

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION EXTERNAL INTELLIGENCE NOTE



(U//LES) Boogaloo Adherents Likely Increasing Anti-Government Violent Rhetoric and Activities, Increasing Domestic Violent Extremist Threat in the FBI Dallas Area of Responsibility



(U) PREPARED BY FBI DALLAS FIELD OFFICE

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(U//LES) FBI Dallas Field Office assesses boogaloo^a adherents, such as militia violent extremists (MVEs) and other anti-government or anti-authority violent extremists, likely^b are increasing anti-government violent rhetoric and criminal activities, increasing the threat of violent lone actors in the FBI Dallas area of responsibility (AOR) including the area of North Texas. FBI Dallas Field Office also assesses boogaloo adherents likely are influencing individuals already suspicious of perceived US Government (USG) overreach to participate in online and in-person anti-government events, increasing their influence and the threat of violence at otherwise peaceful protests in the FBI Dallas AOR. These assessments are made with medium confidence,^c based on social media posts, open source reporting, other law enforcement reporting, and human source reporting with varying levels of access.

(U//LES) These assessments are based on these key assumptions: the purposes of the boogaloo concept and those who adhere to boogaloo rhetoric, are to denote a large-scale violent conflict with the government culminating in a second Civil War through violence or criminal activity due to perceived government overreach or abuses, and individuals arrested thus far who were associated with the boogaloo concept are reflective of the goals and aspirations of the wider boogaloo

^a (U//FOUO) *Analyst Note*: Boogaloo refers to a second Civil War or impending insurgency against the government due to perceived abuses of power and overreach, especially those associated with the Second Amendment and abuses of law enforcement authority.

^b (U) See Appendix A: Expressions of Likelihood.

^c (U) See Appendix B: Confidence in Assessments and Judgments Based on a Body of Information.

adherent community and are not outliers. FBI Dallas Field Office judges in the next three months leading up to the January 2021 inauguration with the presidential elections acting as a potential flashpoint, boogaloo adherents likely will expand influence within the FBI Dallas AOR due to the presence of existing anti-government or anti-authority violent extremists, the sentiment of perceived USG overreach, heightened tensions due to COVID-19 related state and local restrictions, and violence or criminal activity at lawful protests as a result of the death of an African American USPER in Minneapolis,^d Minnesota, factors that led to violence at otherwise peaceful and lawful protests in the FBI Dallas AOR. Indicators that these assessments are correct would include an increased social media presence of boogaloo adherents and increased “patrolling” at lawful protests.

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(U) Source Summary Statement

(U//LES) Reporting in this external intelligence note was derived primarily from social media posts, news reports, joint FBI-DHS-NCTC intelligence products, and reporting from FBI human sources. The joint FBI-DHS-NCTC products provided context and additional insight into the boogaloo concept as an anti-government or anti-authority concept rather than a specific term used by racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists. Specifically cited in this product are four FBI human sources, all with direct access. Two human sources were critical to the key analytical judgments in the product. One of the sources has reported various threats since 2017 and some of the information reported has been corroborated. Another human source with direct access provided context on the anti-government or anti-authority threat due to historically providing corroborated anti-government or anti-authority extremist reporting in the FBI Dallas AOR. Collection occurred between 1 March 2020 through 20 June 2020, and was current as of 20 June 2020.

(U//LES) Boogaloo Adherents Likely Increasing Anti-Government or Anti-Authority Violent Rhetoric and Activities, Increasing Threat of Violent Lone Actor in FBI Dallas AOR

(U//LES) FBI Dallas Field Office judges boogaloo adherents, such as MVE and other anti-government or anti-authority violent extremists, likely are increasing anti-government violent rhetoric and criminal activities, increasing the threat of violent lone actors in the FBI Dallas AOR,^e including the area of North Texas. FBI Dallas Field Office based this assessment on the significant increase of violent social media posts of several boogaloo adherents in Texas, which, although some posts are First Amendment protected, indicate a propensity toward violence and acquiring weapons that cause mass casualties, used by a small number of attackers. Additionally, several boogaloo adherents nationally have conducted violent attacks, showing the boogaloo concept

^d (U) *Analyst Note:* On 25 May 2020 Minneapolis police officers arrested an USPER, a 46-year-old black man who shortly thereafter died in police custody while pinned beneath three police officers. This death, along with other recent deaths of black Americans led to violence at otherwise peaceful protests across the United States.

^e (U) *Analyst Note:* On 13 March 2020 according to open source reporting, an USPER in northeast Texas posted on social media boogaloo references and claimed to be ready to attack law enforcement. In mid-April 2020 the same USPER live-streamed on social media that he was searching for a police officer to kill.

attracts lone actors. The number of boogaloo adherents at in-person events since May 2020 and the decentralized, loosely organized nature of the movement are favorable to such lone actor activity.

- (U//FOUO) As of June 2020, according to an open source media website, a boogaloo adherent and student at an unidentified Texas school, posted to social media “Because I haven’t had a special visit from the @fbi yet and I’m wondering what the fuck I’m doing wrong. Also, @[Name Withheld] “[Name Withheld]^f is a #bitch and better watch his back” accompanied by a photo of an individual reaching for a firearm. Additionally, as of May 2020, this same individual posted a screenshot of Internet searches that included searches on how to convert AR-15 and AK47 firearms to fully automatic, how to construct an improvised explosive device, and how to create homemade suppressors.¹
- (U//FOUO) As of 30 May 2020, according to an open source media website, a boogaloo adherent posted a video of himself and several other males with tactical vests and assault-style rifles on social media. The video stated “this is the American civil war guys, people versus pigs.” Additionally, in response to someone stating the police were using non-lethal rounds, the boogaloo adherent responded “we would’ve been shooting at ‘em.”²
- (U//FOUO) As of summer 2020, according to a human source with direct access, identified boogaloo adherents, one of whom is a resident near Dallas, Texas, used social media communication platforms to discuss firearms and financing for fellow boogaloo adherents. The same individual also discussed creating a shell company for laundering money for the funds to be used to produce firearms.³

(U//LES) Boogaloo Adherents Likely Influence Individuals Suspicious of Perceived Government Overreach, Increasing Their Influence and the Threat of Violence at Lawful Protests in the FBI Dallas AOR

(U//LES) FBI Dallas Field Office also judges boogaloo adherents likely are influencing individuals already suspicious of perceived USG overreach to participate in online and in-person anti-government events, increasing their influence and the threat of violence at otherwise peaceful protests in the FBI Dallas AOR. FBI Dallas Field Office based this assessment on the attendance of boogaloo adherents since spring 2020 at events protesting stay-at-home orders perceived as USG overreach; specific to the FBI Dallas AOR, these events historically were attended by anti-government or anti-authority groups, indicating commonalities or overlap between boogaloo adherents and existing anti-government or anti-authority groups. Open source media reporting and FBI investigations, as of June 2020, indicate there have been an increased number of individuals who subscribe to the boogaloo concept posting to online forums and attending events with violent or criminal activity at lawful protests occurrences in the FBI Dallas AOR due to COVID-19 restrictions and perceived government overreach.

^f (U//FOUO) [Name withheld] refers to an identified state governor.

- (U//FOUO) As of 30 April 2020, according to open source news reporting and according to a human source with direct access, two armed individuals who both identified themselves as USPER Duncan Lemp,^g who is deceased but is a perceived martyr among MVEs, some of whom adhere to the boogaloo movement, patrolled a Dallas parking lot near an USBUS to protest the business being cited for reopening in violation of local and state stay-at-home orders.^{4, 5} Another open source news article reported violent rhetoric as being increasingly common among people protesting stay-at-home orders amid the COVID-19 pandemic.”⁶
- (U//FOUO) As of June 2020, according to a human source with direct access, self-identified boogaloo adherents were seen in downtown Dallas in full tactical gear and one adherent, Texas-based DVE 1, was quoted as saying he would “hunt” anti-fascist anarchists and kill any Dallas looters.⁷ Furthermore, as of 6 May 2020, according to a human source with direct access, Texas-based DVE 1, leader of an identified anti-government or anti-authority militia group in the FBI Dallas AOR,^h led several heavily armed men to attend an in-person protest hosted by an existing militia group protesting the closure of a bar in West Texas due to COVID-19 restrictions. Several members were arrested following a standoff with local law enforcement regarding the unlawful reopening of the bar despite the COVID-19 restrictions.⁸
- (U//FOUO) As of June 2020, according to a human source with direct access, associates of Texas-based DVE 1 who was recently arrested included military veterans and some held similar anti-government or anti-authority extremist views. One of the boogaloo adherents posted that he kept track of National Guard movements within the state of Texas. In addition, Texas-based DVE 1 coordinated a quick reaction force (QRF) to Oklahoma in support of an anti-government or anti-authority extremist in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, who was arrested by the FBI.⁹
- (U) As of 2 June 2020, according to an open source media website, there were several instances of boogaloo adherents being present during the violent or criminal activity at lawful protests in Dallas, as *@boogaloo_2020* posted on social media the looting of two USBUSs in addition to the breaking of windows at a subway station and destruction of a police vehicle.^{10, 11, 12, 13}
- (U//FOUO) As of 9 June 2020, according to a subject of an FBI investigation, an identified USPER and resident of the FBI Dallas AOR indicated he had corresponded

^g (U) *Analyst Note:* The wider militia extremist community references Duncan Lemp following the 12 March 2020 officer-involved shooting in Maryland of Lemp, who had ties with the militia movement and self-identified as a III%er, a militia group with national presence. Lemp received widespread attention and support via martyrdom following his death.

^h (U) See Appendix C: Boogaloo in Dallas on 4 June 2020

with Texas-based DVE 1 initially due to his membership on and shared interest in gun forums, along with several “2A” groups.^{i, 14}

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(U) Boogaloo Tactical Awareness

(U//FOUO) Adherents of the boogaloo concept have demonstrated a unique ability, different than existing militia extremists in the FBI Dallas AOR, to adapt and change operational security measures, which is due to some identified adherents of the boogaloo concept having prior tactical experience. During the lawful protests in late May and early June 2020, members claiming to be affiliated with the boogaloo concept posted about jamming the Hyman Almy Murray (HAM) radio frequency as a means to disorient law enforcement. Additionally, members claiming to be boogaloo adherents discussed wearing police uniforms in Minneapolis and Chicago, Illinois. Finally, a self-identified adherent of the boogaloo concept advised fellow members to not wear Hawaiian shirts due to law enforcement being aware of the association between the shirts and the movement.

(U) Sources

(U) FBI | Case Information | 5 June 2020 | 4 June 2020 | “[TITLE REDACTED]” | UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY | UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

(U//FOUO) FBI | Case Information | 5 June 2020 | 5 June 2020 | “(U//FOUO) Civil Unrest Chicago AOR” | UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY | UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

(U//FOUO) FBI | Case Information | 5 June 2020 | 30 May 2020 | “(U//FOUO) Intel on Buildings with USMS Protected Tenants” | UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY | UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

(U) FBI | Case Information | 5 June 2020 | 4 June 2020 | “[TITLE REDACTED]” | UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY | UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

(U) Perspective

(U//FOUO) The term boogaloo, as it used today, emerged online in early 2013 and has increasingly been co-opted by MVEs to refer to a second Civil War or violent conflict with the government, and was further exploited by some white racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists (RMVE) and is linked with the RMVE tactic of accelerationism.¹⁵ Boogaloo adherents are predominately made up of MVEs but not all MVEs adhere to the boogaloo concept.^{16, 17} As of June 2019, an USPER who self-radicalized online, drafted a manifesto referencing both the boogaloo concept and the involuntary celibate movement (Incel),^j then opened fire on the Earle Cabell Federal Building and Courthouse in Dallas; the incident ended with the USPER being fatally shot. The boogaloo concept gained further momentum in 2020 surrounding the January 2020 Virginia gun rights rally. It gained additional momentum with the COVID-19-related restrictions, the death of an African American USPER in police custody, and violence at lawful protests in the FBI Dallas AOR.

(U//FOUO) Boogaloo, as defined by the 8 June 2020 joint FBI-DHS-NCTC Intelligence Bulletin, titled “(U//FOUO) Domestic Violent Extremists Could Exploit Current Events to Incite or Justify Attacks on Law Enforcement or Civilians Engaged in First Amendment-Protected Activities,” refers to an anti-government or anti-authority concept advocating the violent overthrow of the USG. This anti-government push is not directed at any specific entity, but directed at all government agencies, including local, state, and federal agencies and law enforcement. Some MVEs wear ballistic armor, including rifle-rated plates; carry semi-automatic rifles; have a desire

ⁱ (U) Analyst Note: For many individuals, “2A” is meant to refer to Second Amendment groups.

^j (U) Analyst Note: According to open source information, Incel is a movement made up of men who have defined themselves by their inability to find a sexual or romantic partner and blame women and society for their lack of romantic success.

to build privately made firearms; and possess military-grade optics and laser sighting devices, as is demonstrated in the following three separate incidents as of June 2020.¹⁸ One individual, arrested by FBI Las Vegas, was found with fireworks, accelerants, an AR-15 rifle, a 12-gauge shotgun, and ammunition. An individual claiming allegiance to the boogaloo concept was apprehended by police in Denver, Colorado and found in possession of gas masks, military-style rifles, handguns, and ammunition.¹⁹ In addition, as of June 2020, a DVE was arrested and charged with killing a sheriff's office sergeant and wounding another deputy, and then writing the word "Boog" on a vehicle the DVE carjacked in Oakland, California; in addition this same DVE was identified as shooting two federal security officers in Ben Lomond, California, with an accomplice.²⁰

(U//LES) FBI Dallas Field Office's assessment is specific to the potential threat posed by boogaloo adherents within the FBI Dallas AOR and thus only partially aligns with the 18 June 2020 joint FBI-DHS-NCTC Intelligence Bulletin, titled "(U//LES) Militia Extremists Present Elevated Threat to Law Enforcement and Government Personnel," which discussed the broader MVE threat to law enforcement and government due to drivers and grievances exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and nationwide protests against police brutality and racism, and did not specifically touch on the boogaloo concept. This assessment does, however, align with the 21 August 2020 FBI Strategic Perspective: Executive Analytical Report, titled "(U//LES) Adoption of "Boogaloo" Concept Likely Helps Some Domestic Violent Extremists Justify Violence, Provides Basis to Organize," albeit this product is specific to the FBI Dallas AOR.

(U) Analysis of Alternatives

(U//LES) FBI Dallas Field Office considered the alternative hypothesis that, rather than boogaloo adherents expanding influence in the FBI Dallas AOR, boogaloo adherents in the AOR likely travel from out of state to participate in lawful protests, increasing the threat of protest and counter-protest activity, but minimizing the threat of a constant boogaloo presence in the AOR. FBI Dallas Field Office, however, discounted this alternative hypothesis because many of the self-identified adherents of the boogaloo concept in the FBI Dallas AOR have an established presence in the AOR and although these individuals had contacts in other states, they were Texas residents. Indicators that would alter this assessment include materialization of arrest records or social media posts that individuals from other states were, in fact, present at any of the aforementioned events or part of the violence at lawful protests within the FBI Dallas AOR.

(U) Outlook

(U//FOUO) FBI Dallas Field Office judges in the next three months, continuing up to the January 2021 inauguration with the presidential elections acting as a potential flashpoint, boogaloo adherents likely will expand influence within the FBI Dallas AOR due to the presence of existing anti-government or anti-authority violent extremists, the sentiment of perceived government overreach, heightened tensions due to COVID-19-related state and local restrictions, and violence or criminal activity at lawful protests as a result of the death of an African American USPER in Minneapolis, factors that led to violence at otherwise peaceful and lawful protests in the FBI Dallas AOR. Opportunities for additional information on the boogaloo concept also will increase owing to boogaloo adherents' reliance on social media as a platform for violent propaganda. Additionally, since the boogaloo concept in Dallas, has appeared at events typically attended by anti-government or anti-authority actors, this will present an additional opportunity to learn more about self-

identified boogaloo adherents. Indicators that this assessment is correct include increased violent social media posts of boogaloo adherents and increased “patrolling” or attendance at events that are anti-law enforcement, anti-government, or anti-authority.

(U) If you would like to provide qualitative feedback on this product, please send an email to the appropriate address with the product title as the subject line: DI_Customer_Feedback@fbi.gov ; DI_Customer_Feedback@fbi.sgov.gov ; or DI_Customer_Feedback@fbi.ic.gov

(U) FBI Dallas Field Office prepared this external intelligence note. Please direct comments and queries to the FBI Dallas Field Intelligence Group at 972-559-5501.

(U) Appendix A: Expressions of Likelihood

(U) Phrases such as “the FBI judges” and “the FBI assesses,” and terms such as “likely” and “probably” convey analytical judgments and assessments. The chart below approximates how expressions of likelihood and probability correlate with percentages of chance. Only terms of likelihood should appear in FBI products; the chart includes terms of probability strictly for comparison, as they sometimes appear in reporting of other government agencies. Furthermore, the FBI does not arrive at judgments through statistical analysis and will not use terms of probability to convey uncertainty in FBI external intelligence products.

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Terms of Likelihood	Almost No Chance	Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Roughly Even Chance	Likely	Very Likely	Almost Certain(ly)
Terms of Probability	Remote	Highly Improbable	Improbable (Improbably)	Roughly Even Odds	Probable (Probably)	Highly Probable	Nearly Certain
Percentages of Chance	1-5%	5-20%	20-45%	45-55%	55-80%	80-95%	95-99%

(U) Table showing terms of likelihood aligned with terms of probability and percentages of chance.

(U) Appendix B: Confidence in Assessments and Judgments Based on a Body of Information

(U) Confidence levels reflect the quality and quantity of the source information supporting a judgment. Consequently, the FBI ascribes high, medium, or low levels of confidence to assessments, as follows:

(U) **High confidence** generally indicates the FBI's judgments are based on high quality information from multiple sources. High confidence in a judgment does not imply the assessment is a fact or a certainty; such judgments might be wrong. While additional reporting and information sources may change analytical judgments, such changes are most likely to be refinements and not substantial in nature.

(U) **Medium confidence** generally means the information is credibly sourced and plausible but not of sufficient quality or corroborated sufficiently to warrant a higher level of confidence. Additional reporting or information sources have the potential to increase the FBI's confidence levels or substantively change analytical judgments.

(U) **Low confidence** generally means the information's credibility or plausibility is uncertain, the information is too fragmented or poorly corroborated to make solid analytic inferences, or the reliability of the sources is questionable. Absent additional reporting or information sources, analytical judgments should be considered preliminary in nature.

(U) Appendix C: Boogaloo in Dallas on 4 June 2020

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**(U//FOUO) Boogaloo in Dallas on 4 June 2020**

(U) The above images were posted by the subject of an FBI investigation to his social media account during lawful protests, which were subject to violent and criminal activities taking place in downtown Dallas on 4 June 2020. Boogaloo adherents are wearing tactical gear, are armed with assault rifles, and referred to themselves as a QRF. The boogaloo adherents depicted in this picture reflect the tactical, heavily armed, and diverse ethnic makeup of the boogaloo movement as a whole, further indicating the boogaloo movement is united by anti-government or anti-authority sentiment rather than racially or ethnically motivated violent extremism.

(U) Sources

(U) FBI | Case Information | 5 June 2020 | 4 June 2020 | “[TITLE REDACTED]” | UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY | UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

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