2014-1404

9 July 2014



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NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM CENTER

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NSAR 2014-1404

9 July 2014

(U) Key Findings

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(U) This report was prepared by the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC). Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to the Chief, Radicalization and Extremist Messages Group, NCTC, on [REDACTED] secure.

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(U) CVE and Disengagement Resources

(U//~~FOUO~~) Law enforcement officers, correctional officers, and first responders can take advantage of a variety of resources on CVE training and programming and can review finished intelligence products for potential warning signs to promote situational awareness. These resources

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can be found on the Homeland Security Information Network (via www.dhs.gov/homeland-security-information-network) and Law Enforcement Online (via www.leo.gov).

- (U//~~FOUO~~) NCTC maintains the Community Engagement Online Resource Center, which facilitates CVE coordination between federal, state, local, and tribal community engagement practitioners and law enforcement officers. The site contains CVE case studies, videos, and presentations to share with community groups during CVE efforts.
- (U//~~FOUO~~) DHS, FBI, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police maintain a Joint CVE Training Resource online portal that provides federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, law enforcement, and correctional officers CVE-relevant training materials, analytic products, case studies, and other resources.

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(U) Appendix

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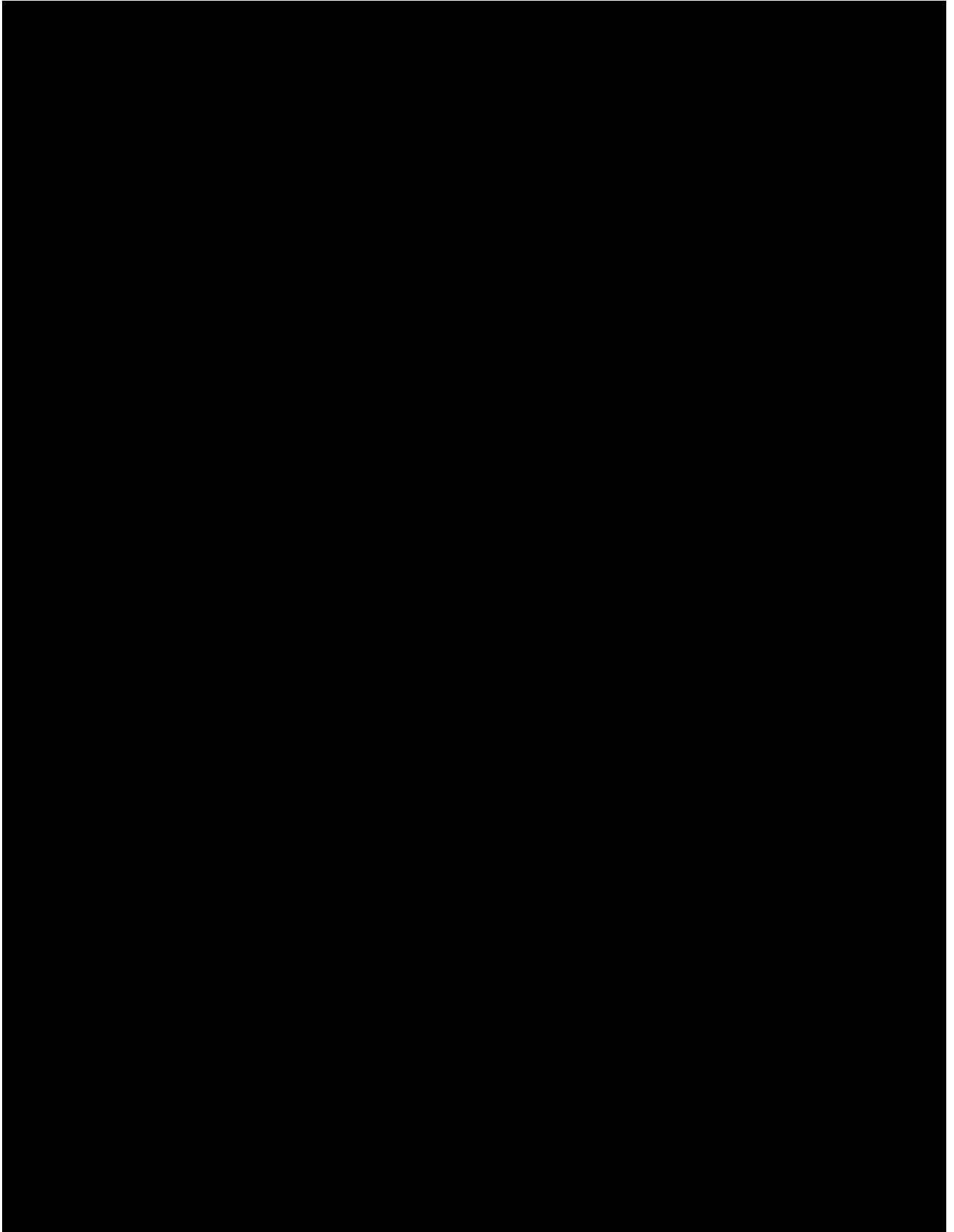
^b (U//~~FOUO~~) Individual is a US Person.

^c (U//~~FOUO~~) HT has not been designated a foreign terrorist organization in the US but has been involved in violent actions in the UK.

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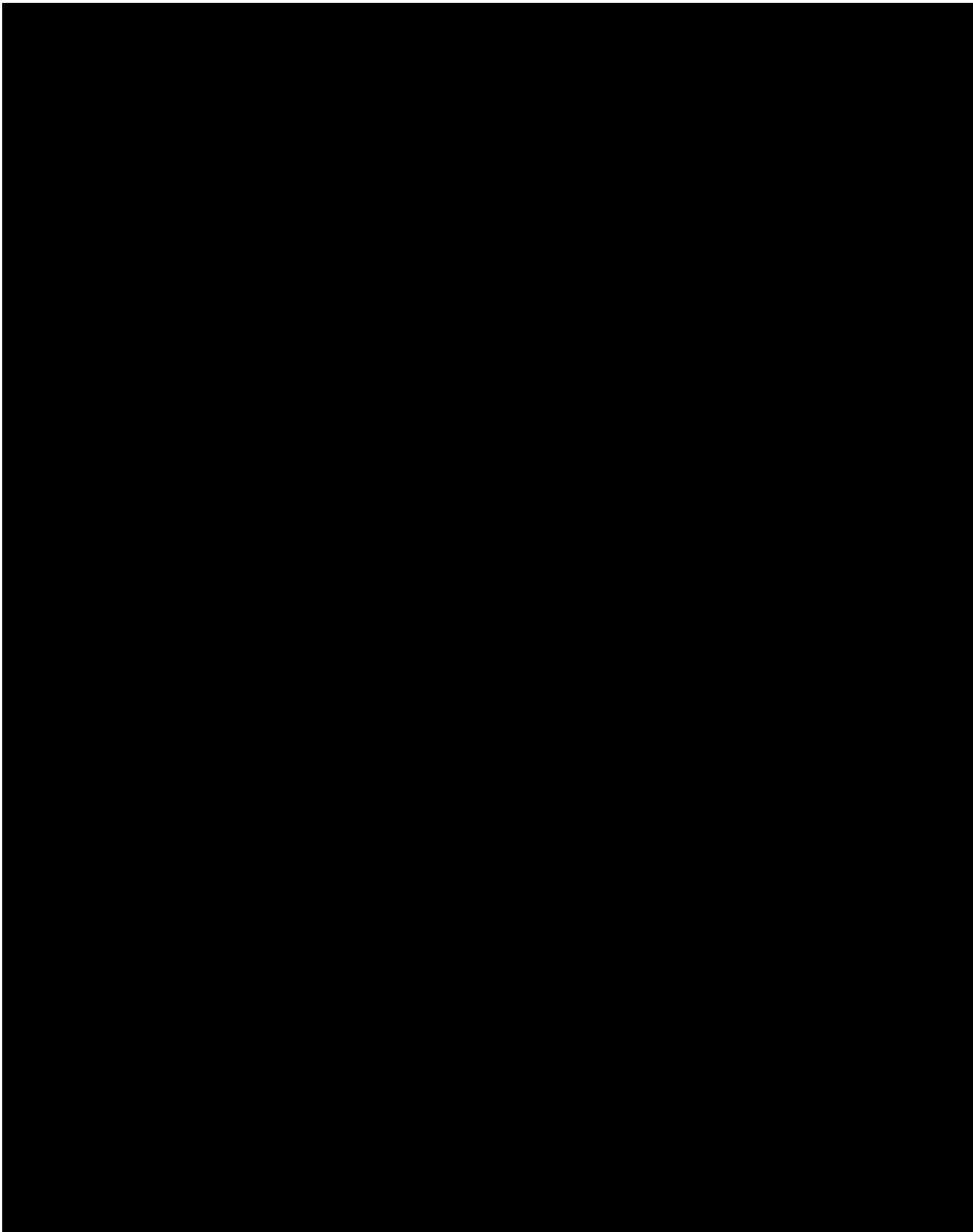
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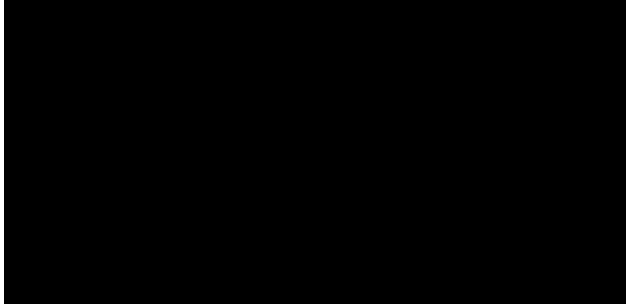
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(U) This Primer was prepared by the National Counterterrorism Center's Radicalization and Extremist Messages Group (REM). Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to the Chief, REM, on () secure.

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(U) Definitions of Key Terms

~~(S//NF)~~ Several key terms guide how we understand and explain radicalization.

- **Radicalization** is the process by which individuals come to believe that their engagement in or facilitation of nonstate violence to achieve social and political change is necessary and justified.
- **Mobilization** is the process by which radicalized individuals take action to prepare for or engage in violence or material support for violence to advance their cause.
- **A Violent Extremist** is a person who advocates, is engaged in, or is preparing to engage in ideologically motivated terrorist activities (including providing support to terrorism) in furtherance of political or social objectives promoted by a *foreign* terrorist organization. This term includes violent extremists acting inside the United States.
- **A Homegrown Violent Extremist** is a violent extremist of any citizenship who has lived and/or operated primarily in the United States or its territories and who is acting independently of the direction of a foreign terrorist organization.²
- **A Domestic Terrorist** is a person who engages in unlawful acts of violence to intimidate civilian populations or attempt to *influence domestic policy* (as opposed to furthering the aims of a foreign terrorist organization) without direction from or influence by a foreign actor. Examples of such terrorism include acts conducted by racist, supremacist, antigovernment, environmental, animal rights, or other single-issue extremist groups or movements. The Primer does not address this kind of terrorism.
- **A Group** is a small collection of individuals who have regular contact, frequently interact, and work together to achieve a common set of goals.
- **A Community** is a residential area—usually a neighborhood, small town, or city—where individuals share a common environment. We acknowledge that communities exist in cyberspace and can be as meaningful to individuals as those they physically live in.
- **Sociopolitical Factors**, such as longstanding societal grievances, current conflicts, global incidents, demographic changes, and the availability of interactive social media, have the potential to affect the attitudes and behaviors of large populations within and across nations.
- **Catalysts** are factors, such as the Internet, family networks, and personal relationships with other extremists, that enable or facilitate the mobilization of individuals by physically or virtually providing the space and opportunity to take action.
- **Inhibitors** are factors that can prevent or stall the progression of individuals committed to engage in violence, such as family members or law enforcement. Some factors can be both catalysts or inhibitor, and their categorization depends on the specific example being discussed.
- **A Credible Voice** is any influential figure who can undercut the appeal of violent extremists with a specific audience.

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(U) Fundamental Principles of Radicalization

(U//~~FOUO~~) This Primer goes beyond a linear process or static model to capture several aspects of the problem we have observed in radicalized individuals over the last several years.

- **Radicalization Enables Violence:** Becoming radicalized increases the likelihood that an individual will engage in terrorist violence.
- **Diversity of Factors:** Multiple factors are needed to explain why some individuals or groups choose to engage in terrorist violence.
- **Factors Interact:** Factors often interact; if examined independently they usually will fail to provide insight into the most likely causes of terrorist violence.
- **Factor Importance Can Vary Across Cases:** The factors will vary in importance depending on the circumstances or the individual. While one factor may be most relevant in one case, it may prove less useful in explaining someone else's violent trajectory.
- **Some Factors Serve as Catalysts for Other Factors:** Because radicalization is a process that develops over time, some factors may trigger a chain of events, even though they may not appear immediately relevant.
- **Diversity of Pathways:** Individuals follow different paths toward violence. While group engagement may dominate some individuals' road to extremism, lone offenders may follow a different trajectory. The different pathways may affect the length of the radicalization process and method of attack.

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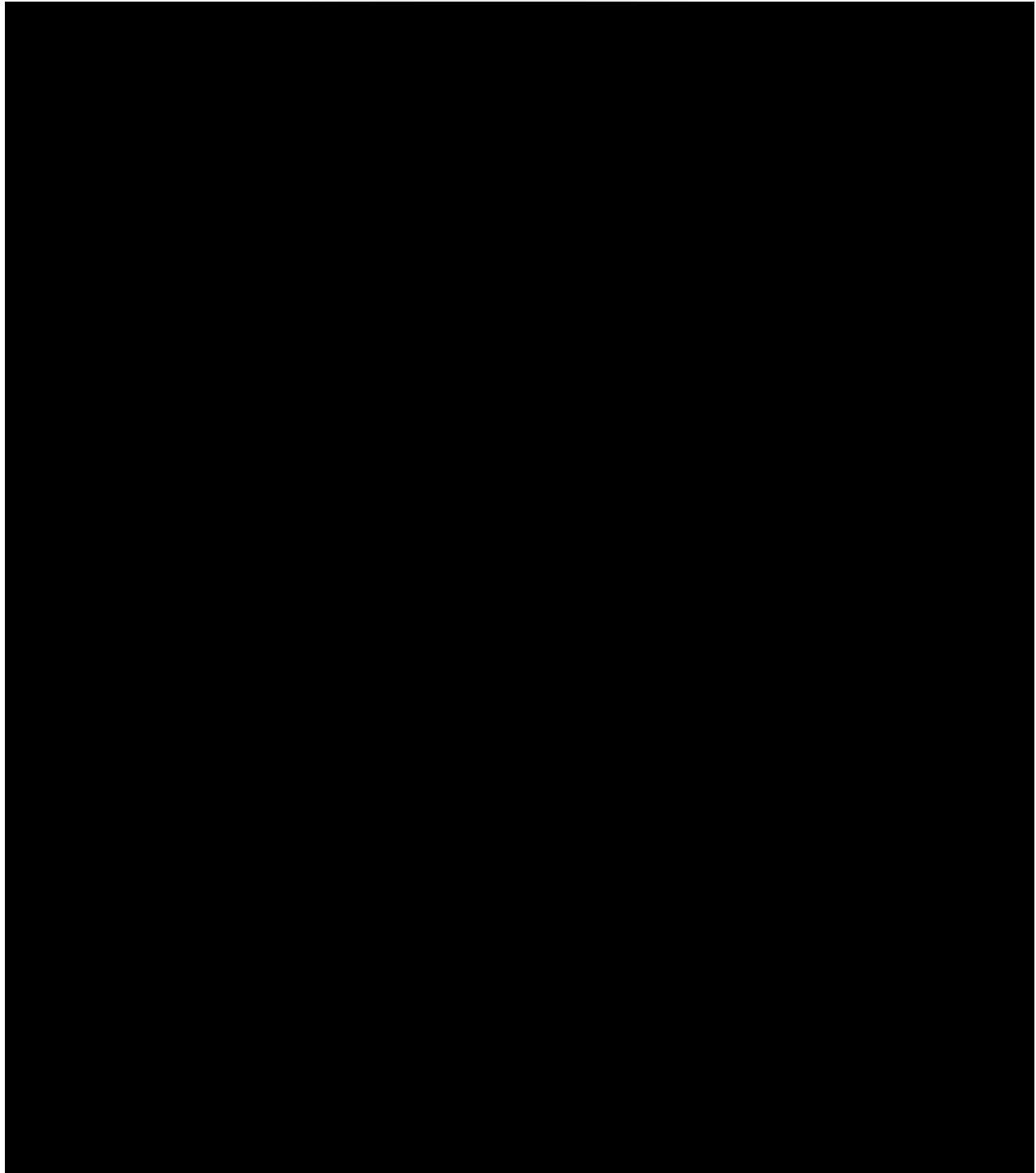
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