

**OFFICE of  
PRIVATE SECTOR**  
LIAISON INFORMATION REPORT (LIR)



## CROSS-SECTOR

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### Domestic Violent Extremists Likely Emboldened in Aftermath of Capitol Breach

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The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) prepared this LIR to alert private sector partners that the 6 January 2021 violent breach by suspected domestic violent extremists (DVEs) into the U.S. Capitol Building may serve as a driver for a diverse set of DVEs.

DVEs may exploit future lawful protests, rallies, demonstrations, and other gatherings to carry out ideologically motivated violence and criminal activity. The death of an individual directly engaged in the U.S. Capitol breach may serve to galvanize DVEs and increase collaboration between such diverse DVE groups.<sup>1</sup> These DVEs may also perceive the event as a step toward achieving their initiatives and consider the death of a perceived like-minded individual as an act of martyrdom.<sup>2</sup>

The belief in the existence of global or “deep state” actors who work to manipulate various social, political, and/or economic conditions of the United States likely serves as a driver of some DVE violence. Some rioters and DVEs’ view the 6 January event as a success and may exploit follow-on lawful gatherings; this perceived success may inspire some DVEs to target racial, ethnic, or religious minorities and institutions, the media, law enforcement, and government officials and buildings.

- An individual who traveled to Washington, D.C. engaged in lawful protests, illegally entered the U.S. Capitol Building, and was shot and killed by law enforcement personnel.
- Some participants at the Capitol displayed insignias used or adopted by a range of DVEs. Nooses and plastic restraints were carried or stationed at or near the Capitol by some rioters, possibly to demonstrate their intent to cause harm to government officials.
- During rioting on the Capitol grounds, individuals pursued and threatened journalists, according to open-source reporting. Rioters destroyed or stole cameras and other media equipment outside the Capitol, and the phrase, “Murder the media,” was found scratched into a door within the Capitol.

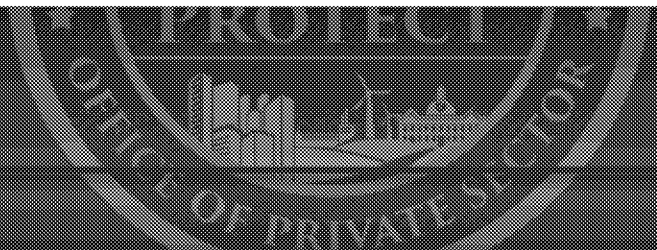
<sup>1</sup> The information in this LIR is provided to inform law enforcement of the referenced narratives and theories, which may play in mobilizing criminal actors and DVEs to violence. Generating, accessing, discussing, or otherwise interacting with content related to these theories, without engaging in violence or other criminal activity, is protected by the First Amendment. The FBI does not investigate, collect, or maintain information on U.S. persons solely for the purpose of monitoring First Amendment-protected activities.

<sup>2</sup> The perception that deaths of like-minded individuals at the hands of law enforcement were unjust has historically been a significant driver for DVEs. DVEs have seized on the deaths of two U.S. persons Vicki and Samuel Weaver at Ruby Ridge, Idaho in 1992; U.S. persons at the Branch Davidians compound at Waco, Texas in 1993; and U.S. person Duncan Lemp in 2020 to justify threats against law enforcement and government officials.



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### *DVEs May Target Elected Officials and Government Buildings Following Political Shifts*

Perceptions of fraud surrounding the outcome of the General Election and the change in control of the Presidency and Senate—when combined with long-standing DVE drivers such as perceived government or law enforcement overreach, and the anticipation of legislation perceived to oppose or threaten their beliefs— may lead to an increase in the DVE threat.

Narratives surrounding the perceived success of the breach of the U.S. Capitol will likely lead to an increased DVE threat towards federal, state, and local governments across the United States, particularly in the time period surrounding the 20 January Presidential Inauguration. The targeting of government buildings and officials is consistent with observed activity in 2020, when armed individuals, including DVEs, threatened elected officials and occupied state government buildings. Since the 6 January event, online rhetoric regarding the 20 January Presidential Inauguration has increased, with some calling for unspecified “justice” for the 6 January fatal shooting by law enforcement of an individual at the Capitol Building, and another posting that “many” armed individuals would return on 19 January, according to open-source reporting. The recent removal efforts by social media platforms used by DVEs may push some to revert to other platforms they perceive as more secure.

### *Range of DVE Actors Likely to Pose Increasing Threat at Lawful Protests, Rallies, Demonstrations, etc.*

Throughout 2020, DVEs with differing goals and perspectives exploited such events to promote, organize, conspire, and plot against ideological opponents and other targets. DVEs’ efforts to engage in violence at lawful gatherings will probably increase throughout 2021, as some DVEs perceive increased socio-political pressures. Such perceived pressures may stem from, but not be limited to, one or more of the following factors:

- The potential for shifts in various policies many DVEs may perceive to oppose or threaten their ideological goals and agendas or feed into existing narratives many DVEs subscribe to regarding the U.S. government’s exercise of power, influence, and initiatives: possibly including firearm legislation, the easing of immigration restrictions, and new limits on the use of public land.
- Ongoing narratives by DVEs that the 2020 General Election was illegitimate, or fraudulent, and the subsequent belief its results should be contested or unrecognized.
- Some DVEs’ discontent with renewed measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the ordered dissemination of COVID-19 vaccinations, and the efficacy and/or safety of COVID-19 vaccinations.

The FBI, DHS, and NCTC remain concerned about the potential for a loosely organized, sustained, and significant DVE population mobilizing to violence based on social media calls to target government infrastructure or officials. The shared narrative of election fraud and the opposition to the change in control of the executive and legislative branches of the federal government may lead some individuals to adopt the belief that there is no political solution to address their grievances and violent action is necessary. Additionally, in-person engagement between DVEs of differing ideological goals during the Capitol breach likely served to foster connections, which may increase DVEs’ willingness, capability, and motivation to attack and undermine a government they view as illegitimate.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Targeted attacks on identified elected and party officials based upon their political opinions would be similar to attacks observed in the last five years including the 2017 attempted assassination of Republican members of Congress on a baseball field in Virginia, or two assassinations by violent extremists espousing a belief in white supremacy targeting a British member of Parliament, and a German political party official.



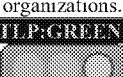



In the near term, DVEs could exploit upcoming events to engage in or justify violence, including events attended by MVEs and “boogaloo”<sup>4</sup> adherents scheduled nationally from 16 to 20 January; the 20 January Presidential Inauguration and associated events in Washington, D.C.; and the impeachment and possible departure of the 45th President prior to the end of his term. The “boogaloo” is a concept most commonly used to reference an impending second civil war or insurgency against the U.S. Government. Calls for revolution may especially resonate with militia violent extremists (MVEs), who often justify violence based on their belief that they are guardians of the Constitution and the legacies of the American Revolution. While they may not necessarily share the partisan views of those who engaged in the 6 January breach, MVEs and other DVEs who adhere to the “boogaloo” concept and seek a politically motivated civil war, and racially motivated violent extremists who seek a race war, may exploit the aftermath of the Capitol breach in an attempt to create conflict in the United States.

If companies witness any suspicious activities related to potential domestic violent extremism, please report it to your FBI Private Sector Coordinator at your local FBI Field Office:  
<https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices>.

OPS’s Information Sharing and Analysis Unit disseminated this LIR; please direct any requests and questions to your FBI Private Sector Coordinator at your local FBI Field Office:  
<https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices>.

**Traffic Light Protocol (TLP) Definitions**

Color	When should it be used?	How may it be shared?
 TLP:RED Not for disclosure, restricted to participants only.	Sources may use TLP:RED when information cannot be effectively acted upon by additional parties, and could lead to impacts on a party's privacy, reputation, or operations if misused.	Recipients may not share TLP:RED information with any parties outside of the specific exchange, meeting, or conversation in which it was originally disclosed. In the context of a meeting, for example, TLP:RED information is limited to those present at the meeting. In most circumstances, TLP:RED should be exchanged verbally or in person.
 TLP:AMBER Limited disclosure, restricted to participants' organizations.	Sources may use TLP:AMBER when information requires support to be effectively acted upon, yet carries risks to privacy, reputation, or operations if shared outside of the organizations involved.	Recipients may only share TLP:AMBER information with members of their own organization, and with clients or customers who need to know the information to protect themselves or prevent further harm. <b>Sources are at liberty to specify additional intended limits of the sharing; these must be adhered to.</b>
 TLP:GREEN Limited disclosure, restricted to the community.	Sources may use TLP:GREEN when information is useful for the awareness of all participating organizations as well as with peers within the broader community or sector.	Recipients may share TLP:GREEN information with peers and partner organizations within their sector or community, but not via publicly accessible channels. Information in this category can be circulated widely within a particular community. TLP:GREEN information may not be released outside of the community.
 TLP:WHITE Disclosure is not limited.	Sources may use TLP:WHITE when information carries minimal or no foreseeable risk of misuse, in accordance with applicable rules and procedures for public release.	Subject to standard copyright rules, TLP:WHITE information may be distributed without restriction.

<sup>4</sup> According to open-source research, the original boogaloo meme references the 1984 film, *Breakin' 2: Electric Boogaloo*. Mainstream culture adopted the phrase “electric boogaloo” to comment on follow-on or repeat events in pop- and political-culture, such as re-elections. MVEs use the boogaloo derivative of the phrase to refer to a second Civil War, i.e. American Civil War 2: Electric Boogaloo. Proponents cultivated the meme by sharing images, videos, and rhetoric. “Big igloo,” “Big luau,” “Boog Bois,” “Boojahideen,” and other associated word-play in addition to imagery such as igloos, Hawaiian shirts, and leis, are used as coded references to the larger boogaloo phenomenon on-and offline.