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(U) Militia Extremists Expand Target Sets To Include Muslims

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(U//FOUO) Militia extremists are expanding their target sets to include Muslims and Islamic religious institutions in the United States. This has resulted in increased violent rhetoric and plotting and has the potential to lead, over the long term, to additional harassment of or violence against Muslims by domestic extremists. The FBI makes these assessments with high confidence on the basis of a large body of source reporting generated mainly since 2013. This information augments prior FBI analysis that established militia extremists target government personnel and law enforcement officers, perceived threats from abroad, and individuals or institutions that seek to constrain Second Amendment rights.1,2

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(U) Source Summary Statement

(U//FOUO) The information in this bulletin is drawn from FBI and open sources of varying reliability. The FBI has medium to high confidence in FBI source information, which includes confidential sources and contacts with varying levels of access, corroboration, and reliability. The FBI has low-to-high confidence in open source information drawn from Internet news articles, video, and Weblogs. Much of the open source information reflects opinion or information borrowed without attribution and is therefore of questionable reliability. It is, however, used here to show the type of information that is available to extremists and influential in affirming their beliefs. Confidence levels for specific sources appear within the text of this bulletin.

(U) Low Confidence generally means the information’s credibility or plausibility is questionable, the information is too fragmented or poorly corroborated to make solid analytic inferences, or the FBI has significant concerns or problems with the sources. Medium Confidence generally means the information is credibly sourced and plausible but can be interpreted in various ways or is not of sufficient quality or corroborated sufficiently to warrant a higher level of confidence. High Confidence generally indicates judgments are based on high-quality information from multiple sources or from a single highly reliable source or the nature of the issue makes it possible to render a solid judgment.

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(U) Communities, Mosques, Gathering Places Attract Extremist Interest

(U//FOUO) The FBI assesses militia extremists, increasingly over the past two years, have conducted surveillance, plotted, and advocated violence against mosques and Islamic centers across the United States and specific Muslim communities.

- (U//FOUO) Multiple sources with varying levels of access report conducting surveillance in diverse locations including Alaska, Arizona, Indiana, Montana, New York, North and South Carolina, Utah, and Texas.
- (U//FOUO) A reliable source with good access to the information reported that a leader of a militia extremist group in the western United States expressed in early 2015, interest in training members for direct action against ISIS and associated ISIS locations.
- (U//FOUO) In September 2014 militia extremists in Mississippi discussed kidnapping and beheading a Muslim and posting video of the attack to the Internet, according to reliable sources with good access to the information. The group has, however, since disbanded.
- (U//FOUO) A militia extremist posted calls over social media to kill Muslims attending worship services and during a public event in 2013, according to a reliable source with direct access to the information.

(U) Muslim Bias Fuels Conspiracy Theories about Terrorist Training Camps

(U//FOUO) The FBI assesses militia extremist interest in Islam as a target is a product of ideology that views Muslims collectively with suspicion. Salient perceptions within militia extremism that contribute toward an anti-Muslim bias include the following:

- (U//FOUO) Islam represents a foreign threat, equivalent to those which emanate from illegal immigration or international terrorism.
- (U//FOUO) The President of the United States not only sympathizes with Islamic extremists but directs US Government policy to align with their goals.

(U//FOUO) The FBI assesses various claims the US government allows the group Muslims of the Americas (aka Jamaat ul Fuqra, hereinafter referred to as MOA) to operate terrorist training camps at dozens of locations across the United States resonate with adherents of a militia

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b (U//FOUO) Pakistan-based Sheikh Syed Mubarik Ali Shah Gilani founded Jamaat Ul Fuqra, now known as the Muslims of the Americas (MOA), in New York City circa 1980. MOA is a North American Sufi Islamic group consisting predominantly of African-American Muslims. The group has approximately 1500 dedicated members, who reside in nine rural jamaats (communities) in the United States: Hancock, New York (headquarters); Coldwater, Michigan; Dover, Tennessee; Sweeny, Texas; Commerce and Odum, Georgia; York, South Carolina; Red House and Meherrin, Virginia. Two are outside the United States in Barry’s Bay, Canada, and Las Lomas, Trinidad.
ideology who seek validation of anti-government conspiracy theories. 29,30,c These assertions—repeated over the course of a decade by self-appointed watchdogs of Islamic extremism, Internet bloggers, and some news media—are based in part on official government information which bolsters claims the US Government chooses to ignore the camps. Accusations about the camps periodically surge, most recently in the wake of the 7 January 2015 terrorist attack against the French magazine Charlie Hebdo. 39,40,41,42

• (U) Investigation of five MOA members for fraud by the state of Colorado in the early 1990s uncovered evidence the group could have ties to domestic terrorism. 43

• (U//LES) A restricted law enforcement report issued in 2006 and subsequently released to the public identified the location of seven MOA “training compounds.”44

• (U) Internet news reports about the MOA camps reference declassified FBI documents from the period 2005-2007.45

(U) Outlook and Implications

(U//FOUO) Militia extremists will likely continue to identify and discuss potential Muslim targets, should the level of concern generally about Islamic terrorism remain at current levels. The FBI further assesses primary target choices will continue to include locations easiest to access, such as local mosques or religious institutions, followed by locations portrayed by Internet sources as having threat potential, including MOA enclaves. Militia supporters also will likely continue to conduct surveillance of targets as they are identified. FBI confidence in these assessments is medium on the basis of current intelligence.

(U//FOUO) Assuming no new incidents or high profile controversies relating to Islam or Islamic extremism raise domestic extremist intent levels, the likelihood domestic extremists will harass or commit violence against Muslims or religious institutions is low. This assessment is made with low confidence, as domestic lone actors and small cells possess varied capability to attack Muslim targets. Successful acquisition of resources and detailed planning raise capability levels and, combined with heightened intent, likelihood of violence.

• (U//FOUO) Assertions MOA communities provide terrorist training are unfounded, according to FBI information. Recent intelligence from public and confidential sources indicates some individuals are beginning to replace MOA with ISIL in their correspondence.
(U//FOUO) Alternately, incorporation of anti-Islamic attitudes has potential further to dilute core militia ideological beliefs, which currently extend far beyond Second Amendment concerns. Indicators of a fragmenting ideology could include a noticeable reduction in rhetoric pertaining to the traditional core concern over Second Amendment rights, the addition of new types of targets, and actions or decisions made based upon current events rather than ideology. This last indicator is supported by recent FBI analysis that suggests militia extremists are influenced to act by news events which they interpret through their belief system, as opposed to acting based on those beliefs.46

(U) This intelligence bulletin addresses the following FBI National Standing Intelligence Collection Requirements: USA-TERR-CTD-SR-0180-10.I.A.2.

(U) This intelligence bulletin was prepared by the FBI Domestic Terrorism Analysis Unit, Counterterrorism Analysis Section (CTAS) of the Counterterrorism Division. Comments and queries may be addressed to the CTAS Section Chief by calling 571-280-5253 or via e-mail at FBI_CTAS@ic.fbi.gov.
(U) Endnotes

1 (U) FBI; Primer; September 2012; (U//LES) Militia Extremism: An Introduction for Law Enforcement; UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE; The Primer is a basic source for information about domestic militia extremism.
2 (U//FOOU) FBI; Intelligence Bulletin; 9 January 2015; “Militia Extremists Demonstrate Potential to Collaborate Nationally over Diverse Issues”; UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.
3 (U//FOOU) FBI Information.
4 (U//FOOU) FBI Information.
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27 (U//FOOU) FBI Information.
28 (U//FOOU) FBI Information.
29 (U//FOOU) FBI Information.
30 (U//FOOU) FBI Information.
32 (U) Weblog; Pamela Geller; “Muslim Terror Training Camps in the United States”; [May] 2009; http://pamelageller.com/2009/05/muslim-terror-training-camps-in-the-united-states.htm; accessed 26 March 2015. Source is the personal Website of a conservative activist and blogger and published author who appears on numerous news programs. Source claims to be dedicated to exposing examples of Islamic extremism in the United States. Source was involved in the campaign against construction of a mosque in lower Manhattan and more recently served as a lead sponsor of the Muhammad Art Exhibit and Contest in Garland, Texas.
34 (U) Internet News Article; WND; “35 Terror Training Camps Now Operating Inside U.S.: Government does nothing to impede expansion of ‘Soldiers of Allah’ network”; 2 January 2012; http://www.wnd.com/2012/01/381953/; accessed 13 April 2015. Source bills itself as an independent Internet news company devoted to exposing corruption, fraud, waste, and abuse of power by government. The site claims to attract more than 40 million page views per month.


39 (U) Internet News Article; “We are Charlie, Indeed! 22 Islamic Terror Camps in the U.S.: Groups fly under radar as Congress seems unconcerned”; WND; 13 January 2015; http://www.wnd.com/2015/01/22-terror-camps-verified-inside-u-s/; accessed 26 March 2015. Source bills itself as an independent Internet news company devoted to exposing corruption, fraud, waste, and abuse of power by government. The site claims to attract more than 40 million page views per month.


45 (U) Internet News Article; Tom Orr; “Do your own homework: ‘For the Record’ research for ‘Sleeper Cell’”; The Blaze; 19 February 2014; http://www.theblaze.com/blog/2014/02/19/do-your-own-homework-for-the-records-research-for-sleeper-cell/; accessed 8 April 2015. Source produces politically conservative news and information for an Internet audience.

46 (U//LES) FBI; Intelligence Bulletin; “Militia Extremists Demonstrate Potential to Collaborate Nationally over Diverse Issues”; 9 January 2015 UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE; UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE. Source is finished intelligence that documents recent tactics and trends.
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