

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 03/04/2010

To: Anchorage

Attn: SA [redacted]  
Fairbanks RA

b6 -1  
b7C -1  
b7E -2

SA [redacted]  
[redacted]

Attn: SSA [redacted]  
IA [redacted]  
[redacted]

Salt Lake City

Attn: SA [redacted]  
Kalispell RA

From: Salt Lake City  
Helena, Montana, Resident Agency  
Contact: SA [redacted]

Approved By: [redacted]

Drafted By: [redacted]

Case ID #: [redacted] (Pending) -2  
(Pending)  
(Pending)  
(Pending)



b6 -2  
b7C -2  
b7E -1, -3

Title: [redacted]  
SCHAEFFER COX;  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

Synopsis: Schaeffer Cox's alleged charges for domestic assault may impact captioned Montana DT investigations.

FBI(17-cv-611)-290

[redacted] b7E -3

To: Anchorage From: Salt Lake City  
Re: [REDACTED] 03/04/2010

b7E -3

**Administrative:** This document contains unavoidable references to persons and groups engaged in the exercise of First and Second Amendment Rights; however, the justification for this communication, and that of the captioned investigations, is based upon threats of violence and violations of federal criminal law. Specifically, the captioned subjects and their associates have advocated the use of firearms, explosives, and organized militias to "kill" "spill blood" and otherwise combat the federal government. They appear to be attempting to recruit and encourage others in this regard. Using the least intrusive methods available, attempts have been made to avoid the collection and documentation of information not deemed relevant to this threat.

**Enclosure(s):** Enclosed are the following materials, documenting Cox's popularity and speeches in Montana:

- 1) A transcript of Cox's 11/24/2009 speech to the Sanders County Patriots (provided by a militia-related source).
- 2) Purported court documents (from the Internet) regarding Cox's recent charges.
- 3) Internet communication regarding Cox's upcoming appearance in Montana in May.
- 4) FD-302 regarding subject [REDACTED] comments regarding Cox.
- 5) Flathead County and Lincoln County Liberty Bell declarations

b6 -2  
b7C -2

**Details:** Since December 2009, Salt Lake City has been investigating activity in Montana related to Alaskan subject Schaeffer Cox. In late 2009, Cox made a series of speeches in Montana and Idaho, during which he advocated a plan for solving perceived problems caused by the federal government. That plan, which Cox suggests is already in place in Alaska, involves: 1) the solicitation of "Liberty Bell" declarations from concerned citizens. 2) the creation of a "Liberty Bell" Network to respond and monitor law enforcement actions; 3) the formation of a separate common law court system; and 4) the creation of an armed militia to violently confront the federal government.

The approximately 25-year-old Cox, from Fairbanks, is a former Republican candidate for Congress, and has formed and successfully promoted a Second Amendment Task Force in Alaska. He helped to organize a "Freedom Fest" rally in April 2009 at the

To: Anchorage From: Salt Lake City  
Re: [redacted] 03/04/2010

b7E -3

Carlson Center in Fairbanks. During this time-period, Cox also appeared at the FBI office in Fairbanks, and made veiled threats to the federal government regarding further federal gun-control legislation.

Based upon discussion with the Anchorage case agent, and with militia activists in Montana, it appears doubtful that Cox has a "3,500 man militia under (his) command" as he has asserted to crowds in Montana. The "Liberty Bell" system he advocates is likely not in force to the degree he suggests in his speeches. One militia activist in Montana has suggested that Cox may have spent time in a mental health facility or drug rehabilitation clinic when he was approximately 18-years old. (Cox frequently tells a story to crowds indicating that he survived a harrowing outdoor adventure in Alaska during this time in his life). These inconsistencies, along with Cox's statements about illegal firearms, explosives, and violence caused militia activists in Montana to report his activities to the FBI.

Despite his dubious credentials, Cox's plan, dubbed "The Solution", has garnered significant support in at least three Western Montana counties. Followers have urged like-minded citizens to sign "Liberty Bell" declarations, promising to "abolish and replace" the government if further firearms restrictions are introduced. (It should be noted that on 2/27/2010, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder publicly asserted that the current Administration foresees the introduction of legislation reinstating of the Clinton era "Assault Weapons Ban. This controversial legislation would appear to trigger the "revolution" called for by Cox and his followers).

Extremist subjects in Montana have praised Cox's assertion that the revolution contemplated in the Liberty Bell declarations should be carried out violently. Cox has urged audiences to be willing to "kill," "spill blood", and "be arrested" to defend liberty. Despite these rather open calls for violence, he and his followers repeatedly cast themselves as "peacemakers", indicating that it is only the tyrannical actions of the federal government that will lead to violence.

Cox's groundswell of support in Montana appears to have been generated solely from his one-week speaking tour in 2009, and the circulation of videos of his speeches. Celebrating Conservatism, a group of 500 to 800 citizens in Ravalli County hosted one of Cox's speeches in December, and continues to serve as his most vocal support group in the state. [redacted]

b6 -2  
b7C -2  
b7E -3, -4

To: Anchorage From: Salt Lake City  
Re: [redacted] 03/04/2010

b7E -3

[redacted] claims to have drafted part of a recent "questionnaire/agreement" for Celebrating Conservatism which suggests that the current Sheriff form a militia and arrest federal agents who enter Ravalli County without permission. This agreement/questionnaire appears to have been drafted in conjunction with Cox's speeches in Montana.

b6 -2  
b7C -2  
b7E -3, -4

Lincoln County Watch, [redacted] has posted Cox's videos and Liberty Bell declaration to their website and have indicated that they support his "Solution." [redacted] and other militia activists from northwestern Montana [redacted]

b6 -4  
b7C -4

Another group in Flathead County, comprised primarily of supporters of the controversial bankrupt radio station KGEZ is promoting Cox's videos and soliciting signatures for it's own Liberty Bell declaration. Two members of this group, subject [redacted] recently discussed their support for Cox's assertion that, "It's not enough to be willing to die for liberty, you have to be willing to kill for liberty."

b6 -2, -4  
b7C -2, -4  
b7E -3

It appears that Cox also garnered some support for his ideas during multiple speeches in Sanders County, but established militia-related leaders there rejected his formal "Solution".

Three constitutionalist Montana legislators appear to have spoke at Cox's Freedom Feet in Fairbanks in April 2009. They Celebrating Conservatism's [redacted] also appears to have also traveled to Alaska and maintains regular contact with Cox. Although [redacted] has indicated that her group is taking steps to put Cox's judicial and militia-related plans in place, it is unclear what steps have actually been taken.

b6 -4  
b7C -4

It should be noted that the majority of citizens involved in the above groups, do not pose a threat of actual violence. These citizens and the groups themselves are not subjects of FBI investigations. No attempt is being made to document the names of members of these groups, and the captioned investigations are focused solely on identifying individuals and situations which present actual threats of violence.

On 03/01/2010, Celebrating Conservatism and Lincoln County Watch posted Internet messages advertising a statewide Liberty Convention on May 21 and 22. The message noted that a drawing would be held for attendees to "win" a meal with Schaeffer Cox. Celebrating Conservatism indicated that they are seeking to have at least 5,000 people attend this paid event, which will be

To: Anchorage From: Salt Lake City  
Re: [redacted] 03/04/2010

b7E -3

held at the Adams Center at the University of Montana in Missoula.

On 03/02/2010, the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner posted an online story entitled, "Leader of Fairbanks 2nd Amendment Task Force Schaeffer Cox choked wife, court documents say." The story indicates that on 03/01/2010, the Alaska State Police in Fairbanks charged Schaeffer Cox with second-degree assault, a Class B felony. Cox allegedly choked his wife during an argument on a family trip to Anchorage.

If accurate, the news account of Cox being charged with felony assault presents a variety of potential opportunities for the gathering of intelligence and prevention of violence associated with Cox's militia activities. Alaska State Troop Lt.

b7E -4

Ron Wall advised that he would contact Cox and attempt to turn Cox into an informant. Lt. Wall stated that evidence to support the domestic assault charge was scant to none. But that Cox has a huge ego and may agree to work as an informant, simply to avoid the negative media coverage. However, if Cox refuses to become an informant, charges will likely not stick.

Cox's arrest may serve to diminish support for the potentially violent movement he has helped to start in Montana. Supporters on the Internet, however, have already asserted that the charges are problematic (due to technical filing issues), suggesting that Cox may be able to escape conviction. Beating the charges (and the resulting loss of his rights to possess firearms) may actually strengthen Cox's reputation in the militia community. Given the nature of militia movement, it is also likely that various conspiracy theories will develop amongst Cox's supporters, insinuating that the federal government is actually orchestrating the state prosecution of Cox. (As such, any attempt by the FBI to obtain information regarding Cox in Alaska should be done as discreetly as possible.)

In light of the above, it is requested that Anchorage

b7E -4

[redacted]

To: Anchorage From: Salt Lake City  
Re: [REDACTED] 03/04/2010

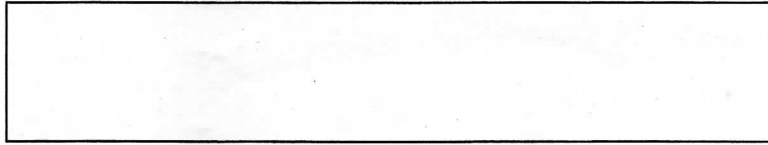
b7E -3

LEAD(s):

Set Lead 1: (Action)

ANCHORAGE

AT FAIRBANKS, AK



b7E -4

Set Lead 2: (Info)

COUNTERTERRORISM

AT WASHINGTON, DC

Read and clear.

♦♦