

Cyber Intelligence Note

Virginia Fusion Center

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December 8, 2014

Malicious Activists May Promote Harm to Emergency Management Vehicles Observed During Violent Protests CIN 14-10

(U//FOUO) The Virginia Fusion Center (VFC) has observed via open sources that actors affiliated with the Anonymous hacktivist movement released a video which purportedly identifies a Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) vehicle as a tool for law enforcement wiretapping efforts by police and fusion center personnel in Chicago, Illinois.^{1,2} The VFC is sharing this information for situational awareness, as emergency management vehicles operating near protest areas may be targeted by precipitating violent or malicious activity.



Figure 1. Image of observed OEMC vehicle.

(U//FOUO) The YouTube.com video was published by user anon2world on December 5, 2014 and includes multiple images, presumably obtained via social media, of an emergency communications vehicle present at or near a protest site in Chicago, Illinois on November 28. The video purportedly includes radio communications between police and fusion center personnel (unrelated to the vehicle) that suggest the vehicle is a “stingray”³ or “cell site manipulator” that can intercept the phone communications of demonstrators.

(U//FOUO) The video does not suggest violent recourse. However, commenters on the popular web forum Reddit.com, where the video was one of the top viewed posts, have expressed an interest in responding to similar vehicles via technical, subversive, or violent means.⁴ Additionally, an “emergency guide” for activists being monitored by supposed “stingray” devices was also published anonymously to Pastebin.com on December 6, and encourages protesters to “physically get in the way” of purported vehicles and inhibit their movement.⁵

¹ PrivacySOS, <https://privacysos.org/node/1609>

² YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xpdpiX8Vsfw>

³ ACLU, Stingray tracking devices, <https://www.aclu.org/node/37337>

⁴ Reddit, https://www.reddit.com/r/news/comments/2ofby2/anonymous_has_released_a_video_featuring_what/

⁵ Pastebin, <http://pastebin.com/mpayjwzw>

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(U) Posts Observed on Reddit.com Discussion:

↑ [-] [zambouca](#) 12 points 6 hours ago
 ↓ how can we block one of these if in the situation?
 permalink save report give gold reply

↑ [-] [astro_nova](#) 11 points 3 hours ago
 ↓ The honest answer? Burn the car. It's the only way.
 permalink save parent report give gold reply

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↑ [-] [powpowpowpowpow](#) 6 points 4 hours ago*
 ↓ it would be illegal if someone were to accidentally operate a device at protests that happened to operate at the frequencies that this truck is using. That would block their transmissions. I sure hope that this doesn't happen.
 permalink save report give gold reply

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↑ [-] [notjosh](#) 8 points 4 hours ago
 ↓ Fuck's sake America, I thought the whole point of owning all those guns you love was that could rise up against oppressive governments? Or do you just like playing with them? Someone could at least have knocked out the tyres on that fucking thing.
 permalink save report give gold reply

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↑ [-] [hellrunner](#) 4 points 10 hours ago
 ↓ There's one in Chesterfield VA and it's only supposed to be used with a court order or a search warrant. (I have no idea if that's a stingray in the OP though)
 permalink save parent report give gold reply

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↑ [-] [smthsmth](#) 2 points 6 hours ago
 ↓ If you see one of those cars, or are just some random person at a protest, make a bunch of phone calls saying "I think I just overheard someone saying there was a bomb at [other side of town]"
 permalink save report give gold reply

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(U//FOUO) Emergency management vehicles deployed to potential protest areas, particularly areas which may have a propensity for violence, should exercise caution and maintain proper communications with sworn law enforcement personnel. Furthermore, vehicle operators should also be aware that they may be targeted by non-violent methods in order to inhibit their vehicle movements in the area.

(U//FOUO) Please contact the VFC should you have any information or questions associated with this bulletin. The VFC can be reached by phone at 804-674-2196 or by email at VFC@vsp.virginia.gov.

⁶ Reddit, https://www.reddit.com/r/news/comments/2ofby2/anonymous_has_released_a_video_featuring_what/cmmuk4y

⁷ Reddit, https://www.reddit.com/r/news/comments/2ofby2/anonymous_has_released_a_video_featuring_what/cmmtzdb

⁸ Reddit, https://www.reddit.com/r/news/comments/2ofby2/anonymous_has_released_a_video_featuring_what/cmmu58j

⁹ Reddit, https://www.reddit.com/r/news/comments/2ofby2/anonymous_has_released_a_video_featuring_what/cmmoe1u

¹⁰ Reddit, https://www.reddit.com/r/news/comments/2ofby2/anonymous_has_released_a_video_featuring_what/cmmsw2d