



JOINT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



2 March 2021

(U//FOUO) National Capital Region Remains Attractive Target for Domestic Violent Extremists

(U) Scope

(U//FOUO) This *Joint Intelligence Bulletin (JIB)* is part of a series of products intended to highlight potential domestic violent extremist (DVE) threats to the National Capital Region (NCR) following the breach of the US Capitol Building in Washington, DC, on 6 January 2021. Anti-government or anti-authority violent extremists, specifically militia violent extremists (MVEs);^{a,b} racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists;^c and DVEs citing partisan political grievances will likely pose the greatest domestic terrorism threats in 2021. The FBI and DHS advise federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial government counterterrorism and law enforcement officials to remain vigilant in light of the persistent threat posed by DVEs and their unpredictable target selection in order to effectively detect, prevent, preempt, or respond to incidents and terrorist attacks in the United States.

^a (U//FOUO) Anti-government or anti-authority violent extremism encompasses the potentially unlawful use or threat of force or violence, in furtherance of political and/or social agendas, which are deemed to derive from anti-government or anti-authority sentiment, including opposition to perceived economic, social, or racial hierarchies; or perceived government overreach, negligence, or illegitimacy.

^b (U//FOUO) **Militia violent extremism** falls within the overarching domestic terrorism threat category of anti-government or anti-authority violent extremism. The FBI and DHS define **militia violent extremists (MVEs)** as individuals who seek, wholly or in part through unlawful acts of force or violence, to further their belief that the US Government is purposely exceeding its Constitutional authority and is attempting to establish a totalitarian regime. Consequently, these individuals oppose many federal and state laws and regulations, particularly those related to firearms ownership. MVEs take overt steps to violently resist or facilitate the overthrow of the US Government. 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.

^c (U//FOUO) **Racially or ethnically motivated violent extremism** encompasses the potentially unlawful use or threat of force or violence, in furtherance of political and/or social agendas, which are deemed to derive from bias, often related to race or ethnicity, held by the actor against others, including a given population group.

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(U//FOUO) National Capital Region Provides Abundance of Targets for Domestic Violent Extremists

(U//FOUO) We assess that symbols of government, law enforcement, and ideologically opposed individuals in the NCR continue to be possible targets for violence by some DVEs, who likely are emboldened by the 6 January breach of the US Capitol Building. DVEs probably perceive the NCR as an attractive target and may seek to exploit public gatherings, either formally organized or spontaneous, to engage in violence. Our insight into specific threats is increasingly constrained by the expanding use of secure communications by DVEs following the arrest of individuals involved in the Capitol breach.

- » (U//LES) Continued DVE perceptions of election fraud and other conspiracy theories associated with the presidential transition may contribute to DVEs mobilizing to violence with little or no warning. Some DVEs motivated by the QAnon conspiracy theory believe that the previous president will be inaugurated on 4 March or will return to power on 20 May with the help of the US military.^d
- » (U//LES) As of late February, an unidentified group of MVEs discussed plans to take control of the US Capitol and remove Democratic lawmakers on or about 4 March and discussed aspirational plans to persuade thousands to travel to Washington, DC, to participate, according to FBI reporting. MVEs also have allegedly threatened an attack against the US Capitol using explosives to kill as many members of Congress as possible during the upcoming State of the Union address, according to the US Capitol Police Chief.
- » (U//FOUO) Popular social media companies removed accounts for inciting and organizing violence or otherwise violating their terms of service following the breach of the US Capitol, causing an influx of downloads of encrypted communications applications. In 2020, DVEs discussed operational aspects of attack planning on encrypted applications, probably to avoid law enforcement detection.

(U) Outlook

(U//FOUO) The FBI and DHS remain concerned that DVEs could continue to mobilize to violence due to a unique confluence of ideological, personal, and sociopolitical factors. The FBI and DHS continue to assess that violence is most likely to be committed by lone offenders or small cells using simple tactics and easy-to-acquire weapons. The FBI and DHS note that, due to the highly personal nature of radicalization to violence, it is difficult to assess specific indicators that are indicative of US-based violent extremists attempting to support violence at home or abroad. The FBI and DHS urge state and local authorities to promptly report suspicious activities related to potential domestic violent extremism.

^d (U//FOUO) Generating, accessing, discussing, or otherwise interacting with QAnon-related content without engaging in violence or other criminal activity may be legal and protected by the First Amendment.

(U) Related Products

- » (U//FOUO) For additional information regarding threats to government facilities or personnel from DVEs, please refer to the below intelligence products:
- » (U//FOUO) Intelligence in Depth, “Heightened Domestic Violent Extremist Threat to Persist in 2021,” released 1 March 2021.
- » (U//LES) Intelligence In Focus, “Domestic Terrorists Will Pose Increased Threat to Government Facilities, Personnel in 2021,” released 12 February 2021.
- » (U//FOUO) Reference Aid, “ADMINISTRATIVE REVISION: Probable Indicators of Violence in the Wake of the US Capitol Breach,” released 11 February 2021.
- » (U//FOUO) Joint Threat Assessment, “59th Presidential Inauguration, Washington, DC” released on 14 January 2021.

(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) Administrative Note: Law Enforcement Response

(U//FOUO) Information contained in this intelligence bulletin is for official use only. No portion of this bulletin should be released to the media, the general public, or over nonsecure Internet servers. Release of this material could adversely affect or jeopardize investigative activities.

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(U) Tracked by: HSEC-8.1, HSEC-8.2, HSEC-8.5, HSEC-8.8



Homeland Security

Office of Intelligence and Analysis

Customer Feedback Form

Product Title: (U//FOUO) National Capital Region Remains Attractive Target for Domestic Violent Extremists

All survey responses are completely anonymous. No personally identifiable information is captured unless you voluntarily offer personal or contact information in any of the comment fields. Additionally, your responses are combined with those of many others and summarized in a report to further protect your anonymity.

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"/>

5. How do you plan to use this product in support of your mission? (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drive planning and preparedness efforts, training, and/or emergency response operations | <input type="checkbox"/> Initiate a law enforcement investigation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Observe, identify, and/or disrupt threats | <input type="checkbox"/> Intiate your own regional-specific analysis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Share with partners | <input type="checkbox"/> Intiate your own topic-specific analysis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allocate resources (e.g. equipment and personnel) | <input type="checkbox"/> Develop long-term homeland security strategies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reprioritize organizational focus | <input type="checkbox"/> Do not plan to use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Author or adjust policies and guidelines | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/> |

6. To further understand your response to question #5, please provide specific details about situations in which you might use this product.

7. What did this product not address that you anticipated it would?

8. To what extent do you agree with the following two statements?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
This product will enable me to make better decisions regarding this topic.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This product provided me with intelligence information I did not find elsewhere.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. How did you obtain this product?

10. Would you be willing to participate in a follow-up conversation about your feedback?

To help us understand more about your organization so we can better tailor future products, please provide:

Name: <input type="text"/>	Position: <input type="text"/>
Organization: <input type="text"/>	State: <input type="text"/>
Contact Number: <input type="text"/>	Email: <input type="text"/>



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