



OFFICE of INTELLIGENCE and ANALYSIS
INTELLIGENCE IN FOCUS

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TERRORISM

(U//FOUO) **Domestic Terrorists Will Pose Increased Threat to Government Facilities, Personnel in 2021**

(U//FOUO) We judge domestic terrorists will pose an increased threat to government facilities and personnel in 2021, based on increased observable targeting of these entities in the last year and the expected persistence of key drivers for potential violence. This assessment is further supported by domestic terrorists' exploitation of lawful protests and other events to commit acts of violence in proximity to government facilities and personnel and the potential of future similar events that could escalate to violence. We observed a similar general heightened threat environment surrounding the 2016 presidential election season and following year, suggesting that the window for potential violence could persist.

- *(U//FOUO)* Since late 2019 DHS observed more than a dozen domestic terrorism incidents targeting government facilities or officials, with most occurring since May 2020. This trend generally followed widespread civil unrest, ongoing COVID-19 mitigation measures, and the election season, including the breach of the US Capitol grounds and other restricted areas on 6 January 2021. In addition to the security breach, two pipe bombs were recovered in the general area and a cooler containing a long gun and Molotov cocktails was found on Capitol grounds, suggesting individuals planned for direct attacks.^{1,2,3}
- *(U//FOUO)* Throughout 2020, some violent actors targeted ideological opponents amidst otherwise lawful protests occurring at or near government facilities. While some of these incidents may not have expressly targeted a government facility, they highlight how government facilities may be impacted by indirect domestic terrorist activity. For example, militia extremists allegedly hoped to capitalize on ongoing lawful protests in Oakland, California, when targeting Federal Protective Service officers outside a federal courthouse.⁴
- *(U//FOUO)* From the 2016 election season to the August 2017 lethal white supremacist extremist vehicle ramming attack against counter-protestors at a Charlottesville, Virginia, rally, we observed at least 20 domestic terrorist incidents involving violence against elected officials or ideological opponents, providing an example of how the current threat environment could intensify, based on a DHS review of domestic terrorism incidents

informed by government press releases and press reporting.⁵ This timeframe provided multiple opportunities for domestic terrorists to engage in violence across the country.⁶

~~(U)~~ Analysis of Alternatives

~~(U//FOUO)~~ We considered the alternative analysis that domestic terrorists may not pose an increased threat to government facilities and personnel in 2021. One alternative assessment is that domestic terrorism threats will diminish in reported volume and return to pre-2020 levels. This line of analysis would likely require evidence that political and COVID-19 developments have somehow diminished or alleviated domestic terrorists' ideological grievances to thresholds that would lead to a reduction of violence. At this time, we have seen the opposite occur, which has caused us to reject this line of analysis. Recent reporting indicates many domestic terrorists could view the new administration negatively – or as illegitimate – and could use this perception to justify violence against government personnel and facilities as well as other individuals or institutions perceived as supporting the incoming administration. Recent events also highlight the possibility that domestic terrorists could target individuals and institutions perceived as opposing the outgoing administration, regardless of their views on the new administration.

~~(U//FOUO)~~ *Suspected anarchist extremists continue to exploit lawful protests to conduct violence and property damage destructive of critical infrastructure in 2021 and at least low-level violent activity probably will continue at typical rates.* A new surge in prolonged nationwide civil unrest could drive an increase or escalation of this activity, to include lethal violence amidst clashes with ideological opponents. We base this assessment on a persistent history of these actions, only one of which resulted in lethal violence since May 2020. Traditional grievances driving anarchist extremist activity likely will persist, such as those related to immigration policies that have resulted in targeting of DHS facilities.

- ~~(U//FOUO)~~ On 20 January 2021, suspected anarchist extremists expressing inauguration-related grievances exploited otherwise lawful protests in Seattle, Washington, according to press reporting.⁷ A federal courthouse was among the buildings where windows were smashed.
- ~~(U//LES)~~ On 18 January 2021, suspected anarchist extremists used hammers and a bike lock to break windows and glass doors at a DHS facility in San Francisco, California, according to DHS reporting.⁸
- ~~(U//FOUO)~~ On 19 July 2019 an anarchist extremist in Tacoma, Washington, who targeted a private detention facility with arson was killed when he engaged responding law enforcement officers with a semi-automatic rifle, highlighting the enduring nature of the threat in the region.⁹

~~(U//FOUO)~~ *Domestic terrorist activities and threats observed in 2020 provide examples of suspicious activities that could be reported to law enforcement and fusion centers.* Suspicious activity reporting may help mitigate or prevent violence targeting government facilities and personnel. The following lists of indicators may be innocuous or constitutionally protected

activities. Instances without a reasonable alternative explanation should be evaluated while considering the totality of the circumstances, additional indicators, or observed behaviors reasonably indicative of terrorism before being reported as suspicious activity.
















(U//FOUO) **Observation/surveillance:** In early October, 14 militia extremists were arrested for allegedly planning a series of terrorist attacks that included the abduction and potential execution of the Michigan state governor, raiding the Michigan state capitol building, and potentially executing Michigan state government employees, according to a DOJ criminal complaint and open source media reporting. The suspects allegedly conducted surveillance at the governor's vacation home and a bridge in furtherance of the plot.^{10,11}

(U//FOUO) **Acquisition of weapons:** Several recent events have been associated with the accumulation of irregular amounts and types of weapons, including the acquisition of firearm parts by individuals who are otherwise prohibited from legally acquiring firearms. During an early January 2020 Second Amendment gun owner rights rally in the state capitol of Richmond, Virginia, three alleged members of a white supremacist extremist group, The Base, were arrested for illegally transporting a machine gun across state lines with the intent to commit a felony.¹² The Base is accused of recruiting members, providing firearms and radicalization training, and using social media messaging to advance its goal of creating a race war and a white ethno-state, according to law enforcement and open source reporting.^{13,14}

(U//FOUO) **Expressed or Implied Threat:** While press reporting indicated a significant volume of calls for violence in advance of the 6 January 2021 US Capitol breach, many of these calls were not specific in nature, highlighting the challenges in discerning true threats among vague calls for violence. Future accumulations of online threats, particularly in advance of high profile political or social events, may be noteworthy. As of early December 2020, individuals in at least Texas and California posted unfulfilled threats to carry out violent attacks against political and ideological rivals in reaction to the election's results, according to relevant social media postings.^{15,16} These threats necessarily are incorporated into our analysis that physical facilities, adjacent government work place, and law enforcement conducting official business in the vicinity of threatened individuals could be targeted by individuals or groups.

~~(U//FOUO)~~ Domestic Terrorism Activity Targeting Government Facilities and Personnel Since 2019

~~(U//FOUO)~~ The below table shows domestic terrorism attacks and plots targeting government facilities and personnel since 2019. For the purpose of comparison, from 2015 leading up to the 2016 presidential election, we observed at least five plots and attacks targeting the government facilities sector and personnel involving similar tactics observed during the most recent election season. These included an attempted bombing of a Bureau of Land Management facility, “extensive” damage to a city hall building amidst an otherwise lawful protest, a plot to target federal buildings, an assassination plot targeting the President, and a plot to overthrow a state government.¹⁷⁻²¹

Date	Location	Tactic	Summary
20 January 2021	Seattle, Washington		Violent actors, including suspected anarchist extremists, smashed windows at a federal immigration court amidst a protest against ICE.
18 January 2021	San Francisco, California		Suspected anarchist extremists used hammers and a bike lock to break windows and glass doors at a DHS facility.
6 January 2021	Washington, District of Columbia	 	On 6 January thousands of rioters breached the US Capitol grounds, tearing down barricades and storming the US Capitol Building, resulting in the death of multiple individuals. Additionally, law enforcement discovered a cooler concealing improvised incendiary devices and a long rifle on Capitol grounds that may have been intended to aid the rioters in breaching the US Capitol Building.
10 November 2020	New York, New York		A suspected domestic terrorist was arrested for allegedly threatening to target politicians, law enforcement, protestors, and “the FBI building” in response to the 2020 election, including making reference to the Turner Diaries. The FBI seized a semiautomatic firearm and ammunition upon executing a search warrant at his residence. ²²
Mid October 2020	Lansing, Michigan		Between 7–14 October, 14 militia extremists were arrested in relation to an alleged plot to kidnap the Governor of Michigan, 6 of whom were arrested on federal charges and 8 of whom were arrested on state charges.
1 September 2020	Santa Clara, California	 	A suspected militia extremist was arrested for allegedly sending threatening letters to a county health official in response to locally mandated stay-at-home orders, social distancing measures, and wearing masks to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic. Law enforcement seized over 100 firearms, thousands of rounds of ammunition, and explosives from his residence. ²³
30 May 2020	Las Vegas, Nevada	 	Three suspected domestic terrorists were arrested in relation to a series of alleged plans to engage in and incite violence amidst otherwise lawful protests, including targeting a US Forest Service ranger station. ²⁴
29 May 2020	Oakland, California		A suspected militia extremist and an accomplice allegedly ambushed two Protective Security Officers outside a federal courthouse. The militia extremist allegedly shot the officers, killing one and wounding the other. ²⁵
28 May 2020	Minneapolis, Minnesota		A suspected militia extremist allegedly fired 13 rounds from an AK-47 semiautomatic rifle into the Minneapolis Police Department’s Third Precinct building. He was charged with participating in a riot. ²⁶
28 May 2020	Delaware	 	A suspected domestic terrorist was arrested in North Carolina, originally for allegedly carrying a concealed weapon. Upon searching his vehicle, police found five firearms as well as explosive materials and instructions. Further investigation revealed he considered attacks against multiple targets, including the incoming POTUS. He stated online “Should I kill Joe Biden?” and on one occasion was reportedly within a few miles of the incoming POTUS’s home in Delaware. ²⁷
8 February 2020	Jacksonville, Florida		A suspected domestic terrorist allegedly drove into a voter registration tent organized by the local Republican Party. ²⁸
13 July 2019	Tacoma, Washington	 	An suspected anarchist extremist set fire to a vehicle and a private detention facility linked to ICE operations using incendiary devices. He was killed when he engaged responding law enforcement with a semi-automatic rifle that malfunctioned. ²⁹
17 June 2019	Dallas, Texas		A suspected domestic terrorist shot at a federal courthouse before being killed by law enforcement in a shootout. ³⁰

Overall Graphic Classification:

UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

LEGEND



Source, Reference, and Dissemination Information

Source Summary Statement (U//FOUO) This IIF is based on government press releases and press reporting. We have **high confidence** in the information obtained from government press releases as it derives from law enforcement investigations and court proceedings. We have **high confidence** in the information obtained from press reporting as it consists information provided by law enforcement regarding arrested individuals.

(U//FOUO) We have **medium confidence** in our assessment that domestic terrorists probably will pose an increased threat to government facilities and personnel in 2021. New reporting of ongoing threats, attempts, or intent to target government facilities and personnel would increase our confidence in this assessment.

Definitions

(U//FOUO) **Anarchist Extremist:** Any groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of unlawful violence as a means of changing the government and society in support of the belief that all forms of capitalism and corporate globalization should be opposed, and that governing institutions are unnecessary and harmful to society.

(U//FOUO) **Anti-Government Extremist:** 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) **Domestic Terrorism:** 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) **Militia Extremists:** 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) **Radicalization:** The process through which an individual changes from a non-violent belief system to a belief system that includes the willingness to actively advocate, facilitate, or use unlawful violence as a method to effect societal or political change.

	<i>(U//FOUO)</i> White supremacist extremists: 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.
Reporting Suspicious Activity	<i>(U)</i> 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 .
Dissemination	<i>(U//FOUO)</i> Federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement and homeland security partners.
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1. Please select partner type: _____ and function: _____

2. What is the highest level of intelligence information that you receive?

3. Please complete the following sentence: "I focus most of my time on:"

4. Please rate your satisfaction with each of the following:

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	N/A
Product's overall usefulness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Product's relevance to your mission	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Product's timeliness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Product's responsiveness to your intelligence needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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- | | |
|--|---|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Author or adjust policies and guidelines | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/> |

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REFERENCE AID

11 JANUARY 2021

IA-47682-21

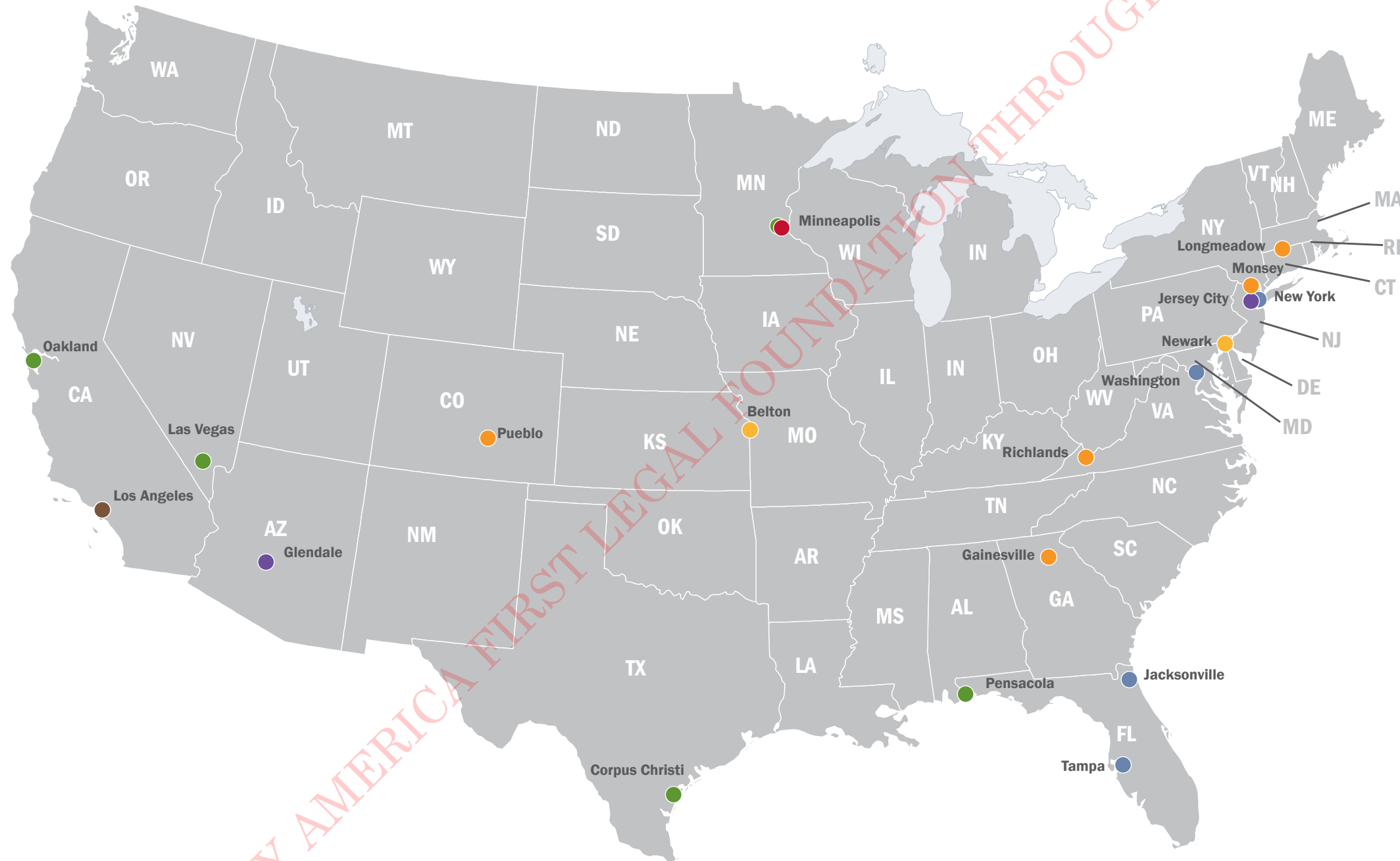
TERRORISM

(U//FOUO) FY20 Overview: Terrorist Incidents Impacting Critical Infrastructure and Religious Institutions in the Homeland

(U//FOUO) This *Reference Aid* provides an overview of terrorist attacks and plots that specifically targeted one or more of the 16 critical infrastructure sectors and religious institutions in the United States from 1 October 2019 – 1 October 2020. This overview surveys the threat actors, tactics and targets, ideologies, and motives involved in these incidents and is based on a body of open source and law enforcement reporting. The *Reference Aid* highlights the terrorist attacks and plots impacting critical infrastructure and does not reflect the totality of terrorist activities against the United States within the reporting period. Incidents that could not be attributed to a terrorist ideology or that are still under investigation are not included, such as incidents targeting law enforcement and government facilities amidst otherwise lawful protest activity and multi-state attacks against 5G wireless infrastructure between December 2019 – April 2020 by unidentified actors. This *Reference Aid* is intended for federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial counterterrorism and law enforcement officials, first responders, and cleared private sector partners. The information cutoff date is 1 October 2020.

(U//FOUO) FY20: Attacks and Plots Impacting US Critical Infrastructure

(U//FOUO) We assess that lone offenders and small groups continue to pose the most persistent threat of terrorism impacting US-based critical infrastructure and religious institutions, based on a large body of law enforcement and open source reporting over the course of FY20. At least 11 attacks and 8 disrupted plots occurred during FY20 with the greatest number of incidents affecting government facilities, followed by commercial facilities, religious institutions, and public health facilities. We judge that target selection was impacted due to the challenges posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in widespread health and economic disruptions that limited access to some facilities, as well as ongoing civil unrest against perceived police brutality. The graphic below highlights the location, tactic, target, perpetrator, and casualties reported for each incident.
















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● Government Facility	● Commercial Facility	● Healthcare and Public Facility	● Religious Institution
● Emergency Service	● Government Commercial Facility	● Healthcare Transportation Facility	













~~(U//FOUO)~~ FY20: Attacks and Plots Impacting US Critical Infrastructure Cont.

Sector	Location	Tactic	Ideology	Type	Description
	New York, NY; Washington, DC		IT	Plot	(U//FOUO) 19 Sept 2020: Two ISIS-inspired individuals were arrested for allegedly plotting to attack a range of targets, including Trump Tower, the White House, the New York Stock Exchange, or the headquarters of federal law enforcement agencies, according to media reports. The individuals were charged with conspiracy to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization. ¹
	Minneapolis, MN		DT	Plot	(U//FOUO) 3 Sept 2020: The FBI arrested two self-described “boogaloo bois” for conspiring and attempting to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization. The individuals sought to employ themselves as “mercenaries” for HAMAS and discussed targeting law enforcement, government monuments, politicians, and members of the media, among other potential targets, according to a Department of Justice (DOJ) press release. ²
	Richlands, VA		DT	Plot	(U//FOUO) 4 June 2020: An alleged involuntary celibate violent extremist severely injured himself while making an improvised explosive device. The FBI discovered several letters describing a scenario to blow up women in a shopping mall, according to media reports. The individual is currently awaiting trial. ³
	Las Vegas, NV		DT	Plot	(U//FOUO) 30 May 2020: Three self-identified adherents of the “boogaloo” were arrested for conspiracy to cause destruction during protests and for possessing an unregistered destructive device, specifically a molotov cocktail, according to a DOJ press release. Between April and 30 May 2020, the individuals allegedly plotted to attack law enforcement and damage or destroy government facilities as well as a public utility installation. The individuals are currently detained on federal and state charges. ⁴
	Oakland, CA		DT	Attack	(U//FOUO) 29 May 2020: Using nearby lawful protests as a distraction, two militia extremists ambushed and shot two Federal Protective Service officers outside of the Oakland Courthouse, killing one. On 6 June 2020, two law enforcement officers were shot, one fatally, in a firefight while trying to apprehend one of the militia extremists, according to media reports. Both individuals are awaiting federal trial. ⁵
	Minneapolis, MN		DT	Attack	(U//FOUO) 28 May 2020: A self-described adherent of the “boogaloo” shot 13 rounds from an AK-47 style semiautomatic rifle into a Minneapolis Police Department building while looters were inside the building, according to a DOJ press release. The individual allegedly traveled from Texas to Minneapolis intending to participate in a riot. ⁶
	Tampa, FL		IT	Plot	(U//FOUO) 24 May 2020: An ISIS supporter was arrested for attempting to carry out an attack on behalf of the terrorist organization, according to a DOJ press release and criminal complaint. The individual scouted out potential targets in the Tampa area, including crowded beaches and the FBI Tampa Field Office and allegedly rehearsed portions of the attack. The individual was charged with attempting to provide material support or resources to a designated foreign terrorist organization. ⁷
	Corpus Christi, TX		IT	Attack	(U//FOUO) 21 May 2020: A homegrown violent extremist used a firearm to attack a checkpoint at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, wounding a security officer, according to law enforcement officials and Western media reporting. Social media accounts likely associated with the attacker indicated his support for foreign terrorist organizations such as ISIS and al-Qa’ida, according to a law enforcement review of electronic media recovered from the scene and the attacker’s residence. Naval security forces killed the attacker in an ensuing shootout. ^{8,9,10}
	Glendale, AZ		DT	Attack	(U//FOUO) 20 May 2020: A self-identified involuntary celibate violent extremist shot and injured three individuals at an entertainment district, according to media reports. The individual told investigators he was targeting couples and planned to harm 10 individuals. The individual faces 16 felony charges. ^{11,12}
	Longmeadow, MA		DT	Attack	(U//FOUO) 2 Apr 2020: A probable white supremacist extremist allegedly attempted to ignite an improvised incendiary device near the entrance of a Jewish assisted living facility in Longmeadow, Massachusetts, according to a federal criminal complaint and Western media reporting. The incident occurred on or around the same day that the user of a white supremacist online platform specifically identified the facility as a target for violence and created a calendar entry for the attack. The suspect remains in detention on a charge of attempted arson. ^{13,14}
	Los Angeles, CA		DT	Attack	(U//FOUO) 31 Mar 2020: A train engineer derailed a locomotive off the end of its rail tracks in a deliberate attempt to draw media attention to a nearby naval hospital ship in the Port of Los Angeles, according to a DOJ press release and media reports. The suspect made various statements to law enforcement authorities indicating the probable influence of “QAnon” conspiracy theories, alleging that the ship “had an alternative purpose related to COVID-19 or a government takeover.” The suspect is awaiting trial on a charge of train wrecking. ^{15,16}
	Belton, MO		DT	Plot	(U//FOUO) 24 Mar 2020: A white supremacist extremist planned to conduct a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attack against a Missouri medical center due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and increased media attention on the health sector, according to media reports. The individual also discussed using mylar balloons to attack energy infrastructure. The individual was killed in a shootout with law enforcement, according to media reports. ^{17,18}
	Jacksonville, FL		DT	Attack	(U//FOUO) 8 Feb 2020: A Jacksonville, Florida resident conducted a vehicle-ramming attack against a Republican voter registration tent in a shopping center, according to media reports. The suspect allegedly conducted the attack based on his opposition to the US president, according to law enforcement officials. The suspect was charged with aggravated assault and criminal mischief. ^{19,20}

LEGEND

	Government Facility		Commercial Facility		Healthcare and Public Facility		Edged Weapon
	Transportation Facility		Religious Institution		Emergency Service		
	Improvised Incendiary Device		Firearm		Vehicle Ramming		
	Improvised Explosive Device		Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device		Sabotage		

(U//FOUO) FY20: Attacks and Plots Impacting US Critical Infrastructure Cont.

Sector	Location	Tactic	Ideology	Type	Description
	Newark, DE		DT	Attack	(U//FOUO) 3 Jan 2020: An anti-abortion extremist allegedly threw an improvised incendiary device at a reproductive healthcare facility in Newark, Delaware, according to a federal criminal complaint and media reports. The suspect spray-painted "God's will" on the facility and had a history of making anti-abortion social media posts, according to video surveillance and a law enforcement investigation. The suspect was charged with maliciously damaging a building through the use of fire or destructive device, and intentionally damaging a reproductive health facility. ^{21,22}
	Monsey, NY		DT	Attack	(U//FOUO) 28 Dec 2019: A black supremacist extremist allegedly used a machete to attack individuals observing Chanukah in the home of a rabbi in Monsey, New York, killing one and wounding four others, according to a federal criminal complaint and Western media reports. Law enforcement officials discovered a journal containing several pages of anti-Semitic references from the suspect's residence. The suspect was charged with five counts of willfully causing bodily injury because of the victims' religion and five counts of obstructing the free exercise of religion in an attempt to kill— all federal hate crimes. As of September 2020, the suspect was being held in a psychiatric hospital for evaluation of his mental health. ^{23,24,25}
	Jersey City, NJ		DT	Attack	(U//FOUO) 10 Dec 2019: Black supremacist extremists used firearms to attack a law enforcement officer at a cemetery and patrons at a kosher food market in Jersey City, New Jersey, killing four and wounding three others, according to media reporting. The suspects adhered to anti-Semitic and anti-law enforcement views, according to law enforcement officials. ^{26,27}
	Pensacola, FL		IT	Attack	(U//FOUO) 6 Dec 2019: A Royal Saudi Air Force officer shot and killed three US navy officers and injured eight others at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida where he was participating in aviation training. On 2 February 2020, al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula claimed the shooting, stating that it directed the individual to carry out the attack, according to media reports. ²⁸
	Gainesville, GA		DT	Plot	(U) 15 Nov 2019: A teenage white supremacist extremist was arrested for planning to attack a church with a predominantly black congregation, according to media reports. After searching the teenager's bookbag, two knives, a notebook detailing the plot, and several t-shirts were found—one of which stated, "I do consider myself a white supremacist" and one referencing the gunman who killed nine black church members in Charleston, South Carolina in 2015. ²⁹
	Pueblo, CO		DT	Plot	(U) 1 Nov 2019: A self-identified Neo-Nazi and white supremacist plotted to blow up a synagogue in Pueblo, Colorado, according to a DOJ press release. The individual told an undercover FBI agent that he was preparing for a racial holy war and wanted to remove the synagogue from the map. The individual was arrested and pleaded guilty to federal hate crime and explosive charges and is currently awaiting sentencing. ³⁰

LEGEND

	Government Facility		Commercial Facility		Healthcare and Public Facility		Edged Weapon
	Transportation Facility		Religious Institution		Emergency Service		
	Improvised Incendiary Device		Firearm		Vehicle Ramming		
	Improvised Explosive Device		Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device		Sabotage		

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Source, Reference, and Dissemination Information

Source Summary Statement	<p>(U//FOUO) This <i>Reference Aid</i> is based on open source media reporting from US media, criminal complaints, and law enforcement reporting. We have medium confidence in our findings regarding the group affiliation and motivation of the attackers. We also have medium confidence in the media reporting, as information about actors' motivations and backgrounds continues to develop in connection with several of the incidents cited. Additional media reporting or law enforcement reporting regarding investigations opened in response to such incidents would increase our confidence in the findings.</p>
Definitions	<p>(U//FOUO) Anti-Abortion Extremists: Anti-abortion extremists are groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of violence directed against the providers of abortion-related services, their employees, and their facilities in support of the belief that the practice of abortion should end.</p> <p>(U//FOUO) Black Supremacist Extremists: Groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of unlawful violence to oppose racial integration and/or to eliminate non-black people and Jewish people.</p> <p>(U//FOUO) Boogaloo: A term referencing a violent uprising or impending civil war, which is sometimes used by violent extremists from a variety of movements – including some militia extremists and white supremacist extremists – adhering to their version of accelerationism. This is sometimes also referred to as the “Big Luau” or “Big Igloo.”</p> <p>(U//FOUO) Critical Infrastructure: The physical and cyber assets, systems, and networks considered so vital to the United States that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination thereof. The following are the 16 designated critical infrastructure sectors: chemical; commercial facilities; communications; critical manufacturing; dams; defense industrial base; emergency services; energy; financial; food and agriculture; government; healthcare and public health; information technology; nuclear reactors, materials, and waste; transportation; and water and wastewater.</p> <p>(U//FOUO) Domestic Terrorism: 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.</p> <p>(U//FOUO) Homegrown Violent Extremist: A person of any citizenship who has lived and/or operated primarily in the United States or its territories 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 but is acting independently of direction by a foreign terrorist organization. HVEs are distinct from traditional domestic terrorists who engage in unlawful acts of violence to intimidate civilian populations or attempt to influence domestic policy without direction from or influence from a foreign actor.</p> <p>(U//FOUO) Involuntary Celibate Violent Extremists: DHS uses FBI's definition, which defines involuntary celibate violent extremists as individuals who use unlawful force or violence in the furtherance of their ideological belief that society unjustly denies them</p>

sexual or romantic attention. The term Incel, which originated in the 1990s, refers to individuals, mainly males, who believe that women deny them the romantic or sexual attention they believe they deserve, attributing this denial to social movements such as feminism. There is an online community of self-described Incels, and a subset of this community supports using violence to further its goal of achieving male supremacy in society.

(U//FOUO) **Lone Offender:** An individual motivated by one or more violent extremist ideologies who, operating alone, supports or engages in acts of unlawful violence in furtherance of that ideology or ideologies that may involve influence from a larger terrorist organization or a foreign actor.

(U//FOUO) **Militia Extremists:** 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) **White Supremacist Extremists:** 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.

Reporting 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>.

Dissemination

(U) Federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial counterterrorism and law enforcement officials, first responders, and cleared private sector partners

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19 APRIL 2021

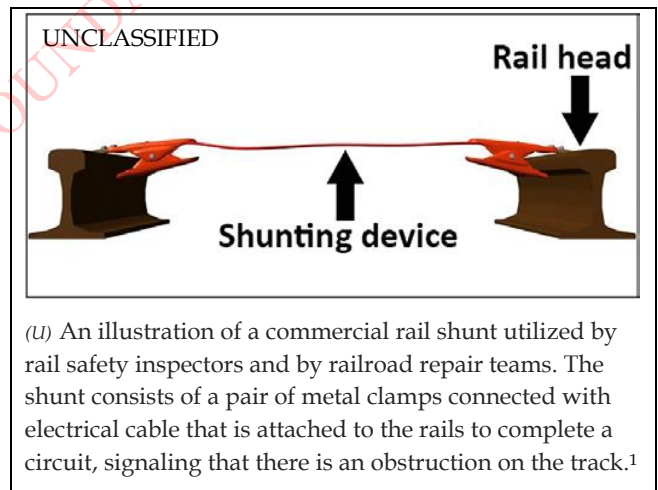
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TERRORISM

(U//FOUO) Rail Shunting Incidents Promote Tactic, Violent Extremist Narratives

(U//FOUO) We assess that a series of shunting incidents throughout 2020 likely reinforce the use of this tactic among ideologically motivated actors who seek to disrupt railroad operations across the United States. Shunting tactics can be effective in increasing operational costs by temporarily disrupting rail operations, even though there is a low likelihood that shunts will destroy or significantly damage rail equipment. Both anarchist violent extremists (AVEs) and animal rights/environmental violent extremists (AREVEs) publicize their attacks on various extremist forums, drawing attention to the tactic and violent narratives opposing capitalism and the use of fossil fuels.

- (U//FOUO) More than 40 shunting incidents targeting rail lines used in the transportation of oil into Washington State took place over a 10-month period ending in November 2020, according to a DOJ incident report.² Two separate shunting incidents in South Carolina and Pennsylvania early last year used copper wire to short circuit rail sensors, triggering safety alerts that indicated that the rail lines were obstructed, according to law enforcement reporting.³
- (U//FOUO) Railroad shunts can be made from cheap, easy-to-obtain materials, and information on how to construct, deploy, and conceal their presence has been shared on AVE and AREVE-affiliated websites for several years, based on law enforcement and media reports.^{4,5} AVEs and AREVEs have promoted shunting as an effective way to oppose fossil fuels and capitalism.^{6,7,8}
- (U//FOUO) Individuals conducting shunting operations are exposed to little operational risk, as there are few tripwires associated with constructing or deploying a rail shunt, particularly if the devices are placed in remote or rural areas. The anonymous posts in online violent extremist forums provide investigators few leads to help identify suspects. Law enforcement arrested and charged two individuals related to two shunting incidents in Washington State, but no charges have been filed in the remainder of the incidents.⁹



(U//FOUO) We assess that broader promotion of shunting attacks could increase use of this tactic by a range of ideologically disparate violent extremists, including from actors who traditionally aspire to conduct more destructive attacks. Foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs) have long recognized the economic damage caused by the disruption of freight and passenger rail and some racially or ethnically motivated violent extremist-white supremacists (RMVE-WSs) have advocated for attacks targeting the energy and transportation sectors.^{10,11} Transportation and petroleum industry experts predict an increase in the transportation of oil by rail as previously planned pipeline construction is curtailed, which we assess could result in an interim surge of rail shunting incidents nationwide.^{12,13}

- (U//FOUO) The August 2017 issue of *Inspire*, an English-language journal of al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), featured extensive coverage of the social, economic, and political value of targeting passenger and freight rail in the United States and Europe.¹⁴ Thus far, FTOs have failed to identify any tactics that can be used to cause catastrophic damage but, in 2018, a suspected ISIS supporter caused minor damage to a high-speed train in Germany.¹⁵
- (U//FOUO) Some RMVE-WSs who have adopted a program known as accelerationism have encouraged attacks against critical infrastructure or other targets that they believe will help to destabilize society.^a Since 2017, some RMVE-WS adherents of a violent extremist interpretation of self-described “eco-fascist” beliefs have advocated for the violent targeting of several critical infrastructure sectors, including the transportation, energy, and petrochemical sectors.^{16,17}
- (U//FOUO) In late January 2021, a Canadian rail executive speculated that, by canceling the Keystone XL Pipeline and failing to resolve regulatory issues with the Dakota Access Pipeline, the US Government would trigger an increase in crude-by-rail shipments.^{18,19} We judge that violent extremists who historically have conducted sabotage attacks against oil pipeline projects in the United States could refocus their efforts to target rail infrastructure used to transport crude oil.

Source, Reference, and Dissemination Information

^a (U//FOUO) Accelerationism maintains that the only solution to society’s ills is its collapse, so that a new society can emerge in its place. To facilitate this societal collapse, often referred to as the destruction of “the system,” which includes the federal government, RMVE-WSs advocate violent acts of societal disruption. This conflict can be likened to a race war by some RMVE-WSs.

Source Summary Statement

(U//FOUO) We have **medium confidence** in our assessment that a series of shunting incidents in 2020 will reinforce the use of this tactic among ideologically motivated actors and that broader promotion of this tactic could increase its use. Our assessment is based primarily on law enforcement and media reporting, including social media reporting and government press releases. Law enforcement reporting and government press releases were the primary sources of information related to how the tactic is used and often cited law enforcement officials involved in the investigations. The press reporting used in our analysis cites government officials or industry experts with direct knowledge of the economic and operational impact of the tactic's use. Our analysis on the potential actors that would be interested in this tactic was derived from fragmentary social media reporting. While this reporting is consistent with information from other sources, we are unable to validate its authenticity. Our insights into violent extremists who may adopt this tactic was gleaned from media associated with FTOs or domestic terrorist movements. We would have higher confidence in our analysis if we had further insight into the identities of the attackers and their motives.

Definitions

(U//FOUO) **Shunt:** A length of electrical conducting cable used to connect two rails to trigger a warning or safety signal. Automotive jumper cables are often used, but any wire that can conduct electricity will usually work. Frequently the shunt is painted, buried, or otherwise concealed to avoid detection.

(U//FOUO) **Anarchist Violent Extremists:** Individuals who seek, wholly or in part, through unlawful acts of force or violence, to further their opposition to all forms of capitalism, corporate globalization, and governing institutions, which they perceive as harmful to society.

(U//FOUO) **Domestic Terrorism:** 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) **Ecofascism:** A political theory that suggests sacrificing human interests for those of the natural world – themes also present in the animal and environmental rights movements. Some RMVE-WSs interpret ecofascism as requiring violence against individuals and institutions they perceive as exploiting the natural environment.

(U//FOUO) **Animal Rights/Environmental Violent Extremists:** Groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in the unlawful use or threat of force or violence or intent to intimidate or coerce, in furtherance of political and/or social agendas by those seeking to end or mitigate perceived cruelty, harm, or exploitation of animals or perceived exploitation or destruction of natural resources and the environment.

(U//FOUO) **Racially Motivated Violent Extremists-White Supremacist:** Groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of unlawful violence or intent to intimidate or coerce the federal government, ethnic and racial minorities, or non-Christian faiths, and often specifically Jewish persons, in support of their belief in the inferiority of nonwhites and non-Christians.

Reporting Suspicious Activity	<p><i>(U)</i> 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.</p> <p><i>(U)</i> To report a computer security incident, either contact US-CERT at 888-282-0870, or go to https://forms.us-cert.gov/report/ and complete the US-CERT Incident Reporting System form. The US-CERT Incident Reporting System provides a secure, web-enabled means of reporting computer security incidents to US-CERT. An incident is defined as a violation or imminent threat of violation of computer security policies, acceptable use policies, or standard computer security practices. In general, types of activity commonly recognized as violating typical security policies include attempts (either failed or successful) to gain unauthorized access to a system or its data, including personally identifiable information; unwanted disruption or denial of service; the unauthorized use of a system for processing or storing data; and changes to system hardware, firmware, or software without the owner's knowledge, instruction, or consent.</p>
Dissemination	<p><i>(U)</i> Federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial government agencies, law enforcement officials, and private sector security partners</p>
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¹ (U); Transportation Safety Board of Canada; "Collision between train and track unit, Canadian Pacific Railway Freight train 100-03 Hi-rail vehicle 53705 Mile 118.36, Nemegos Subdivision, Nemegos, Ontario 06 March 2016;" Railway Investigation Report R16H0024, 2017, figure 6, page 23.

² (U); US District Court, Western District of Washington at Seattle; "United States of America, Plaintiff, versus Ellen Brennan Reiche and Samantha Frances Brookes; 30 NOV 2020; pg 2.

³ (U//FOUO); Amtrak Police Department, Office of Intelligence and Analysis; Security Awareness Report; 24 MAR 2020; (U//FOUO); Information extracted is U//FOUO; Overall document classification is U//FOUO

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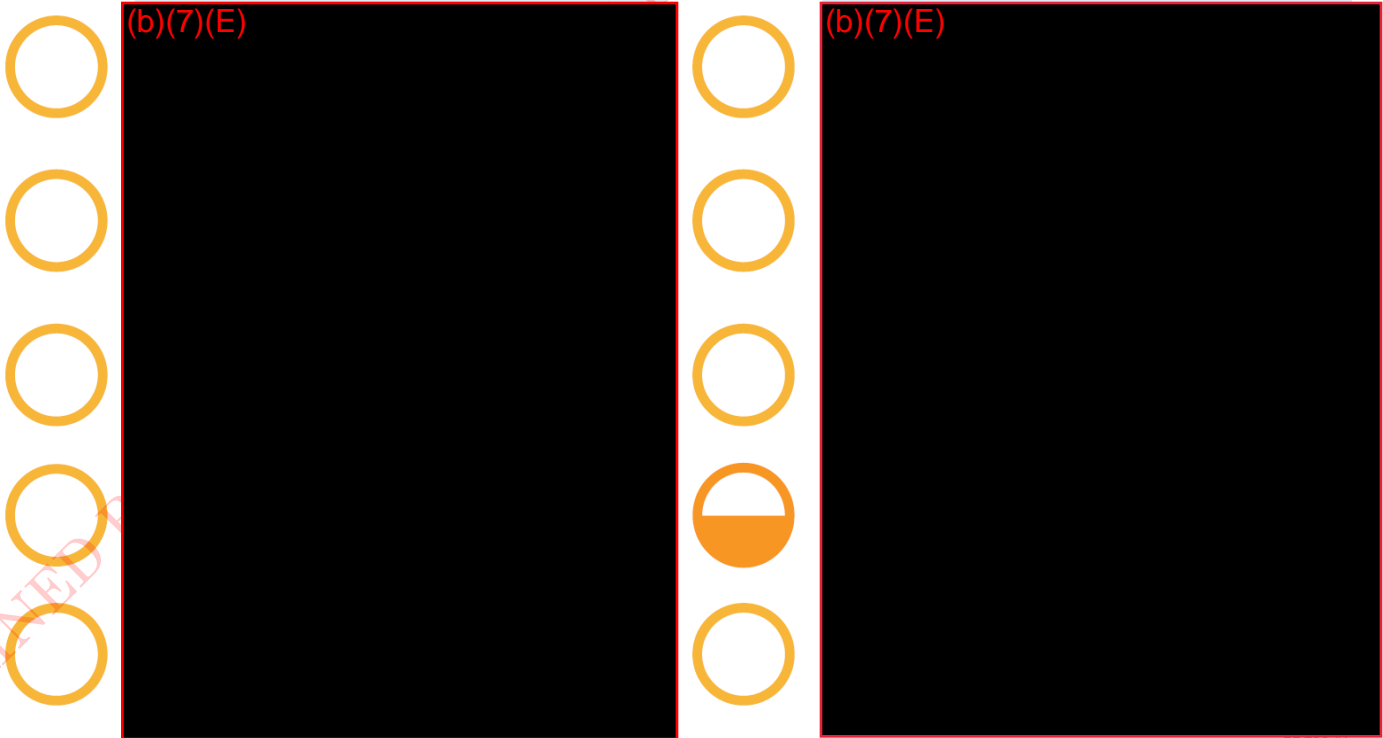
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PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

~~(U//FOUO)~~ ADMINISTRATIVE REVISION: Probable Indicators of Violence in the Wake of the US Capitol Breach

~~(U//FOUO)~~ We assess that a range of possible targets, including government facilities and officials, law enforcement, and ideologically opposed individuals throughout the National Capital Region continue to be possible targets for domestic terrorists in the wake of the breach on the US Capitol. Domestic terrorists – motivated by grievances associated with the exercise of governmental authority, the presidential transition, or conspiracy theories – may particularly exploit First Amendment protected gatherings as a means of cover to commit violence. However, we lack specific, credible threats of violence at this time and assess that an attack could occur with little or no warning. The following chart highlights possible indicators of violence in the Washington, DC area. Some of the observed indicators listed may include constitutionally protected activity and should be evaluated in the totality of circumstances.

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LEGEND

- Not Observed
- Partially Observed
- Observed

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Reporting 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 .
Dissemination	(U) Federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial counterterrorism and law enforcement officials, first responders, fusion centers, and cleared private sector partners.
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