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## MIAC STRATEGIC REPORT

02/20/09

# The Modern Militia Movement

### *Modern Militia Movement:*

The Militia Movement began in the 1980's and reached its peak in 1996. Several social, economic, and political factors contributed to the surge in militia participation in the 1990's. The primary motivator for the movement was the farm crisis of the 1980's, which caused the destruction of 3/4 of a million small to medium size family farms. Overall, 11 million Americans lost their jobs during this time period.

Academics contend that female and minority empowerment in the 1970s and 1960s caused a blow to white male's sense of empowerment. This, combined with a sense of defeat from the Vietnam War, increased levels of immigration, and unemployment, spawned a paramilitary culture. This caught on in the 1980's with injects such as Tom Clancy novels, Soldier of Fortune Magazine, and movies such as Rambo that glorified combat. This culture glorified white males and portrayed them as morally upright heroes who were mentally and physically tough.

It was during this timeframe that many individuals and organizations began to concoct conspiracy theories to explain their misfortunes. These theories varied but almost always involved a globalist dictatorship the "New World Order (NWO)", which conspired to exploit the working class citizens. United Nations troops were thought to already be operating in the United States in support of the NWO. Much of this rhetoric would become anti-Semitic claiming that the Jews controlled the monetary system and media, and in turn the "Zionist Occupied government (ZOG)". The Militia of Montana (MOM) became a key organization in pushing rightwing rhetoric and informing individuals on how to form militia organizations.



A series of incidents in the early 1990's caused a surge in militia participation. The 1992 standoff between federal authorities and the Weaver family at Ruby Ridge, Idaho became a spark for the movement. On August 14, 1992, a 12 day standoff began that would result in the death of one federal agent and the wife and son of Randy Weaver. The following February, a 51-day siege would occur at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, resulting in the death of 82 Davidians and four law enforcement agents. In November of 1993, the enacting of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1992 additionally fueled the movement. The movement reached its peak in 1996 with over 850 groups believed to be operating within the US.

### *Noteworthy militia activity from 1995 to 1999:*

- 11/09/95: Oklahoma Constitutional Militia members are arrested as they plan to bomb the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), gay bars, and abortion clinics.
- 12/18/95: A drum of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil is found behind the IRS building in Reno, Nevada, the device failed to explode. An anti-government tax protestor is later arrested for the incident.
- 01/18/96: A member of the Aryan Republican Army (ARA) is arrested in Ohio after a shoot out with the FBI. The ARA was also associated with 22 bank robberies between 1994 and 1996.

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- 01/01/96: 12 members of an Arizona Militia group called Viper Team were arrested on Conspiracy, Weapons, and Explosives charges after they were caught doing surveillance on government buildings.
- 07/27/96: A bomb is detonated at the Atlanta Olympic Park, killing one person and injuring 100. Eric Robert Rudolph is later arrested and linked to other bombings at abortion clinics and a gay bar.
- 10/11/96: Seven members of the Mountaineer Militia were arrested for plotting to blow up the FBI fingerprint records center in West Virginia.
- 07/04/97: Members of a splinter group of the Third Continental Congress were arrested in the process of plotting attacks on military bases. The group thought that many military installations were training United Nations troops that were planning on attacking U.S. Citizens.
- 03/18/98: Members of the North American Militia were arrested on firearms charges; prosecutors claimed that the group conspired to bomb federal buildings in Michigan, a television station, and an interstate highway interchange.
- 12/05/99: Members of the California based San Joaquin Militia were charged with conspiracy to bomb critical infrastructure sites in hopes of provoking an insurrection. The leaders of the organization also plead guilty to plotting to kill a federal judge.
- 12/08/99: The leader of a militia coalition known as the Southeastern States Alliance was charged with conspiracy to bomb energy facilities in order to cause power outages in Florida and Georgia.

***Decline of the Movement:***

The militia movement began to decline after the 1995 Oklahoma City Bombing and raids on the Montana Freeman and Republic of Texas in 1996 and 1997. Poor public opinion of the militia movement and increased attention from law enforcement caused many of the uncommitted members to leave the movement. Many of the hardcore militia members grew angry with the militia for not mobilizing in response to perceived government aggressions. Some of these fanatics would splinter into smaller or underground groups adhering to the principles of "leaderless resistance".

Many militia groups began to rally members in the belief that the government would collapse due to the Y2K scare. This theory claimed that the government would collapse due to computers not being able to handle the transition from the 1900's to the 2000's. The militia's inaccurate assessment of the Y2K threat badly damaged its reputation. Additionally, thoughts that President George W. Bush was sympathetic to their situation, and a wave of patriotism after 9/11 would further diminish the militia movement.

***The Militia Post September 11, 2001:***

During this time period the militia had lost the attention of the mainstream media and public, but it continued to exist. The SPLC reports that between the Oklahoma City Bombing in 1995 and 2005 that roughly 60-rightwing extremist plots were uncovered.

Noteworthy militia activity from 2000 to 2008

- 03/09/00: The former leader of the Texas Militia was arrested for conspiracy to attack the Houston Federal Building.
- 03/01/01: A former Colonel in the Kentucky Militia peppered a deputy's car with semi automatic weapons fire during a traffic stop.
- 02/08/02: Two members of a group called Project 7 were arrested for plotting to kill judges and law enforcement officers in order to kick off the revolution.
- 09/03/02: A plot by the Idaho Mountain Boys Militia to murder a federal judge and a police officer and then break a friend out of jail was uncovered.
- 07/07/03: A Michigan Militia member killed a Michigan State Trooper that attempted to serve him a warrant.



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- 10/25/04: A farmhand in Tennessee was arrested for attempting to obtain ingredients for sarin gas and C-4 explosives in order to conduct Anti Semitic and government attacks.
- 06/29/07: Six members of the Alabama Free Militia were arrested on weapons and explosives charges. An ATF agent would go on to testify that five of the men were planning an attack on Mexicans in a town near Birmingham.
- 12/08: National Guard and Reserve facilities received packages with anti New World Order rhetoric. This would occur within a week of hoax anthrax mailings to State Governor's offices.

**Reemergence of the Movement:**

Rightwing extremists and militia leaders continuously exploit current world events in order to increase participation in their movements. Due to the current economical and political situation, a lush environment for militia activity has been created. Unemployment rates are high, as well as cost of living expenses. Additionally, President Elect Barack Obama is seen as tight on gun control and many extremists fear that he will enact firearms confiscations. White supremacists from within the militia movement have further become angered due to the election of the first African American President. Many constitutionalists within the movement have claimed that President Elect Obama does not meet the residency requirements to hold the office of President, and therefore his election is unconstitutional.

Newer versions of the NWO conspiracy have been concocted in order to empower the movement. The NWO is seen as using law enforcement, military, national guard, and federal agencies in order to carry out its elitist one world government. Law enforcement and military forces are believed to be utilized in order to confiscate firearms and place individuals into FEMA concentration camps. This scenario has received additional attention due to the US Army NORTHCOM assigning homeland security functions to an active duty Infantry Brigade. The movement sees this brigade as the force that will take their firearms and that the unit is in violation of the Posse Comitatus Act. There are also concerns that the banking and media infrastructure are also being controlled by the Jewish elite and that these leaders are members of the NWO. There is a great deal of anger towards the Federal Reserve System (FRS) and all forms of tax collection.

**Additional motivators for militia activity:**

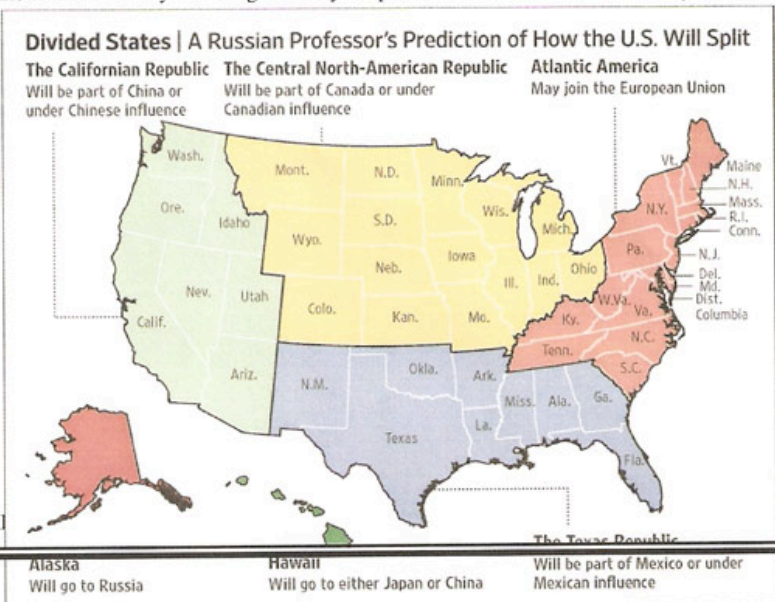
**Ammunition Accountability Act:** The Ammunition Accountability Act has been up for legislation in most states. This legislation would require that an ID number be engraved on the round of all ammunition and this ammo could in turn be linked to a place of purchase and the purchaser. Some states have added a clause to the act making it a misdemeanor to possess unregistered ammunition. *Bill did not pass in Missouri*



**Bullet with engraved tracking number**

**Anticipation of the economic collapse of the US Government:** Many militia organizations feel that the U.S. government will fall due to economic or racial issues. They believe that during the chaotic fall of the government, moves will be made to install Martial Law, confiscate firearms, and imprison many citizens. This fear has recently been heightened by a report from a Russian Economic analyst, Igor Panarin. Panarin predicted that the U.S. would collapse and fraction into six different regions controlled by foreign governments. Panarin goes on to say that as early as the autumn of 2009, the economic crisis will lead to a civil war.

**Possible Constitutional Convention (Con Con):** Currently 32 states have called for a Constitutional Convention (Con Con) that will add amendments to the U.S. Constitution. The Con Con will be held if two more states request it. The convention is planned specifically for the reason of adding a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. The Militia Movement is concerned that if a Con



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Con is held, the 1st and 2nd amendments will be altered or removed.

**North American Union (NAU):** Conspiracy theorists claim that this union would link Canada, The United States, and Mexico. The NAU would unify its monetary system and trade the dollar for the AMERO. Associated with this theory is concern over a NAFTA Superhighway, which would fast track trade between the three nations. There is additional concern that the NAU would open up the border causing security risks and free movement for immigrants.



Kansas City and the Smart Port are seen as the hub of the North American Union

**Universal Service Program:** Statements made by President Elect Obama and his chief of staff have led extremists to fear the creation of a Civilian Defense Force. This theory requires all citizens between the age of 18 and 25 to be forced to attend three months of mandatory training.

**Radio Frequency Identification (RFID):** There is a fear that the government will enforce mass RFID human implantations. This process would make it possible for the government to continually know the locations of all citizens.



**Militia Trends:**

Ideologies

Members of the militia movement often subscribe to the ideology of other right-wing extremist movements such as:

**Christian Identity:** Religious ideology popular in extreme right-wing circles. Adherents believe that whites of European descent can be traced back to the "Lost Tribes of Israel." Many consider Jews to be the satanic offspring of Eve and the Serpent, while non-whites are "mud people" created before Adam and Eve.

**White Nationalist:** Many white supremacists, National Socialists "Neo-Nazi", and skinheads are drawn to the movement and its anti government, Semitic, and anti-immigration rhetoric.

**Sovereign Citizen:** Individuals that see themselves as Sovereign Citizens question the legitimacy of the federal government. They argue that the government has gotten away from the intent of the Constitution and is thus not valid. These groups are

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strong states rights advocates, but see the County Sheriff as the highest position of authority. These groups and individuals are well known for failure to register vehicles and driving without valid licenses. Sovereign Citizens have been known to issue their own license plates and drivers licenses and to issue summons to appear in "Common Law" courts.

**Militant Abortion:** Anti Abortionists have been known to take up arms in support of their beliefs. Eric Rudolph who was responsible for the Atlanta Olympic Park Bombing and abortion clinics was an anti abortionist.

**Tax Resisters:** This movement is strongly in opposition to the collection of federal income taxes. Individuals in this movement generally believe that income taxes are invalid or the tax laws do not apply to them.

**Anti- Immigration:** Some militia organizations have been formed solely for the purpose of countering the threat of illegal immigration. Extremists will argue that immigrants are taking the jobs of U.S. Citizens during times of high unemployment. Additionally, illegal immigrants are seen as sucking up government resources without paying taxes. Some militia units patrol the border in order to safeguard against drug smugglers, gangs, or violent immigrants.

#### Training

**Utilization of MILSIM:** Militia members have been attending Military Simulation (MILSIM) events in order to increase their combat readiness. MILSIM is a realistic combat sport in which two forces, some times up to the platoon level, utilize paintball, Airsoft, or MILES gear to conduct realistic war games. The desire to increase the realism of the MILSIM has drawn members to seek and conduct military leadership, planning, communications, navigations, and tactics training.

**Militia and Survival Training events:** Regional training events are being held with the intent of teaching individuals how to establish militia organizations. These events usually focus on individual soldier skills, land navigation, and marksmanship. Some events have been set up in order to prepare for joint operations between militia organizations.

**Communications:** The use of short wave rave radios for communication and broadcasts is common among most militia groups. These groups communicate through forums, yahoo groups, blogs, and social networking sites. Websites and online talk shows have been established to push rhetoric, usually a skewed version of current events.

**Recruitment:** Militias are recruiting members and supporters through the following means: gun shows, online forums, websites, social networking sites, and informal social networks. Additionally, militia recruitment may be done at events or meetings held by organizations that share ideologies with the militia.



#### Organization

**Public Groups** These organizations hold training events that are open to the public and generally recruit publicly. These groups desire to aid the County Sheriff or Governor in emergencies such as a natural disaster. It is not uncommon for these groups to be seen in public doing community service related work. Public groups are less likely to publicly push malicious rhetoric, and have a traditional military style chain of command and leadership structure. These groups have been known to form underground units and provide training and guidance to new or forming organizations.

**Underground Groups** These groups primarily adhere to the principles of Louis Beam's philosophy of leaderless resistance. This philosophy advocates small autonomous cells driven by ideology rather than by the direction of leaders. These groups are difficult to gather intelligence on, as no one outside of the cell would be aware of the organization or its plans. Individuals or "lone wolves" have also been known to adhere to the principles of leaderless resistance in order to perform or plot acts of violence.

**Committees of Safety (CoS)** Organization established to lobby government officials and confront corruption. These groups claim to be a voice of the people and usually control or associate with militia organizations in their region. These organizations are targeted at the county level but are also forming state and national level organizations.



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**Covenant Militia Communities** Community of militia members that attempt to create a sovereign township. In the 1990's there were an estimated eight of these communities identified across the country.

**Militia Associations** These organizations attempt to network various militias through the Internet, meetings, or events. Groups such as the American Constitutional Militia Network (ACMN) and the Rogue Nations Eternal Militia (RNEM) are active online communications sites for militia members and organizations.

Missouri Militia members during a Field Training Event (FTX)

#### Implications for Law Enforcement

*There are significant differences between the 1990's era militias and those of today, most notably:*

**Highly Trained:** Militia members are receiving more professionalized training than they did during the first spike of the movement in the 1990's.

**Leadership training:** Militia members are receiving advanced leadership and operational planning training. This has allowed for the establishment of a strong Non Commissioned Officer Corps (NCO) within groups. An NCO Corps allows operations to be run at the fire team and squad size. This enables units to conduct multiple operations simultaneously; "Complex attacks". This training will also enable individuals to form and train their own organizations.

**You are the Enemy:** The militia subscribes to an anti-government and NWO mindset, which creates a threat to law enforcement officers. They view the military, National Guard, and law enforcement as a force that will confiscate their firearms and place them in FEMA concentration camps.

#### Implications for Missouri

##### **Infrastructure at risk in Missouri:**

**Detention Centers:** Rightwing extremists believe that there are at least three FEMA concentration camps in the state of Missouri:

- The Former Richards-Gebaur AFB in Grandview, MO
- Ft. Leonard Wood, MO
- Camp Crowder in Neosho, MO

**North American Union (NAU):** The Kansas City "Smart Port" which is a hub for fast tracked trade and distribution between the U.S. and Mexico is seen as the Hub of the North American Union. A shipping and distribution center is under way in the former Richard-Gebaur AFB in Grandview, MO. This facility is seen as both a FEMA concentration center and a facility for the NAU.

**Federal Reserve Banks:** Members of the militia movement are strongly against the FRS and see it as a mechanism of the elitist New World Order. In November End the FED protests were held nationwide at Federal Reserve Banks in opposition to the FRS. Many right-wing extremists oppose the FRS and propose a system that would be backed by gold. Federal Reserve banks may also draw attention from anti bail out protestors and activists.

**National Guard Facilities:** National Guard armories and facilities are seen as potential staging areas for NWO troops. Additionally, there are fears that the National Guard will be forced to confiscate weapons and enforce marshal law. Some individuals in the movement have argued that National Guard soldiers and units have had their weapons confiscated, have been transformed into no combat units such as supply, transportation, or medical elements, or are being deployed overseas in order to weaken the defense of the State against the NWO.

**Federal Buildings or facilities:** Within the movement there is a distrust and anger towards the federal government primarily towards the IRS, ATF, FBI, FEMA.

#### Common Militia Symbols:

##### **Political and Anti-Government Rhetoric:**



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**Political Paraphernalia:** Militia members most commonly associate with 3rd party political groups. It is not uncommon for militia members to display Constitutional Party, Campaign for Liberty, or Libertarian material. These members are usually supporters of former Presidential Candidate: Ron Paul, Chuck Baldwin, and Bob Barr.

**Anti-Government Propaganda:** Militia members commonly display picture, cartoons, bumper stickers that contain anti-government rhetoric. Most of this material will depict the FRS, IRS, FBI, ATF, CIA, UN, Law Enforcement, and "The New World Order" in a derogatory manor. Additionally, Racial, anti-immigration, and anti-abortion, material may be displayed by militia members.

**Militia Symbols:**



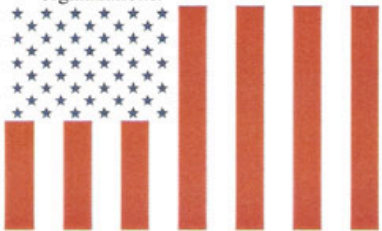
**Gadsden Flag:** created by General Christopher Gadsden and utilized in colonial America. This is the most common symbol displayed by militia members and organizations.



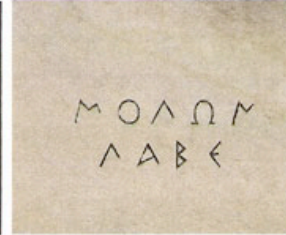
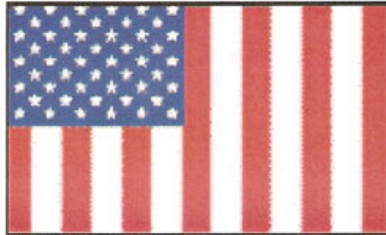
**Hutaree Militia:** Patch of a popular Michigan based militia that has a presence and influence in many states.



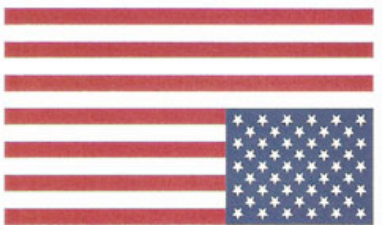
**1st BN/3rd BDE MO Militia patch:** Unit patch displayed by Missouri Militia Members.



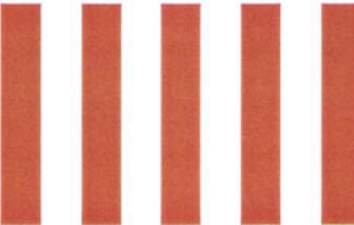
**Sovereign Citizen:** Flags usually displayed by Sovereign citizens in order to represent sovereign "common law" jurisdiction.



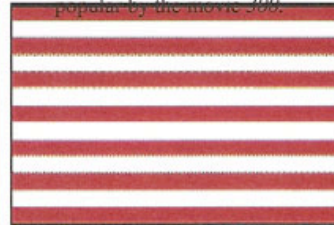
**Molon Labe:** Greek phrase that translates to "Come and take them!" or "Over my dead body", phrase originated during the Spartan and Persian battle at Thermopylae and was recently made popular by the movie 300.



**Upside down US Flag:** The militia uses this as a symbol of a nation in distress.



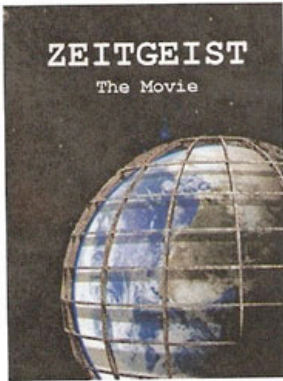
**Nine Stripes of the Sons of Liberty:** Sons of Liberty was a secret society of patriots during the American Revolutionary war. Many militia members claim the Sons of Liberty as part of their heritage.



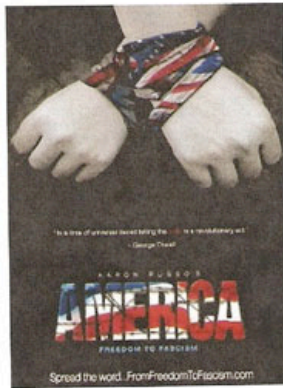
**First Navy Jack:** Continental Navy flag, which is also, displayed with a stretched out rattlesnake and the inscription "Don't Tread on Me".

Literature and Media Common to the Militia:

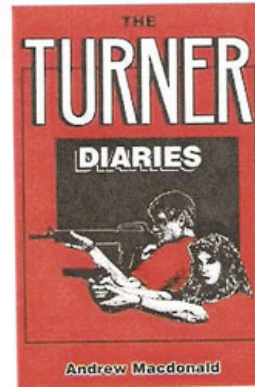
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**Zeitgeist the Movie:** Anti Federal Reserve System film.



**America: Freedom to Fascism:** Anti-income tax film



**The Turner Diaries:** Novel that depicts the violent revolution of the United States Government and a war that leaves only a white population. This book was promoted by Timothy Mcveigh and said to be the motivation behind the Oklahoma City Bombing.

Comments regarding this alert may be made to [Brandon.middleton@mshp.dps.mo.gov](mailto:Brandon.middleton@mshp.dps.mo.gov)

Comments on previous MIAC strategic alerts or ideas for research on future strategic products should be made to [Greg.hug@mshp.dps.mo.gov](mailto:Greg.hug@mshp.dps.mo.gov)

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