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(U//LES) Homegrown Violent Extremist Targeting of US Military Recruiting Centers Causes Concern for Law Enforcement

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(U//LES) Intelligence Community (IC) assessments of the recent attacks against military recruiting centers and personnel indicate a continued concern for future attacks on US soil. The FBI assesses with high confidence^a that US military facilities will likely remain a focus of extremist activity. As noted in an 18 May 2011 Joint Intelligence Bulletin and as reporting from the past year has indicated, continued plotting and actualized attacks against military recruitment centers by homegrown violent extremists (HVEs) will likely continue.¹

- (U//FOUO) During fiscal year 2010, the FBI received 55 Guardian database reports pertaining to incidents at military recruiting centers: 23 pertained to elicitation,^b 14 involved surveillance, 13 expressed or implied threats, three related to vandalism, and two involved suspicious activity.²

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(U) Source Summary Statement

(U//LES) This intelligence bulletin is based on credible investigative and human intelligence (HUMINT) information from FBI, DIA Reports and Digests, Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), and open source reporting from established online newspapers and published magazines. The FBI has high confidence in the information obtained from its investigations and those of other US government agencies (OGAs). In addition, the FBI has high confidence in the information cited from open sources, as the information has been corroborated through FBI and OGA reporting; some of the information obtained was also used in court proceedings.

^a (U) **High confidence** generally indicates that the FBI's judgments are based on high-quality information or that the nature of the issue makes it possible to render a solid judgment. **Medium confidence** generally means that the information is credibly sourced and plausible, but can be interpreted in various ways, or is not of sufficient quality or corroborated sufficiently to warrant a higher level of confidence. **Low confidence** generally means that the information's credibility or plausibility is questionable, the information is too fragmented or poorly corroborated to make solid analytic inferences, or that the FBI has significant concerns or problems with the sources.

^b (U//LES) Questions attempted to draw out information not associated with enlistment; questions included, but were not limited to, locations of recruiting stations, numbers of recruiters at station, work hours and schedules, statistics on recruits, and the physical layout of recruiting stations, such as the number of entrances.

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- (U//FOUO) In the 2010 US Army Recruiting Command Serious Incident Report, 71 events involving suspicious activity with regard to recruiting centers were reported; the individuals asked inappropriate questions, took unauthorized photographs, and sent threats verbally and by mail.³

(U//FOUO) Terrorists can conduct attacks against soft targets—such as recruiting centers—within a short timeframe, with the use of minimal weaponry or materials, significantly diminishing the likelihood of identifying the plot and plotters.

- (U) According to open source reporting corroborated by FBI investigations, between 17 October and 1 November 2010, unidentified subjects fired shots overnight at the National Museum of the Marine Corps on two separate occasions: at a Marine Corps recruiting station in Chantilly, Virginia, and at a Coast Guard recruiting station in Woodbridge, Virginia.^{4,5,6}
- (U) On 19 October 2010, an unidentified individual stabbed an Air Force recruiter in the back with scissors at a recruiting center in Fairview, Illinois.⁷
- (U) In the Fall 2010 issue of al-Qa'ida's online magazine *Inspire*, editor Yahya Ibrahim notes the advantages of random shootings. These require a short timeframe, involve the least preparation, and “eliminate the chances of the Feds catching wind of what’s going to happen.”⁸

(U) Figure 1



(U) Carlos Bledsoe attacks US military recruiting center in Little Rock

(U) Contributing factors to recruitment center vulnerability include minimal levels of security and easy public access to the facilities, which are commonly housed in multipurpose structures. Few recruiting offices are located in federal buildings under the provided security of the Federal Protective Services (FPS).

- (U//FOUO) On 8 December 2010, the FBI arrested US person and Muslim convert Muhammad Hussain, a.k.a. Antonio Benjamin Martinez, as part of a sting operation. Martinez allegedly attempted to detonate what he believed was a real explosive inside a vehicle parked in a Catonsville, Maryland Armed Forces Career Center parking lot. According to FBI and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) reporting, the actions of Martinez “highlight the continuing interest of US-based individuals in planning or participating in attacks against the Homeland.”⁹ Open source reporting described Martinez as “obsessed with jihad and fighting the US military here and abroad.”¹⁰ Martinez reportedly followed Usama bin Laden and refers to al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) associate, US person Anwar al-Aulaqi, as his “beloved sheikh.”¹¹
- (U) According to reliable Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) reporting, in early June 2009 US person Abdul Hakim Muhammad, a.k.a. Carlos Bledsoe, conducted a small arms attack against a US military recruiting center in Little Rock, Arkansas, killing one

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soldier and wounding a second soldier.¹² FBI and DHS reporting highlights that Bledsoe simply drove up to the recruiting center and opened fire.^{13,14}

(U) Outlook

(U//FOUO) The FBI assesses with high confidence that in the future, HVEs will likely continue to pose a threat to military recruiting centers and personnel on US soil, causing concern for the IC and law enforcement officials (LEOs), as improvisation and plots that require little planning are more difficult to detect, monitor, or disrupt.

(U//LES) In response to the increased threat to military recruiting centers and personnel, the National Joint Terrorism Task Force's (NJTTF) Military Operations Support Team (MOST)^c has initiated a number of support measures, to include the following:

- (U//LES) Established single points of action for each recruiting command center with a 24-hour point of contact (POC) to solidify lines of communication between the NJTTF, MOST, and all military recruiting commands;
- (U//LES) Initiated the establishment of a single POC with the Military Entrance Processing Command (MEPCOM)^d, which will further enhance sharing of real time investigative information pertinent to ongoing threats;
- (U//LES) Conducted briefings to recruiting commands concerning the MOST's Recruiting Command Initiative, current and potential threats to all military recruiting commands, and the importance of a deconfliction method regarding threat information;
- (U//LES) Created a MOST outreach program to provide timely terrorist alerts for immediate dissemination to recruiting command POCs and the appropriate Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTFs), whether it is a physical threat to a military recruiting command, or a person of interest attempting to enter the military.

(U) Intelligence Collection Requirements

(U//FOUO) This intelligence bulletin addresses the FBI and USIC Intelligence Collection Requirements for Domestic Terrorism contained in USA-TERR-CTD-SR-0043-10, USA-TERR-CTD-SR-0042-10, and Q-FBI-2400-002-04.

(U) This product has been prepared by the Military Operations Support Team (MOST) of the FBI's National Joint Terrorism Task Force (NJTTF). Comments and queries may be addressed to the Unit Chief William J. Callaghan at 571-280-5688, or Deputy Unit Chief Joseph Simon at 571-280-5412.

^c (U) The MOST consists of military service and DoD Special Agents and Intelligence personnel that serve as direct conduits into their respective service headquarters for counterterrorism (CT) and criminal related investigations, intelligence dissemination and information sharing purposes. MOST also provides direct support to FBI and military CT investigative and operational units.

^d (U) MEPCOM is a DoD entity wherein all qualified recruits are officially processed into the military.

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(U) Endnotes

¹ (U//FOUO) DHS; DIA; FBI; Joint Intelligence Bulletin; 18 May 2011; "Terrorist Threat to Homeland Military Targets in the Aftermath of Usama Bin Ladin's Death;" page 4; SECRET//NOFORN; UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY; Sources are credible members of the Intelligence Community and provide credible and corroborated reporting and analysis.

² (U//FOUO) FBI; Guardian database search, multiple guardians; FY2010; UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

³ (U) Naval Criminal Investigative Service; MFR-032-175-2010; July 2010; "(U) United States: DoD Recruiting Stations Suspicious Incident Analysis; UNCLASSIFIED; Source is a credible member of the Intelligence Community and provides credible and corroborated reporting and analysis.

⁴ (U) Online Article; Larry Shaughnessy; *CNN*; "Official: Shooting at Pentagon appears to be a 'random incident'"; 19 October 2010; http://articles.cnn.com/2010-10-19/justice/dc.pentagon.shots.fired_1_pentagon-police-pentagon-force-protection-agency-shooting?s=pm:CRIME; 20 April 2011; Source is an established news site.

⁵ (U) Online Article; Gregg MacDonald; *The Fairfax Times*; "FBI: Chantilly shooting linked to Pentagon, Quantico Shootings"; 26 October 2010; <http://ww2.fairfaxtimes.com/cms/story.php?id=2426>; December 2010.

⁶ (U) Online Article; *The Washington Times*; "Coast Guard office latest site of gunshot"; 02 November 2010; <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/nov/2/police-shots-fired-coast-guard-office-va/>; December 2010; Source is an established news site.

⁷ (U) Online Article; *Air Force Times*; "Ill. Recruiter in Hospital after Stabbing"; 19 October 2010; <http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2010/10/ap-air-force-recruiter-stabbed-at-recruiting-center-101910/>; December 2010.

⁸ (U) Magazine; Yahya Ibrahim; *Inspire*; "The Ultimate Mowing Machine;" Al-Malahim Establishment for Media Production; Ansar al-Mujahidin Network; Fall 2010; page 56; Source is an Internet-based version of an English-language magazine written by members of AQAP.

⁹ (U//FOUO) FBI; DHS; Joint Intelligence Bulletin; 8 December 2010; (U) Homegrown Extremist Arrested for Plotting Attack on Armed Forces Recruiting Center in Baltimore, Maryland; page 1; UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY; UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY; Sources are credible members of the Intelligence Community and provide credible and corroborated reporting and analysis.

¹⁰ (U) Online Article; Maria Glod; *The Washington Post*; "Man Arrested in MD Terror Bomb Plot"; 8 December 2010; <http://voices.washingtonpost.com/crime-scene/maryland/man-arrested-in-md-terror-bomb.html>; 15 February 2011; Source is an established news site.

¹¹ (U) *Ibid.*

¹² (U) Defense Intelligence Agency; Defense Intelligence Digest; 24 November 2010; page 4; UNCLASSIFIED; TS//HCS/SI/OC/NF/FISA; Source is a credible HUMINT, derived from investigations of homegrown violent extremists and open source documents used in official court proceedings. The HUMINT originates from sources claiming direct access.

¹³ (U//FOUO) DHS; DIA; FBI; Joint Intelligence Bulletin; 18 May 2011; "Terrorist Threat to Homeland Military Targets in the Aftermath of Usama Bin Ladin's Death;" page 4; SECRET//NOFORN; UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY; Sources are credible members of the Intelligence Community and provide credible and corroborated reporting and analysis.

¹⁴ (U) Online Article; The Associated Press; *Fox News*; "Gunman Shoots 2 at Arkansas Military Recruitment Center"; 01 June 2009; <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,523860.00.html>; 20 April 2011; Source is an established news site.

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