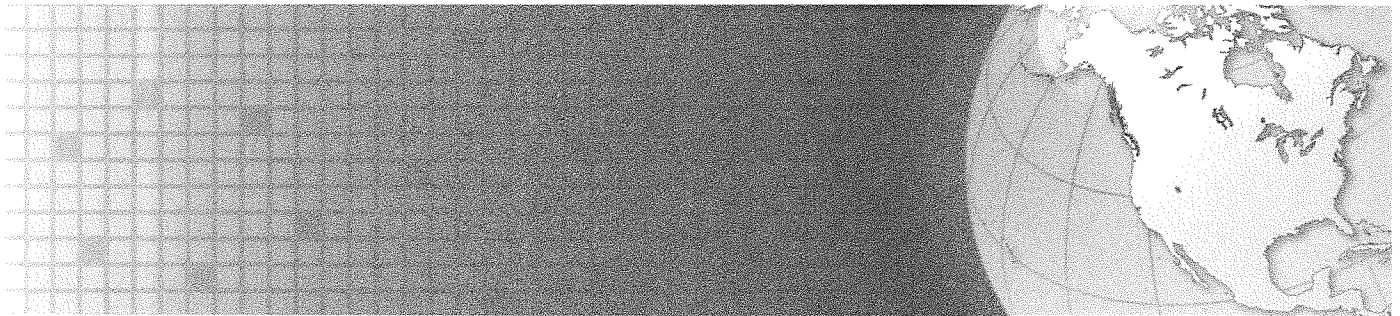




Homeland  
Security

# INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT



## (U//FOUO) Domestic Violent Extremists Pose Increased Threat to Government Officials and Law Enforcement

22 July 2014

Office of Intelligence and Analysis  
IA-0201-14

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**INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT**

22 July 2014

## **(U//FOUO) Domestic Violent Extremists Pose Increased Threat to Government Officials and Law Enforcement**

*(U//FOUO) Prepared by the Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) and Southern Nevada Counterterrorism Center. Coordinated with FBI.*

### **(U) Scope**

(U//FOUO) After years of only sporadic violence from violent domestic extremists motivated by anti-government ideologies, I&A has seen a spike within the past year in violence committed by militia extremists and lone offenders who hold violent anti-government beliefs.\*† These groups and individuals recognize government authority but facilitate or engage in acts of violence due to their perception that the United States Government is tyrannical and oppressive, coupled to their belief that the government needs to be violently resisted or overthrown. Historically, spikes in violence have followed high-profile confrontations involving the United States Government, such as Ruby Ridge and Waco. The April 2014 Bunkerville, Nevada standoff likely represents a similar event that could inspire further violence.

(U//FOUO) This assessment examines the common themes and targets of these attacks and assesses the potential for increased violence that may follow the Bunkerville standoff.

(U//FOUO) Although sovereign citizen extremist violence is also inspired by an anti-government ideology, sovereign citizen extremists are not included in this Assessment as we have detected no similar spike in this movement despite similarities in their ideologies.‡ In 2014, sovereign citizen extremist violence continued at roughly the same sporadic rate I&A has observed since 2010 of just over five incidents per year, as detailed in a 27 February 2014 Reference Aid, "(U//FOUO) Limited Reporting Suggests Sovereign Citizen Extremist Violence Most Common in Southern and Western United States."

\* (U//FOUO) DHS defines a militia extremist as groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of 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 United States Government.

† (U//FOUO) DHS defines a lone offender extremist as an individual motivated by one or more extremist ideologies who, operating alone, supports or engages in acts of violence in furtherance of that ideology

### **(U) Key Judgments**

**(U//LES) I&A assesses that the perceived victory by militia extremists in a show of force against the Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Nevada in April will likely inspire additional anti-government violence over the next year.**

**(U//FOUO) I&A also assesses that the recent murders of two Las Vegas police officers is the latest and most severe incident in a growing trend of anti-government violence compared to the previous four years and inspired by perceived government overreach and oppression.**

### **(U//FOUO) Perceived Victory at Bunkerville Likely to Prompt More Violence**

(U//LES) I&A assesses that the belief among militia extremists that their threats and show of force against the BLM during the April Bunkerville standoff was a defining victory over government oppression is galvanizing some individuals—particularly militia extremists and violent lone offenders—to actively confront law enforcement officials, increasing the likelihood of violence. Additionally, this perceived success likely will embolden other militia extremists and like-minded lone offenders to attempt to replicate these confrontational tactics and force future armed standoffs with law enforcement and government officials during 2014. At least three incidents in 2014

or ideologies that may involve influence from a larger terrorist organization or a foreign actor. Lone offenders may act within the context of recognized domestic extremist ideologies, their own interpretation of those ideologies, or personal beliefs. The mere advocacy of political or social positions, political activism, use of strong rhetoric, or generalized philosophic embrace of violent tactics may not constitute extremism, and may be constitutionally protected.

‡ (U//FOUO) DHS defines sovereign citizen extremists as groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of violence directed at public officials, financial institutions, and government facilities in support of their belief that the legitimacy of US citizenship should be rejected; almost all forms of established government, authority, and institutions are illegitimate; and that they are immune from federal, state, and local laws.

appear to have a connection to the events in Bunkerville based on open source and law enforcement reporting.

- » (U//LES) The Las Vegas shooters were present at the Bunkerville standoff, which ended when federal officials withdrew. Upon leaving the standoff, they expressed that violence was necessary to fight a perceived tyrannical US government apparatus intent on stripping Americans of their rights, according to local law enforcement and open source reporting.<sup>1</sup>
- » (U//FOUO) An identified US person—who allegedly was part of the armed confrontation against federal law enforcement officials in Bunkerville—stated in May 2014 that militia extremists in Texas will “exterminate” federal officials who attempt a “land grab” in north Texas, according to open source reporting by a new source whose reliability cannot yet be judged.<sup>2</sup>
- » (U//FOUO) After the end of BLM operations at Bunkerville, a Missouri-based US militia extremist group in late April discussed details on possible attacks against US federal convoys and helicopters they believed would be used to assist law enforcement to raid the Bunkerville ranch, according to law enforcement reporting.<sup>3</sup>

#### (U) Recent Violent Anti-Government Events

##### (U) Las Vegas Shootings:

(U//LES) Violent anti-government extremists Jerad Dwain Miller and Amanda Renee Miller ambushed and killed two Las Vegas Metropolitan police officers at a local restaurant on 8 June. The subjects then entered a nearby retail store where they killed a civilian and wounded one more officer before one subject was killed in a shootout with police and the other by an apparent suicide.

##### (U) Bunkerville, Nevada Standoff:

(U//LES) Numerous individuals from across the United States traveled to Nevada to support a rancher resisting BLM officers’ enforcement efforts. The BLM was attempting to enforce a 5 April court order to impound the rancher’s cattle located on federal land following the rancher’s refusal to pay grazing fees. Some of the participants threatened violence against BLM officials and pointed firearms at law enforcement officers, according to law enforcement and media reporting. The BLM operation ended on 12 April, inspiring some militia extremists to declare “victory,” claiming the standoff was a successful example of mass mobilization that influenced government action and should be repeated elsewhere.

#### (U//FOUO) Spike in Anti-Government Violence Driven By Common Themes

(U//FOUO) I&A assesses the spike in anti-government attacks and plots since November 2013 is a departure from the random and sporadic nature of domestic extremist violence. These violent incidents are motivated by the perception of government actions (or lack of action) addressing political issues such as gun control, land-use, property, and other activities as interfering with their individual rights and as oppressive measures that warrant violent reprisal against US government entities and law enforcement, according to a body of open source reporting.<sup>4-8</sup> These are common themes cited by attackers, but the specific motivations that drive any instance of anti-government violence vary due to the disparate beliefs and motivations of the individuals involved.

- » (U//LES) Law enforcement reporting indicates the Las Vegas shooters left an anti-government note on the murdered police officers, exclaimed the attack was the start of a “revolution,” and a “new day,” suggesting they anticipated further violence, and made statements on their social media profiles indicating their willingness to “shed blood,” and “die fighting,” to stop government oppression.<sup>9,10</sup>

(U//FOUO) Though the initial cause or tipping point of this spike in violence remains unclear, I&A assesses with moderate confidence that some of these incidents are likely intended to inspire additional violent attacks, resulting in a greater rate of attacks than in the prior four years.

- » (U//FOUO) I&A has documented five incidents of anti-government violence or arrests for violent plotting since November 2013.<sup>11-17</sup>
- » (U//FOUO) By contrast, I&A documented just three such incidents over the 46 months prior to this spike.<sup>18,19,20</sup>

#### (U//FOUO) Government and Law Enforcement are Primary Targets

(U//FOUO) Militia extremists and lone offenders with similar anti-government ideologies have historically attacked government facilities and personnel, followed by law enforcement personnel and critical infrastructure and key resources (CIKR), based on open source and law enforcement reporting since 2010. Law enforcement is targeted because these individuals perceive it as an extension of state control over individuals and CIKR is targeted to undermine the government’s perceived

economic and societal power and control. See graphic for details.

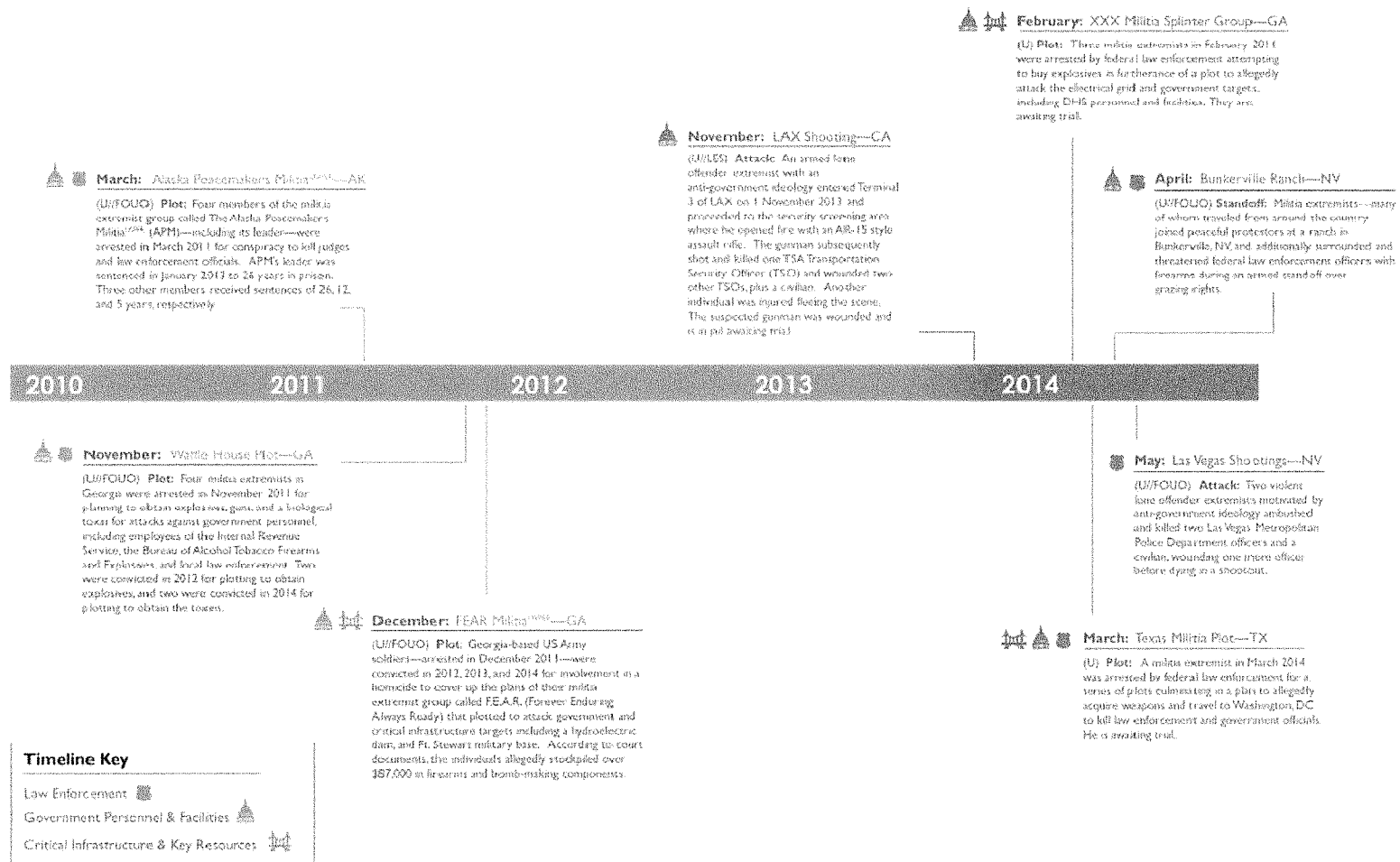
- » (U//FOUO) Out of the eight total incidents documented since 2010, government officials or facilities were targeted in seven incidents.<sup>21- 27</sup>
- » (U//FOUO) Federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel were targeted in five incidents.<sup>28- 34</sup>
- » (U//FOUO) CIKR was targeted in three incidents.<sup>35,36,37</sup>

(U//FOUO) **Outlook**

(U//FOUO) While I&A assesses that the rate of violent domestic extremist attacks motivated by anti-government ideology will increase over the next year, we do not expect a change in the traditional targets of these groups. We judge that attacks on government facilities and personnel will continue to be the priority followed by law enforcement and then CIKR.

## (U//FOUO) Timeline Shows Surge in Militia and Lone Offender Extremist Events with Anti-Government Motivations and Targets

(U//FOUO) This timeline illustrates a spike of five “significant” events involving militia extremist or lone offender extremists with similar anti-government ideologies over the last eight months, and the actual or alleged target(s) for each event. There have been only three other significant events since 2010. To be included as “significant,” an event must have a nexus to violence—either an actual attack, an arrest stemming from a plot that was interrupted before an attack could take place, or an armed standoff.



**(U) Source Summary Statement**

(U//FOUO) This article is based on a body of law enforcement and open source reporting from DHS, Southern Nevada Counterterrorism Center, FBI, and media ranging in reliability.

**(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) Tracked by:** HSEC-8.2, HSEC-8.5, HSEC-8.6, HSEC-8.8, HSEC-8.10

- <sup>1</sup> (U); Southern Nevada Counterterrorism Center; Homeland Security Advisory; "Shooting of Las Vegas Police Officers"; 9 June 2014.
- <sup>2</sup> (U); DHS; DHS-OS-0307-14; 23 May 2014.
- <sup>3</sup> (U); IIR 4 201 4498 14; 30 April 2014.
- <sup>4</sup> (U); DHS; DHS-OS-0297-14; 16 May 2014.
- <sup>5</sup> (U); DHS; DHS-OS-0307-14; 23 May 2014.
- <sup>6</sup> (U); DHS; DHS-OS-0262-14; 2 May 2014.
- <sup>7</sup> (U); DHS; DHS-OS-0318-14; 4 June 2014.
- <sup>8</sup> (U); DHS; DHS-OS-0088-14; 19 December 2013.
- <sup>9</sup> (U); "Police: Killer Las Vegas couple shouted about revolution, posted rants online"; [http://www.cnn.com/2014/06/09/justice/las-vegas-shooting-couple/index.html?hpt=hp\\_t1](http://www.cnn.com/2014/06/09/justice/las-vegas-shooting-couple/index.html?hpt=hp_t1).
- <sup>10</sup> (U); Southern Nevada Counterterrorism Center; Homeland Security Advisory; "Shooting of Las Vegas Police Officers"; 9 June 2014.
- <sup>11</sup> (U); United States District Court, Central District of California, Criminal Complaint, United States of America v. Paul Anthony Ciancia<sup>USPER</sup>; 2 November 2013.
- <sup>12</sup> (U); United States District Court Northern District of Georgia, United States of America v. Terry Eugene Peace<sup>USPER</sup>, Brian Edward Cannon<sup>USPER</sup>, Cory Robert Williamson<sup>USPER</sup>, Criminal Complaint Case Number: 4:14-MJ-10, 18 February 2014.
- <sup>13</sup> (U); United States District Court Southern District of Texas, United States of America v. Robert James Talbot Jr.<sup>USPER</sup>, Criminal Complaint Case Number: H14 – 321 MJ; 27 March 2014.
- <sup>14</sup> (U); "FBI investigating Bundy supporters in BLM dispute"; <http://www.8newsnow.com/story/25469579/breaking-news-fbi-investigating-bundy-supporters-in-blm-dispute>; accessed 20 May 2014.
- <sup>15</sup> (U); "Sheriff: FBI is investigating threats made to law enforcement during Bundy showdown"; <http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/bundy-blm/sheriff-fbi-investigating-threats-made-law-enforcement-during-bundy-showdown>; accessed 20 May 2014.
- <sup>16</sup> (U); FBI; IIR 4 201 4255 14; 18 April 2014.
- <sup>17</sup> (U); Southern Nevada Counterterrorism Center; Homeland Security Advisory; "Shooting of Las Vegas Police Officers"; 9 June 2014.
- <sup>18</sup> (U); Department of Justice, Press Release: "Fairbanks Residents Sentenced for Conspiracy to Murder Public Officials and Weapons Violations"; 9 January 2013.
- <sup>19</sup> (U); Federal Bureau of Investigation, Press Release: "North Georgia Men Arrested, Charged in Plots to Purchase Explosives, Silencer and to Manufacture a Biological Toxin"; 1 November 2011.
- <sup>20</sup> (U); US Army, Court Documents; US vs. Isaac G. Aguigui<sup>USPER</sup>; Stipulation of Fact; 7 May 2012.
- <sup>21</sup> (U); Department of Justice, Press Release: "Fairbanks Residents Sentenced for Conspiracy to Murder Public Officials and Weapons Violations"; 9 January 2013.
- <sup>22</sup> (U); Federal Bureau of Investigation, Press Release: "North Georgia Men Arrested, Charged in Plots to Purchase Explosives, Silencer and to Manufacture a Biological Toxin"; 1 November 2011.
- <sup>23</sup> (U); US Army, Court Documents; US vs. Isaac G. Aguigui<sup>USPER</sup>; Stipulation of Fact; 7 May 2012.
- <sup>24</sup> (U); United States District Court, Central District of California, Criminal Complaint, United States of America v. Paul Anthony Ciancia<sup>USPER</sup>; 2 November 2013.

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- <sup>25</sup> (U); United States District Court Northern District of Georgia, United States of America v. Terry Eugene Peace<sup>USPER</sup>, Brian Edward Cannon<sup>USPER</sup>, Cory Robert Williamson<sup>USPER</sup>, Criminal Complaint Case Number: 4:14-MJ-10; 18 February 2014.
- <sup>26</sup> (U); United States District Court Southern District of Texas, United States of America v. Robert James Talbot Jr.<sup>USPER</sup>, Criminal Complaint Case Number: H14 – 321 MJ; 27 March 2014.
- <sup>27</sup> (U); Southern Nevada Counterterrorism Center; Homeland Security Advisory; "Shooting of Las Vegas Police Officers"; 9 June 2014.
- <sup>28</sup> (U); United States District Court Southern District of Texas, United States of America v. Robert James Talbot Jr.<sup>USPER</sup>, Criminal Complaint Case Number: H14 – 321 MJ; 27 March 2014.
- <sup>29</sup> (U); "FBI investigating Bundy supporters in BLM dispute"; <http://www.8newsnow.com/story/25469579/breaking-news-fbi-investigating-bundy-supporters-in-blm-dispute>; accessed 20 May 2014.
- <sup>30</sup> (U); "Sheriff: FBI is investigating threats made to law enforcement during Bundy showdown"; <http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/bundy-blm/sheriff-fbi-investigating-threats-made-law-enforcement-during-bundy-showdown>; accessed 20 May 2014.
- <sup>31</sup> (U); FBI; IIR 4 201 4255 14; 18 April 2014.
- <sup>32</sup> (U); Southern Nevada Counterterrorism Center; Homeland Security Advisory; "Shooting of Las Vegas Police Officers"; 9 June 2014.
- <sup>33</sup> (U); Department of Justice, Press Release: "Fairbanks Residents Sentenced for Conspiracy to Murder Public Officials and Weapons Violations"; 9 January 2013.
- <sup>34</sup> (U); Federal Bureau of Investigation, Press Release: "North Georgia Men Arrested, Charged in Plots to Purchase Explosives, Silencer and to Manufacture a Biological Toxin"; 1 November 2011.
- <sup>35</sup> (U); US Army, Court Documents; US vs. Isaac G. Aguigui<sup>USPER</sup>; Stipulation of Fact; 7 May 2012.
- <sup>36</sup> (U); United States District Court Northern District of Georgia, United States of America v. Terry Eugene Peace<sup>USPER</sup>, Brian Edward Cannon<sup>USPER</sup>, Cory Robert Williamson<sup>USPER</sup>, Criminal Complaint Case Number: 4:14-MJ-10; 18 February 2014.
- <sup>37</sup> (U); United States District Court Southern District of Texas, United States of America v. Robert James Talbot Jr.<sup>USPER</sup>, Criminal Complaint Case Number: H14 – 321 MJ; 27 March 2014.