(U//LES) Potential for Violence and Planned Actions for Counteracting Law Enforcement Security Measures at 17 January 2021 First Amendment Protected Events by Several Followers of a Militant Anti-Government Movement

SOURCE A: (U) A collaborative source.

SOURCE B: (U) A collaborative source.

(U//LES) As of December 2020, followers of a militant anti-government movement, the Boogaloo movement, planned to hold rallies on 17 January 2021 in various cities across the United States. Some followers indicated

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willingness to commit violence in support of their ideology, created contingency plans in the event violence occurred at the events, and identified law enforcement security measures and possible countermeasures.

(U//FOUO) FBI comment. Source A, a collaborative source with direct access, provided the information in paragraph 3.)

(U//LES) As of December 2020, a few Minnesota-based followers of the Boogaloo movement had identified law enforcement security measures taken at the Minnesota State Capitol building in early December 2020 in preparation for a First Amendment protected event also at the state capitol planned for 17 January 2021 in support of the Boogaloo movement. The individuals previously attended other First Amendment protected events held at the Minnesota State Capitol building in early December 2020 to perform reconnaissance to identify escape points and defensible positions in the event violence occurred. They scouted general law enforcement presence and identified law enforcement numbers, over watch points, and quick reaction force groups. They also identified law enforcement sniper locations and considered breaking into federal buildings for use as firing locations, if fighting occurred. One Boogaloo movement follower indicated the building with the snipers would need to be blown up in order to protect Boogaloo fighters in the event of a gun battle during the event. Since law enforcement officers at previous events had colored duct tape on the back of their body armor, the same movement follower planned to also put colored duct tape on the back of his body armor to appear as law enforcement and cause confusion. At least one follower expressed his willingness to die for the Boogaloo movement. (Source comment. The movement followers did not identify any specific attack plot, but planned to use violence if a fight occurred at the 17 January 2021 event.)

(U//FOUO) FBI comment. Source B, a collaborative source with direct access, provided the information in paragraph 5.)

(U//LES) As of December 2020, a Michigan-based Boogaloo movement follower suggested the idea of using a gasoline-based device with a tripwire in Lansing, Michigan to cause a distraction while other individuals ‘take’ the capitol (NFI). The same movement follower considered himself at war with the government, particularly with politicians and federal agents, and wanted to make a statement with the actions.

(U//FOUO) FBI comment: Boogaloo movement supporters believe an impending insurgency against the government is forthcoming and some believe they should accelerate the timeline with armed, anti-government actions leading to a civil war. The ideology is primarily anti-government, anti-authority, and anti-law enforcement in nature. Some Boogaloo movement followers have been known to travel to areas of civil unrest with the purpose of threatening to commit violent acts. Some Boogaloo movement followers are known to carry firearms while being prohibited from possessing firearms, make illegal modification to their firearms, or illegally acquire firearm accessories.

(U) This report has been prepared by the MINNEAPOLIS Division of the FBI. Comments and queries may be addressed to the MINNEAPOLIS Division at 763-569-8000.
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