



SAN DIEGO LAW ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION CENTER

Situational Awareness Bulletin

March 9, 2020

Handling Notice: Recipients are reminded that SD-LECC intelligence and analysis products contain sensitive homeland security information meant for use primarily within the law enforcement and homeland security communities. Such products shall not be released in either written or oral form to the media, the general public, or other personnel who do not have a valid need-to-know without prior approval.

(U//FOUO) Identified White Racially Motivated Violent Extremists in San Diego Region Primarily Focused on Criminal Activity, Potential for Violence Persists

(U//FOUO) This product is intended to increase regional partners' situational awareness of the potential threat posed by white racially motivated violent extremists (WRMVEs) by providing a baseline understanding of groups or individuals associated with the WRMVE movement and highlighting a selection of identifiable indicators regional partners may observe. Limited available information detailing the activities of newly established groups and online WRMVE sympathizers in the San Diego region emphasizes the need for regional partners to be aware of, identify, and report possible indicators and information related to WRMVE activity in the region.

(U//FOUO) Older established WRMVE groups, such as white street gangs and white power groups, in the San Diego region likely remain more interested in committing various criminal acts, although they may engage in random acts of violence to defend against rival groups or maintain control over subordinate groups and members. Although available information about newly established WRMVE groups and online sympathizers in the San Diego region is limited, newly established groups likely participate in a variety of criminal and violent activities in furtherance of their extremist ideologies on a national level, and online WRMVE sympathizers likely have a range of activities they are willing to commit and likely remain attracted to committing acts of mass violence, but the groups' and sympathizers' abilities to conceal plans or act opportunistically increases the difficulty for identifying their criminal and violent plans.

- (U//FOUO) The San Diego region has a variety of established groups with WRMVE ideologies ranging from disorganized white street gangs, such as the San Diego Skinheads and the Lakeside Gangsters, to white power groups, including the Supreme Power Skins, Western Hammerskins, Golden State Skinheads, and Chosen Folk.¹ Although originally founded as WRMVEs, San Diego Skinheads and Lakeside Gangsters are more focused on committing criminal activity to obtain illicit drugs for retail sale and personal use with limited activity associated with WRMVE ideology.² In contrast, regional white power groups participate in violent and/or criminal activity to further their racist ideals but are not actively seeking to commit acts of mass violence.³ While white street gangs and white power groups are more focused on committing criminal activity in the San Diego region, individuals or groups may become more violent or join newly established groups interested in acts of mass violence.
- (U//FOUO) Newly established groups, including The Base, Atomwaffen Division (AWD), American Identity Movement (AIM) formerly known as Identity Evropa, Rise Above Movement (RAM), Patriot Front, and Sonnenkrieg Division, have gained global attention due to their promotion and use of violence to further WRMVE ideals.^{4,5,6,7,8,9,10} Each group has its own goals and beliefs, but they all believe the white race is being culturally and racially displaced, a race war is necessary to ensure the future of the white race by removing perceived corrupt cultural influences, and a white ethno-state needs to be established.^{11,12,13,14,15,16} The newly established groups participate in a variety of WRMVE-related activities, including engaging in flyering campaigns to spread propaganda and recruit, particularly on higher education campuses; vandalizing properties, commonly religious facilities; attending WRMVE-

SAB-20-05

related rallies often to provoke or engage in violent activity; and participating in “hate camps” or traveling overseas to meet with like-minded groups to learn and practice hand-to-hand combat and weapons familiarization skills.^{17,18,19,20,21} Additionally, while the groups use various online platforms to communicate, spread propaganda, and fundraise, they primarily use in-person interactions when participating in overt WRMVE-related activities.^{22,23} Instances of flying campaigns on higher education campuses promoting AIM and Patriot Front have occurred in the San Diego region, which potentially indicates the presence of those groups or its members in the region. Due to limited available information, the extent of the presence of other newly established groups or their members in the San Diego region remains unknown.

- (U//FOUO) Online WRMVE sympathizers use various online platforms to espouse extremist rhetoric and engage with various online WRMVE communities. Online sympathizers often engage in a range of activities, including creating and disseminating WRMVE-related propaganda commonly in the form of memes or other images praising successful attacks; engaging in online discussions that further the WRMVE ideology; and committing lone offender attacks, although their activities are most often not attributed to a specific group.^{24,25,26} Additionally, some online sympathizers develop different forms of WRMVE ideologies, such as anti-Semitic and “white genocide” conspiracy theories that often promote extreme use of violence.²⁷ With the occurrence of the April 2019 shooting at the Chabad of Poway by an online WRMVE sympathizer and the ensuing propaganda campaign inciting similar attacks, additional online WRMVE sympathizers may attempt additional acts of mass violence against other targets in the San Diego region.

(U) Intelligence Gaps

(U//FOUO) If regional partners have information that may provide further insight into any of the following intelligence gaps, please provide information to info@sd-lecc.org.

- (U//FOUO) To what extent do newly established WRMVE groups and/or WRMVE online sympathizers have an established presence in the San Diego region?
- (U//FOUO) What types of tactics do WRMVEs use to commit criminal or violent action in the San Diego region?
- (U//FOUO) To what extent do WRMVEs participate in group training, such as weapons familiarization or mixed martial arts, in preparation for violent action in the San Diego region?
- (U//FOUO) In what locations has WRMVE-related graffiti been located in the San Diego region?
- (U//FOUO) How are WRMVEs selecting and committing criminal or violent acts against targets of interest, such as religious facilities, in the San Diego region?
- (U//FOUO) To what extent are WRMVEs plotting criminal or violent action targeting election-related events and/or infrastructure?

(U) Possible WRMVE Indicators

(U//FOUO) Public safety personnel are encouraged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities that may be related to WRMVE activities. While individually, the indicators and activities may constitute lawful and constitutionally protected behavior, the presence of multiple indicators or additional circumstances may indicate a threat. To report suspected WRMVE-related activities, visit <https://sd-lecc.org/> and select "Submit Tip/Lead." For imminent threats, call 911.

(U) Potential Visual Indicators

- (U) Using specific alphanumeric codes in written form or as part of visual imagery
 - (U) "14" – Reference to the "14 Words," "we must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children," issued by a prominent RMVE ideologue David Lane^{USPER}
 - (U) "88" – The repetition of the eighth letter of the alphabet "H" and represents Heil Hitler
- (U//FOUO) Using three parentheses, representing an ((echo)), commonly used during online communication to indicate anti-Semitic sentiment to the person or item highlighted within the echo
- (U//FOUO) Writing an extremist manifesto or possessing extremist-related materials, such as Nazi memorabilia; extremist literature, such as *Siege* or *Iron Gates*; or extremist propaganda
- (U//FOUO) Possessing an electronic device containing WRMVE images, symbols, or communications
- (U//FOUO) Referencing terms regarding the "gamification" of violence, such as discussing "high scores" related to attack casualty counts or a desire to be placed on the "leaderboard" as a successful attacker

(U) Potential Behavioral Indicators

- (U//FOUO) Attending WRMVE-related gatherings, rallies, or "hate camps"
- (U//FOUO) Obtaining extremist-related tattoos emphasizing WRMVE ideology, including swastika, sonnerade or "Black Sun," dual lightning bolts, and Odin's Cross
- (U//FOUO) Espousing anti-Semitic or other WRMVE rhetoric online or in person
- (U//FOUO) Attempting to recruit others at local gym facilities
- (U//FOUO) Expressing interest or attempting to travel to international areas of interest, such as Ukraine or Germany, where WRMVE groups are present

(U) Potential Pre-Operational Indicators

- (U//FOUO) Attempting to obtain or possessing firearms, a ballistic vest, and/or helmet
- (U//FOUO) Using a recording device, such as a GoPro^{USBUS}, potentially paired with a harness system to record activities, particularly near areas of interest, such as religious facilities
- (U//FOUO) Participating in weapons familiarization and hand-to-hand combat, such as mixed martial arts
- (U//FOUO) Attempting to obtain a hunting license as a means to circumvent firearms restrictions

(U) Select Visual Indicators Associated with the WRMVE Movement^{i,ii}

Established Groups							
	(U) San Diego Skinheads	(U) Lakeside Gangsters	(U) Western Hammerskins	(U) Supreme Power Skins	(U) Golden State Skinheads	(U) Chosen Folk	
	Newly Established Groups						
		(U) Patriot Front	(U) Rise Above Movement	(U) American Identity Movement	(U) The Base	(U) Atomwaffen Division	(U) Sonnenkrieg Division
		Online Sympathizers					
			(U) Pepe the Frog	(U) WRMVE Meme	(U) Happy Merchant Meme	(U) Gamification of WRMVE Violence	(U) Sainthood Designation
Clothing Apparel Logos							
			(U) The Right Brand ^{USB}	(U) The Right Brand	(U) The Right Brand	(U) The Right Brand	(U) The Right Brand
	Local Flyering Campaigns						
		(U) Patriot Front	(U) American Identity Movement	(U) American Identity Movement	(U) American Identity Movement	(U) American Identity Movement	

ⁱ (U//FOUO) The images include indicators that may be representative of WRMVE activity and were provided by local law enforcement partners, located during open source searches of publicly available information, or obtained from intelligence community products.

ⁱⁱ (U//FOUO) "Online Sympathizers" depicts images often recirculated online by WRMVE sympathizers and includes the adoption of pop culture imagery to create WRMVE-related content, such the use of Pepe the Frog; the creation of WRMVE-specific memes, such as the anti-Semitic "Happy Merchant;" and praise for successful WRMVE attacks by dubbing successful attackers as "Saints."

UNCLASSIFIED // FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(U) For comments or questions regarding this product, please contact the SD-LECC at (858) 495-7200 or info@sd-lecc.org.

(U) Your feedback is important to us and we encourage you to fill out a customer survey, accessible through the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SDLECC2005>

(U) Tracked By: HSEC-8.1, HSEC-8.2, HSEC-8.3, HSEC-8.8, HSEC-8.10, SD-DT.01, SD-DT.02, SD-DT.03, SD-DT.09, SD-DT.12

(U) Endnotes

¹ (U//FOUO); San Diego Sheriff's Department Analyst; 12 February 2020; In-Person Meeting; Extracted information is U//FOUO; Overall meeting classification is U//FOUO.

² (U//FOUO); San Diego Sheriff's Department Analyst; 12 February 2020; In-Person Meeting; Extracted information is U//FOUO; Overall meeting classification is U//FOUO.

³ (U//FOUO); San Diego Sheriff's Department Analyst; 12 February 2020; In-Person Meeting; Extracted information is U//FOUO; Overall meeting classification is U//FOUO.

⁴ (U); Internet News; Vox; "The El Paso Shooting Isn't an Anomaly. It's American History Repeating Itself"; 6 August 2019; <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2019/8/6/20754828/el-paso-shooting-white-supremacy-rise>; accessed on 28 February 2020.

⁵ (U//FOUO); U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and National Counterterrorism Center; 17 January 2020; (U//FOUO); Arrests of Members of Domestic Violent Extremist Group "The Base" for Murder Plot Highlight Small Cell Violent Intent, Retaliatory Targeting; Extracted information is U//FOUO; Overall document classification is U//FOUO.

⁶ (U//FOUO); Federal Bureau of Investigation; May 2019; (U); Atomwaffen Division Reference Guide; Extracted information is U//FOUO; Overall document classification is U//LES.

⁷ (U//FOUO); Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center and Federal Bureau of Investigation Los Angeles Intelligence Division; 22 May 2019; (U//FOUO); Racially Motivated Violent Extremist Symbols and Reference Guide; Extracted information is Unclassified; Overall document classification is U//FOUO.

⁸ (U); United States District Court – Central District of California; Criminal Complaint – 18MJ02791; 20 October 2018; (U); United States of America v. Robert Paul Rundo, Robert Boman, Tyler Laube, and Aaron Eason; Extracted information is Unclassified; Overall document classification is Unclassified.

⁹ (U//FOUO); Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center and Federal Bureau of Investigation Los Angeles Intelligence Division; 22 May 2019; (U//FOUO); Racially Motivated Violent Extremist Symbols and Reference Guide; Extracted information is Unclassified; Overall document classification is U//FOUO.

¹⁰ (U//FOUO); National Counterterrorism Center; NCTC 064554; November 2019; (U); Organizational Fact Sheet: Sonnenkrieg Division; Extracted information is U//FOUO; Overall document classifications is U//FOUO.

¹¹ (U//FOUO); U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and National Counterterrorism Center; 17 January 2020; (U//FOUO); Arrests of Members of Domestic Violent Extremist Group "The Base" for Murder Plot Highlight Small Cell Violent Intent, Retaliatory Targeting; Extracted information is U//FOUO; Overall document classification is U//FOUO.

¹² (U//FOUO); Federal Bureau of Investigation; May 2019; (U); Atomwaffen Division Reference Guide; Extracted information is U//FOUO; Overall document classification is U//LES.

¹³ (U//FOUO); Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center and Federal Bureau of Investigation Los Angeles Intelligence Division; 22 May 2019; (U//FOUO); Racially Motivated Violent Extremist Symbols and Reference Guide; Extracted information is Unclassified; Overall document classification is U//FOUO.

¹⁴ (U); United States District Court – Central District of California; Criminal Complaint – 18MJ02791; 20 October 2018; (U); United States of America v. Robert Paul Rundo, Robert Boman, Tyler Laube, and Aaron Eason; Extracted information is Unclassified; Overall document classification is Unclassified.

¹⁵ (U//FOUO); Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center and Federal Bureau of Investigation Los Angeles Intelligence Division; 22 May 2019; (U//FOUO); Racially Motivated Violent Extremist Symbols and Reference Guide; Extracted information is Unclassified; Overall document classification is U//FOUO.

¹⁶ (U//FOUO); National Counterterrorism Center; NCTC 064554; November 2019; (U); Organizational Fact Sheet: Sonnenkrieg Division; Extracted information is U//FOUO; Overall document classifications is U//FOUO.

UNCLASSIFIED // FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

-
- ¹⁷ (U); Internet News; *The San Diego Union-Tribune*; “White Nationalist Propaganda Found Posted at SDSU”; 22 August 2019; <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/education/story/2019-08-22/white-nationalist-propaganda-found-posted-at-sdsu>; accessed on 14 February 2020.
- ¹⁸ (U); Internet News; *Newsweek*; “Indianapolis Man Who ‘Openly Identified with Nazism’ Traveled 50 Miles to Set Fire to Synagogue with Homemade Napalm”; 22 May 2019; <https://www.newsweek.com/indianapolis-nazi-vandalized-synagogue-swastikas-shaarey-tefilla-1432648>; accessed on 14 February 2020.
- ¹⁹ (U//FOUO); U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Federal Bureau of Investigation; IA-31269-19; 1 November 2018; (U//FOUO); Arrests of RAM Members for Charges Related to Violence at Events May Deter Some Domestic Extremists, While Serving as a Driver to Others; Extracted information is U//FOUO; Overall document classification is U//LES.
- ²⁰ (U); Internet News; *The Guardian*; “Revealed: The True Identity of the Leader of an American Neo-Nazi Terror Group”; 23 January 2020; <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jan/23/revealed-the-true-identity-of-the-leader-of-americas-neo-nazi-terror-group>; accessed on 14 February 2020.
- ²¹ (U); Internet News; *Vice News*; “Neo-Nazi Terror Group The Base Linked to the War in Ukraine”; 6 February 2020; https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/y3m3eg/neo-nazi-terror-group-the-base-linked-to-the-war-in-ukraine; accessed on 14 February 2020.
- ²² (U); Non-Governmental Organization; *Anti-Defamation League*; “The Base”; 2019; <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounders/the-base>; accessed on 11 February 2020; (U); The organization has a strict focus on combatting anti-Semitism, and the information used is deemed reliable.
- ²³ (U); Anti-Defamation League; 2017; (U); Funding Hate: How White Supremacists Raise Their Money; Extracted information is Unclassified; Overall document classification is Unclassified; (U); The organization has a strict focus on combatting anti-Semitism, and the information used is deemed reliable.
- ²⁴ (U); Internet News; *The Daily Beast*; “New Zealand Shooting: White Supremacists and Jihadists Feed Off Each Other”; 20 March 2019; <https://www.thedailybeast.com/new-zealand-shooting-white-supremacists-and-jihadists-feed-off-each-other>; accessed on 14 February 2020.
- ²⁵ (U//FOUO); National Counterterrorism Center; NCTC 064194 ID 1-20; 29 January 2020; (U//FOUO); RMVEs Using Variety of Online Platforms for Extremist Activity; Extracted information is U//FOUO; Overall document classification is U//FOUO.
- ²⁶ (U); Internet News; *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*; “A High School Dropout and Trucker, Robert Bowers Left Few Footprints — Except Online”; 29 October 2018; <https://www.post-gazette.com/news/crime-courts/2018/10/29/Robert-Bowers-suspect-gunman-Pittsburgh-Tree-of-Life-synagogue-massacre-attack-federal-court/stories/201810290090>; accessed on 14 February 2020.
- ²⁷ (U); Non-Governmental Organization; *Anti-Defamation League*; “Gab and 8chan: Home to Terrorist Plots Hiding in Plain Sight”; 2019; <https://www.adl.org/resources/reports/gab-and-8chan-home-to-terrorist-plots-hiding-in-plain-sight>; accessed on 14 February 2020; (U); The organization has a strict focus on combatting anti-Semitism, and the information used is deemed reliable.