(U) White Supremacist Infiltration of Law Enforcement

17 October 2006

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(U/LES) White Supremacist Infiltration of Law Enforcement

(U) Scope Note

(U/LES) This intelligence assessment provides an overview of white supremacist infiltration of law enforcement and derives its information from FBI investigations and open sources available as of August 2006. This assessment addresses...
(U) Key Judgments

- (U//LES) Although white supremacist groups have historically engaged in strategic efforts to infiltrate and recruit from law enforcement communities,

- (U//LES) The primary threat from infiltration or recruitment arises from the areas of intelligence collection and exploitation, which can lead to investigative breaches and can jeopardize the safety of law enforcement sources and personnel.

- (U//LES) White supremacist presence among law enforcement personnel is a concern due to the access they may possess to restricted areas vulnerable to sabotage and to elected officials or protected persons, whom they could see as potential targets for violence.

- (U//LES) The intelligence acquired through the successful infiltration of law enforcement by one white supremacist group can benefit other groups due to the multiple allegiances white supremacists typically hold.
(U) Introduction: Consequences of Compromised Intelligence

(U//LES) This assessment examines white supremacist infiltration of law enforcement from perspectives of both strategic infiltration by organized groups and self-initiated infiltration by law enforcement personnel sympathetic to white supremacist causes. The primary threat from infiltration or recruitment arises from the areas of intelligence collection and exploitation, which can lead to investigative breaches and can jeopardize the safety of law enforcement sources or personnel.¹

(U//LES) White supremacist presence among law enforcement personnel is also of concern due to the access they may possess to restricted areas vulnerable to sabotage and to elected officials or protected persons, whom they could see as potential targets for violence.

(U) Organized Intent to Infiltrate Law Enforcement

(U//LES) The apparent sporadic reporting on white supremacist infiltration of law enforcement could be

(U) Strategic Infiltration and Recruitment Campaigns

(U//LES) White supremacist leaders and groups have historically shown an interest in infiltrating law enforcement communities or recruiting law enforcement personnel.
Most information about systematic attempts by white supremacist
groups to infiltrate law enforcement involve

(U) William Pierce

(U) Tradecraft

(U/LES) Since coming to law enforcement
attention in late 2004, the term “ghost skins” has
 gained currency among white supremacists to
describe those who avoid overt displays of their
beliefs to blend into society and covertly advance
white supremacist causes. One Internet posting
described this effort as a form of role-playing, in
which “to create the character, you must get inside
the mind of the person you are trying to duplicate.”
Such role-playing has application to ad-hoc and
organized law enforcement infiltration. At least one
white supremacist group has reportedly encouraged
ghost skins to seek positions in law enforcement for
the capability of alerting skinhead crews of pending
investigative action against them.

(U/LES) Leaders in the white supremacist
movement have advocated confronting suspected
infiltrators and to instruct them to provide their FBI
handlers with low level information that will
minimally impact the group’s activities. Another as
yet undocumented infiltration strategy, is for
members to “walk into” law enforcement agencies
and offer information to determine an agency’s
interest in the organization.

In addition to its historical interest, white supremacist leadership has also engaged in recent rhetoric that encourages followers to infiltrate law enforcement communities.

(U) White Supremacist Sympathizers

(U/LES) The Ku Klux Klan (KKK) is notable among white supremacist groups for historically having found support in many communities, which often translated into ties to local law enforcement. Although the First Amendment’s freedom of association provision protects an individual’s right to join white supremacist groups for purposes of lawful activity, the government can limit the employment opportunities of group members who hold sensitive public sector jobs, including jobs within law enforcement, when their memberships would interfere with their duties. Recent examples of law enforcement personnel whose activities in support of white supremacist beliefs have come under scrutiny include:
UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

Endnotes

1 (U/LES) FBI case information (UNCLASSIFIED).
2 (U/LES) FBI case information (UNCLASSIFIED).
3 (U/LES) FBI case information (UNCLASSIFIED).
4 (U/LES) FBI case information (UNCLASSIFIED).
5 (U/LES) FBI case information (UNCLASSIFIED).
6 (U/LES) FBI case information (UNCLASSIFIED).
7 (U/LES) FBI case information (UNCLASSIFIED).
8 (U/LES) FBI case information (UNCLASSIFIED).
10 (U) Brian Levin, “Addressing Hate Groups” (UNCLASSIFIED).
12 (U) AP article, “Ex-California Prison Guard Sentenced for Aiding White Supremacist Gang,” 26 June 2006 (UNCLASSIFIED); FBI case information (UNCLASSIFIED).