



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION SITUATIONAL INFORMATION REPORT

Criminal Tradecraft Alert

Tampa Division

10 June 2011

(U//LES) Sovereign Citizen Extremists May Use Mock Peace Officer Identification Cards to Impersonate Law Enforcement

(U//LES) A Central Florida based sovereign citizen associated with the Republic of the united [sic] States of America has manufactured identification cards for known national leaders and local based sovereign citizen extremists. The identification cards identify the persons as a Commissioned National Peace Officer and carry the six-pointed star common to law enforcement insignia with the words "Ranger, united [sic] States of America A.D. 1776" (Figure 1). The identifications indicate the person "has accepted appointment as Ranger and executed his/her Oath or affirmation and posted a bond as published in the Great Registry Record¹" with a unique number.

- (U//LES) In February 2011, a sovereign citizen was stopped and arrested by Hernando County Sheriff's Office for displaying an Ambassador license plate and presenting a homemade identification card.¹

¹ Information regarding The Great Registry is available online at www.onesteward.org.

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(U) Note: This product reflects the views of Tampa Division and has not been vetted by FBI Headquarters.

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(U//LES) The Oath that accompanies the Ranger identification states the person posted a security bond of \$21 upon accepting the appointment. Instructions that accompany the Oath indicate that one original should be published in the Great Registry and a second original should be submitted to a local recording office for publication.

(U) RuSA, is a self-proclaimed sovereign citizen group which advocates restoring the United States government to the supposed pre-Civil War status. Key leaders associated with the group reside in the state of Alabama, and other states, including Florida, are represented by Chapters. The RuSA evolved, in part, from the Guardians of the Free Republic, whose members were responsible for the letters mailed to all state Governors in March 2010 demanding that the Governors vacate their office under the Restore America Plan.



Figure 1 (U//LES) Ranger Identification

(U//LES) According to self-published literature about the Office of the Ranger,ⁱⁱ there are only two duties of a Ranger: keep/restore the peace when people create a public disturbance, and carry out the lawful process of the assemblies in their judicial capacities. An example provided in the literature states: *“Display badge or other symbol of authority, and ask “You folks aren’t going to make me work today, are you?”* Additionally, a County Ranger should make his presence known and use minimal necessary force to separate two or more combatants. Further the document states, *“in the event one or more parties elects to arrest a participant in a breach of the peace, property damage or taking incident, the County Ranger may assist in transporting such arrested party to a hearing before the nearest available magistrate according to law and may prepare an impartial and unbiased report of the incident to be presented to the magistrate.”* The literature acknowledges that the Office of County Ranger does not extend special rights relating to bearing arms, nor prohibit one from exercising his/her right to bear arms in performance of his/her duties.

(U//LES) In the event of economic breakdown and social chaos, and subsequent martial law, the Rangers will provide necessary civil authority required for the troops to withdraw. The recommended basic equipment for County Rangers includes: a riot baton/nightstick; pepper spray/mace; CB Radio, VHF radio; gas mask; reflective vest with County Ranger markings for

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traffic/crowd control; arms and ammunition²; and high power floodlights. Optional equipment could include: mobile water supply; TASER[®], improvised munitions training materials; paintball gear³; flex-cuffs; bulletproof vest; and protective headgear.

(U) Rangers will have the powers of arrest by lawful 4th amendment warrant, powers to detain by lawful method, and power to hold.ⁱⁱⁱ The national body of Rangers became the enforcement arm of the RuSA which, in late 2010, established a new government under a Declaration of Sovereign Intent. According to this, they will not be prosecuted for any lawful action taken while in the performance of their duties.

(U//LES) Law enforcement sources indicate that the various identification cards could be purchased for approximately \$1,500.^{iv} Other identifications produced by the Central Florida based sovereign citizen include Florida sovereign citizen identification cards (Figure 2) and “Ambassador” identification cards (Figure 3). The example identification cards represented below were produced between October and November 2009. It is unknown how many identification cards were produced.

(U//LES) FBI Tampa assesses the use of these bogus identification cards could pose significant risk to law enforcement or private citizens who errantly believe the identification to be legitimate. The Office of County Ranger is not a recognized legitimate law enforcement position and holds no civil authority.



Figure 2 (U//LES) Florida Sovereign Citizen Identification

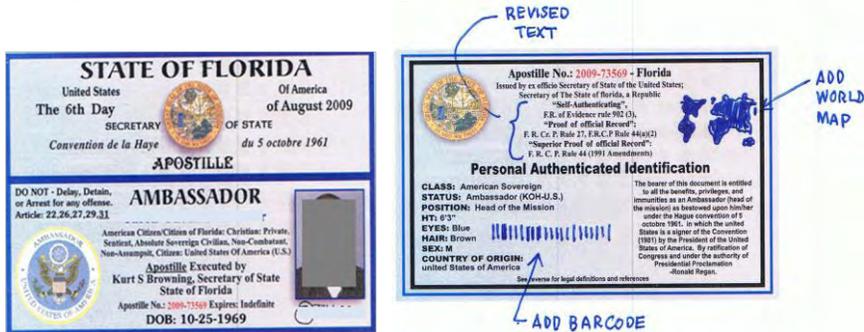


Figure 3 (U//LES) Ambassador Identification Front/Back showing intended modifications.

(U) This report has been prepared by the Tampa Division of the FBI. Comments and queries may be addressed to the Tampa Field Intelligence Group at 813-253-1000.

² It is recommended the Ranger has a minimum of two side arms of a caliber compatible for sharing or commandeering from military and police, as well as a shotgun or assault rifle, and a medium to long range hunting/sniper rifle with scope and rangefinder.

³ Paintball gear could be used for marking suspects.

(U) Endnotes

ⁱ Hernando County Sheriff's Office, Report Number 2011-04471, 7 February 2011; UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

ⁱⁱ FBI Case Information.

ⁱⁱⁱ Internet site; "American Ranger Warrant"; <http://bureauofpublicrecords.org>; accessed on 23 March 2011; UNCLASSIFIED

^{iv} FBI Case Information.