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Briefing Paper
Intelligence Division
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SUBJECT: To Provide an Overview of the Militia Movement Operating Throughout the United States

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Background

The militia movement is a grassroots effort that is similar to the tax protest and anti-government campaigns of the 1970s and 1980s. During the past six months this movement has swept across the country.

A catalyst of the movement was the formation of the Militia of Montana, a.k.a. MOM, organized after the standoff with Randy Weaver in Bonners Ferry, Idaho. The Branch Davidian siege in Waco also fueled the spread of the movement.

Militia organizers cite these incidents, as well as the passage of the Brady Bill and the Crime Control Bill, as the basis for establishing militias--the last line of defense against Federal law enforcement.--To date militias have been identified in 20 states.

These militias base their legitimacy on the Second Amendment to the Constitution, as cited by them: "A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." Members of militias are extremely paramilitary, anti-AIF, and literal interpreters of the Constitution. They subscribe to the belief that the United States, its elected officials, the judiciary, and all segments of the Federal Government, have gotten away from the Constitution, and this belief is driving this country toward "The New World Order."

"The New World Order" is a battle cry for the militias, and generally defined as "a foreign power known as the United Nations, which is actually an oligarchy of the world's super-rich, who have no allegiance to any one nation and who control the United Nations from behind the scenes." They view the United States as a pawn of the New World Order, and law enforcement authorities are its agents.

It should be noted that there are militias that are sanctioned by a state to assist during times of civil defense. These are not the type of militias addressed in this document.

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The militias included embrace the conspiracy theorists of the "New World Order" and are acquiring and training with firearms in order to protect themselves from police. These militias can be defined as follows:

Militias focus on Government as the enemy of the people, and expound a conspiracy theory attributed to certain "shadow" organizations that are planning the overthrow of democratic America and replace it with the "New World Order."

Major Promoters of the Militia Movement

The National Unorganized Militia

Linda Thompson, leader of the Unorganized Militia is considered a major spokesperson advocating the formation of militias and proponents of the movement's conspiracy theories.

The Unorganized Militia, a.k.a. The American Justice Federation, was established in early 1993 during the Waco siege. Following the Waco incident, Thompson produced and disseminated nationwide, a video presentation titled "Waco, the Big Lie." The video argues that there has been a Government conspiracy to cover-up the incidents in Waco.

During the summer, Thompson was arrested for obstructing traffic and possessing firearms during President Clinton's health reform team's arrival in Indianapolis, Indiana. She was also identified as conducting firearms training in Pike County, Ohio.

In April 1994, Thompson sent an "Ultimatum" to members of Congress and called for an armed march on Washington, DC, on September 19, 1994, to arrest members of Congress. She later cancelled this march due to a "CIA conspiracy plot" against her. It is believed that Thompson lost credibility within the militia movement when she cancelled the march.

Militia of Montana (MOM)

The Militia of Montana is a highly organized group that promotes and supports the formation of county militias in Montana, as well as nationally.

The original organizers of MOM are John, David, and Randy Trochmann. The Trochmanns are known to have ties with the Aryan Nation Church in Hayden Lake, Idaho.

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Additionally, John Trochmann was co-chairperson of a support group for Randy Weaver. This support group later became the core of the present-day MOM.

MOM has connections to Bo Gritz, former Populist party presidential candidate, former Phoenix police officer and leader of the "Police Against the New World Order," and Mark Koernke, a militia advocate from Michigan and one of the leading spokespersons for the movement, nationwide.

MOM's association with these various radical right wing factions portrays the organization closer to those expounding white separatism and racial hatred, than as mainstream "patriots."

Police Against The New World Order (PATNWO)

Former Phoenix police officer Jack McLamb is the leader of this organization. McLamb, who publishes "Operation Vampire 2000" and "Aid and Abet," is heavily involved in the right wing extremist movement. "Vampire Killer 2000" suggests that U.S. law enforcement agencies are unknowingly and unwillingly involved with the United States Government in establishing the "New World Order." This group actively recruits law enforcement personnel.

McLamb has traveled to other states and gives speeches before patriot audiences. It is strongly believed that Linda Thompson met with members of PATNWO before cancelling her armed march on Washington, DC. McLamb is extremely close to Bo Gritz and pays tribute to him in his publications. McLamb accompanied Gritz to Ruby Ridge during the Randy Weaver standoff. During his 1992 presidential bid as a Populist Party candidate, Gritz encouraged his supporters to form militias. Gritz has been conducting S.P.I.K.E. (Specially Prepared Individuals for Key Events) training, which has been characterized as paramilitary, and has allegedly included weapons training. Gritz has purchased 200 acres of land in central Idaho. He is selling lots to "like-minded" people.

McLamb was to be a speaker during an Americans Against Gun Control (AAGC) banquet in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. AAGC was an organization first identified by ATF at the 1994 Annual Sturgis Motorcycle Classic in Sturgis, South Dakota. The group had a booth where they handed out anti-ATF literature.

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One article related to a scheduled ATF explosives certification course in Rapid City, South Dakota, in August 1994. The article called for the protest and disruption of the meeting.

Mark Koernke

Koernke is a major spokesperson for the militia cause. Considered an extremely professional presenter, he has spoken all across the United States. He sells his video "America in Peril" at his speaking engagements and through numerous far right periodicals. He is associated with most major militia figures, including Linda Thompson. Koernke, commonly referred to as "Mark from Michigan," was the individual who spoke on the behalf of the three militia members who were arrested this summer in Michigan.

STATE LISTING OF MILITIAS

The following is list of militias, known to ATF, by state. Not all of the militias listed have been identified as having members who are in violation of laws that fall within ATF's jurisdictional purview. This list identifies locations of militias whose philosophy, if adhered to, could lead to violation of Federal laws.

ALABAMA

Unorganized Militia Affiliate

Law enforcement has had contact with one individual believed to be an affiliate of the Unorganized Militia. The individual had expressed the same views as the Unorganized Militia.

ARIZONA

Sovereign Citizens Movement

The Sovereign Citizens Movement, located in Tucson, Arizona, is a constitutionalist organization promoting separation from the Federal Government and the formation of independent townships, and independent militia. Approximately 25 people attended a September meeting.

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ARKANSAS**Unorganized Militia Affiliate**

Two individuals expressed interest in attending the cancelled armed march on Washington, DC. They were allegedly in possession of a fully automatic weapon.

CALIFORNIA

A large meeting of GOAL (see below) was held in the Bakersfield, California area, during which Mark Koernke was the guest speaker.

COLORADO**GUARDIANS OF AMERICAN LIBERTY (GOAL)**

GOAL is an organization, based in Boulder, Colorado, which incorporates many diverse radical right ideals and places them under one umbrella organization. These "committees" include FED and IRS; Legislative Research, Bill and Laws, State Monitoring, Federal Monitoring; Legal; Political Prisoner; Public Servants; Communications and Public Relations; Self Reliance and Family; Education; Sovereignty and Freedom; Militia; and Spiritual. GOAL has been identified in Colorado, California, and Ohio.

An application for GOAL was found on two members of the American Patriots, who were arrested in Las Vegas, Nevada, for Federal firearms and explosives violations.

FLORIDA**American Citizen Alliance**

During the purchase of 50 magazine clips from an PFL in Maitland, Florida, the suspect made statements concerning the militia to a detective with the police department. Among other statements he said there was a plan in place to kill Federal judges, congressmen, and agents. He also advised that he had 60 Ruger rifles. An inquiry into the suspect's background revealed that he is a convicted felon. He was arrested by ATP on October 15, 1994. At the time of his arrest he was in possession of a Ruger rifle with a silencer. The suspect has five associates, also members of the American Citizen Alliance, who are defendants in Federal cases as a result of their role in placing unlawful liens against the properties of Federal district court judges.

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Florida State Militia 2nd Regiment

The 2nd regiment of the Florida State Militia is located in Ft. Pierce, Florida. A spokesman for the group stated that their membership is made-up of the American Populist Party and the American Patriots. They believe in the Constitution and States' rights. They oppose the Federal Government's move to a New World Order and a central police force. He described the membership as "boy scouts with guns." Information received indicates members interest in making nitroglycerine. They may also be in possession of machineguns.

During one meeting, 250 people attended to listen to David Thibedaux, a Branch Davidian survivor, speak about the Waco incident. The group claims to have 250,000 members statewide.

Florida State Militia recruitment posters have surfaced depicting a hooded ATF SRT member with the caption "Never Surrender Your Firearms." This same picture can be seen in other militias' literature.

GEORGIA**111TH NORTH GEORGIA MILITIA**

The 111th North Georgia Militia states that its "area of operation" is in the Georgia mountains, near the Tennessee border. This militia has allegedly buried caches of firearms, explosives, and survival supplies in anticipation of their conspiracy beliefs of a United Nations takeover of the U.S. This group is associated with the Church of the Avenger and MOM.

IDAHO**United States Militia Association**

According to media accounts, Sam Sherwood, the director of the United States Militia Association, based in southeast Idaho, speaks to groups concerning circumventing the Crime Bill by forming their own local militia units.

Sherwood sells a detailed guide on organizing militias, which also include copies of laws to present to state legislators and county commissioners to persuade them to sanction local militias. He has allegedly recruited 500 members in 10 chapters in Idaho.

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While Sherwood claims that the majority of Idaho sheriffs back his campaign, Greg Mofat, Sheriff of Madison County and President of the Tri-County Sheriff's Association, was quoted in The Salt Lake Tribune, "Their intent is to amass weapons, including automatic weapons, and go against the Federal Government."

INDIANA

Unorganized Militia

Indianapolis is the home base for the Unorganized Militia. See above.

MICHIGAN

Northern Michigan Militia

Since March 1994, The ATF Detroit Field Division has noted the escalation of the militia movement in Michigan from a theoretical group of individuals, who advocate returning to the Constitution, to a full-blown paramilitary organization which is growing with unprecedented speed. Militias have been identified in 66 of Michigan's 85 counties.

The formation of militias in Michigan is believed to have been spearheaded by the Northern Michigan Militia, 1st Brigade, headed by Norman Olson, a former Career Air Force officer, minister, and current Federal Firearms Licensee. The militias are considered to be separate and distinct from each other, yet Olson is the self-appointed liaison among the various militias in Michigan. It should be noted that Olson is selling large quantities of firearms through his business and may be selling them to militia members.

According to the Detroit Field Division, the following groups have been found to be related in some manner to the various militias in Michigan: The National Unorganized Militia, We the People,

Gun Owners of Macomb County, Gun Owners of Michigan, Justice Pro Se, Committee to Restore the Constitution, Citizens for Justice, Fully Informed Jury Association, and the American Freedom Network.

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MISSOURI**Continental Militia**

The Continental Militia is based at an undisclosed location in Crawford County, Missouri, where they are rumored to have drug connections and buried munitions. One member has sent threatening letters to local law enforcement. Members declare that they are not citizens of the United States, but rather citizens of the state of Missouri. Therefore, they claim that they are not subject to the laws of the United States.

Other Missouri Militias

Since June 1994, law enforcement authorities have determined that militias have been formed in Greene, Dade, Barton, Cedar, and Franklin counties. Copies of Mark Koernke's tape have been circulating among these militias.

MONTANA**MOM**

Montana is the home base for MOM.

NEVADA**Nevada Volunteers**

A member of this group has alleged ties to the Aryan Nations, skinheads, and is a supporter of the U.S. Special Forces National Militia. Members of this group are suspected of Federal firearms violations and may have connections with militias in other states.

NEW MEXICO

PATWNO protested at the IACP conference.

NEW YORK

During October 1994, an ATF defendant of Bay Shore, New York, was convicted of two counts of possessing a machinegun; one count of engaging in the Business of Unlicensed Manufacturing of Firearms, and two counts of Making a Machinegun Lacking a Serial Number. The defendant, who is described as a survivalist and a tax

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protestor, belonged to a group called the "Naked Truth." During the execution of a search warrant, a letter was found which indicated the defendant intended to initiate a militia and recruit persons to assist him in the manufacturing of firearms.

Unorganized Militia Affiliate

During July 1994, an individual appeared on a Rochester public access TV network recruiting volunteers to participate in the armed march on Washington, DC.

NORTH CAROLINA

Unconfirmed information disclosed the possible existence of an armed, uniform militia that is stockpiling weapons for the purpose of future resistance against the Federal Government.

OHIO

OHIO UNORGANIZED MILITIA

The Ohio Unorganized Militia has strong ties with Linda Thompson and her national movement. In July 1994, Thompson was observed training with the Pike County Unit of the Ohio Unorganized Militia. The militia movement in Ohio recently received media attention when James Johnson, a black male, stated that he is the coordinator for the Ohio militias in 50 of Ohio's 88 counties. Johnson stated that the militia members are stockpiling weapons because they feel that armed conflict is inevitable in the United States. Johnson further predicted that the conflict would occur before the summer of 1995.

A chapter of the Guardians of American Liberties is also in Ohio.

SOUTH DAKOTA

TRI-STATE MILITIA

Not much is known about this militia, other than the fact that a unit may be located near Sioux Falls, South Dakota. This group may be connected to "We The People."

Mark Koernke has also spoken to a Sioux Falls citizen's group, along with a representative of "We The People."

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TEXAS**Concerned Americans**

This group was first identified at gun shows in central Texas. They believe that it is their responsibility to acquire firearms to defend themselves against police. They do not appear to have any financial backing and lack organization. Since an influential leader has not emerged, it is questionable whether the organization will flourish.

WISCONSIN**Free Militia**

Mathew Trewhella, leader of the anti-abortion group, Missionaries to the Preborn, sponsored a rally in October 1993, in which Linda Thomson was the featured speaker; 2,500 attended. Trewhella advocates the forming of church-based militias.