



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN
Counterterrorism Division

28 May 2015

(U) Militia Extremists Expand Target Sets To Include Muslims

(U) **LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE:** The information marked (U//LES) in this document is the property of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and may be distributed within the federal government (and its contractors), U.S. intelligence, law enforcement, public safety or protection officials, and individuals with a need to know. Distribution beyond these entities without FBI authorization is prohibited. Precautions should be taken to ensure this information is stored and/or destroyed in a manner that precludes unauthorized access. Information bearing the LES caveat may not be used in legal proceedings without first receiving authorization from the originating agency. Recipients are prohibited from subsequently posting the information marked LES on a website on an unclassified network without first obtaining FBI approval.

(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^a 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}

UNCLASSIFIED

(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.

^a (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.

(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.^{3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13}
- (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.¹⁴
- (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.^{15,16} 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.^{17,18}

(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.^{19,20,21,22,23,24}
- (U//FOUO) The President of the United States not only sympathizes with Islamic extremists but directs US Government policy to align with their goals.^{25,26,27,28}

(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)^b to operate terrorist training camps at dozens of locations across the United States resonate with adherents of a militia

^b (U//FOUO) Pakistan-based Sheikh Syed Mubarak 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,^{31,32} Internet bloggers,^{33,34,35} and some news media^{36,37,38}—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.

^c (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) Figure 1: MOA Camp Locations
Created for a documentary about MOA terrorist training camps c.2009, this image is now widely presented on the Internet as both factual and current.
Source: <http://conservativepapers.com>

UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

(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.

UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

(U) Endnotes

¹ (U) FBI; Primer; September 2012; (U//LES) *Militia Extremism: An Introduction for Law Enforcement*; UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE; UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE;. The Primer is a basic source for information about domestic militia extremism.

² (U//FOUO) FBI; Intelligence Bulletin; 9 January 2015; “Militia Extremists Demonstrate Potential to Collaborate Nationally over Diverse Issues”; UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

³ (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

⁴ (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

⁵ (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

⁶ (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

⁷ (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

⁸ (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

⁹ (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

¹⁰ (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

¹¹ (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

¹² (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

¹³ (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

¹⁴ (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

¹⁵ (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

¹⁶ (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

¹⁷ (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

¹⁸ (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

¹⁹ (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

²⁰ (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

²¹ (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

²² (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

²³ (U) Internet News Article; “American Jihad-Terrorist Cells Training Camps in USA”; *Ice News*; Issue 452, National; 25 January 2015; <http://www.ice-news.net/2015/01/25/american-jihad-terrorist-cells-training-camps-in-usa/>; accessed 28 March 2015. The *Illinois Conservative Examiner* bills itself as a “Web site that champions the Republican Conservative agenda” by providing news devoted to items of state and national interest.

²⁴ (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

²⁵ (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

²⁶ (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

²⁷ (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

²⁸ (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

²⁹ (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

³⁰ (U//FOUO) FBI Information.

³¹ (U) Video; Christian Action Network/PBR Films; “Homegrown Jihad – The Terrorist Camps Around the US”; 2009; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IjML6FN8yjo>; accessed 26 March 2015. Source is

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.

³³ (U) Weblog; The Politics of CP; “UPDATE: Aliville Located Near Nuclear Plant”; 15 August 2006; http://politicsofcp.blogspot.com/2006_08_01_archive.html; accessed 10 April 2015. Source is a defunct Weblog that bills itself as an archive of information intended to “expose” al-Fuqra and MOA. The site was last updated in September 2007.

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.

UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

³⁵ (U) Internet News Article; “Muslim Terrorist Training Camps in North America: New report of radical, anti-U.S. Islamic centers confirms our 2004-05 findings”; <http://homelandsecurityus.com/special-investigative-reports/muslims-terrorist-training-camps-in-north-america/>; accessed 8 April 2015. Source bills itself as a network of independent investigators who seek to identify Muslim terrorist plots, including activities associated with Jamaat al-Fuqra/MOA. Since 2008 the group has increasingly focused on the existence of supposed secret conspiracies within the US Government.

³⁶ (U) Internet News Video; “Report: Texas Islamic ‘Village’ Linked to Extremist Group in Pakistan”; *Fox News*; 20 February 2014; <http://insider.foxnews.com/2014/02/20/report-texas-islamic-village-linked-extremist-group-pakistan>; accessed 24 February 2015. Source is an International news outlet presenting a right-of-center viewpoint.

³⁷ (U) Internet News; “Exposing Islamic Extremists”; *Fox News*; 15 January 2015; <http://www.foxnews.com/transcript/2015/01/15/exposing-islamic-extremists/>; accessed 24 April 2015. Source is an International news outlet presenting a right-of-center viewpoint.

³⁸ (U) Internet News Article; Sara Carter; “For the Record: Sleeper Cells Inside Our Nation?”; 19 February 2014; *The Blaze*; <http://www.theblaze.com/stories/2014/02/19/for-the-record-sleeper-cells-inside-our-nation/>; accessed 8 April 2015. Source produces politically conservative news and information for an Internet audience.

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.

⁴⁰ (U) Internet News Article; “22 Islamic Terrorist Camps Located in the US: Will U.S. law enforcement act accordingly?”; *Western Journalism*; 16 January 2015; <http://www.westernjournalism.com/22-islamic-terrorist-camps-us/>; accessed 8 April 2015. Source bills itself as a news Web site and blogging platform built for conservative, free market and pro-family writers and broadcasters.

⁴¹ (U) Internet Posting; “You Have An ISIS Training Camp In Your Back Yard If You Live Here! Look At BOTH Maps!”; 27 January 2015; *Patriot News Wire*; <http://patriotnewswire.com/2015/01/isis-training-camp-back-yard-live-look-maps/>; accessed 13 April 2015. Source bills itself as an Internet-based conservative news feed.

⁴² (U) Internet News Video; “Video: Muslims Train for Guerilla Warfare in New York”; *Fox News*; 14 January 2015; <http://nation.foxnews.com/2015/01/14/video-muslim-training-guerilla-warfare-new-york>; accessed 24 April 2015. Source is an International news outlet presenting a right-of-center viewpoint.

⁴³ (U) Report; “Information Regarding Colorado’s Investigation and Prosecution of members of Jamaat ul Fuqra”; Colorado Attorney General; Department of Law; 9 February 2005; <http://www.ago.state.co.us/Reports/fuqra.stm>; accessed [date]. Source is an official report of the State of Colorado.

⁴⁴ (U//LES) Report; “Jamaat-ul-Fuqra: Gilani Followers Conducting Paramilitary Training in the U.S.”; Special Research Report; Regional Organized Crime Information Center; 2006. Source is an official publication of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, US Department of Justice.

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.

UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

Distribution

All FBI Field Divisions
FBI Intranet
Law Enforcement Online
State, Local, Tribal law enforcement

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
Bureau of Land Management
Centers for Disease Control
Department of Agriculture - Intel
Department of the Interior - Intel
DHS Intelligence and Analysis
Environmental Protection Agency - Intel
Federal Emergency Management Administration
Federal Protective Service
National Park Service - Intel
Naval Criminal Investigative Service
Transportation Security Administration
Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration
US Air Force - OSI
US Army-Criminal Investigative Division
US Capitol Police
US Coast Guard Investigative Service
US Customs and Border Protection
US Department of Energy – Office of Secure Transport
US Department of Homeland Security
US Department of Interior
US Department of Justice
US Department of Transportation - Intel
US Department of Treasury – IRS/CID
US Drug Enforcement Administration - Intel
US Secret Service