



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION Domestic Terrorism Symbols Guide

(U//FOUO) Militia Violent Extremism

(U//FOUO) SUMMARY

The following symbols are used by Anti-Government or Anti-Authority Violent Extremists, specifically Militia Violent Extremists (MVE). MVE symbols are often found on propaganda, online platforms, memes, merchandise, group logos, flags, tattoos, uniforms, etc. Widespread use of symbols and quotes from American history, especially the Revolutionary war, exists within MVE networks. Historic and contemporary military themes are common for MVE symbols. **The use or sharing of these symbols alone should not independently be considered evidence of MVE presence or affiliation or serve as an indicator of illegal activity, as many individuals use these symbols for their original, historic meaning, or other non-violent purposes.**

(U) SYMBOLS



(U) **Boogaloo**: Alludes to the film *Breakin' 2: Electric Boogaloo*; used by some MVEs to refer to violent uprising or impending second Civil War. Common imagery incorporates igloo and/or Hawaiian shirts/flowers.



(U) **Punisher Skull**: Several variations of skulls, used by III%ers and Molon Labe etc.



(U) **2A**: MVEs justify their existence with the Second Amendment, due to the mention of a "well regulated Militia," as well as the right to bear arms.



(U) **Electrical resistance symbol**: A way to identify as a resistor.



(U) **Anarcho-Capitalism ("ancap")**: An ideology held by some MVEs advocating the State be eliminated or minimized and that public services be provided by private companies competing in a free market. Represented by a black and yellow flag.



(U) **Warrior Culture**: Military themes both historical and contemporary (Spartans, Valhalla).



(U) **"MolonLabe", "ΜΟΛΩΝΛΑΒΕ" and "Μολον Λαβε"**: Greek phrase, translates as "come and take it" and "come and take them."



(U) **Black Flag**: The black and white or all black American flag is used by some to indicate "no quarter shall be given."

(U//FOUO) COMMONLY REFERENCED HISTORICAL IMAGERY OR QUOTES



(U) **Gadsden Flag**: Historical American symbol, representing gun rights and limited government.



(U) **Revolutionary War imagery**: An example of a militiaman during the Revolutionary war.



(U) **Liberty Tree**: The Liberty Tree was a famous elm tree in Boston near Boston Common. In 1765, colonists in Boston staged the first act of defiance against the British government at the tree.



(U) **Betsy Ross Flag**: Revolutionary war imagery harkening back to the 13 colonies and calls for revolution.

(U) For additional information, please contact the Counterterrorism Analysis Section of the FBI Counterterrorism Division via email at FBI_CTD_CTAS@fbi.gov.

(U) Sources: Previous FBI products, FBI information and open source information. This document derives from multiple sources of information collected by the FBI.

(U) MVEs employ a number of tactics, some of which may be criminal and others of which may constitute exercise of rights guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The FBI may not base any investigative activity solely on the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment.

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(U//FOUO) COMMON PHRASES AND REFERENCES

- (U) "When tyranny becomes law, rebellion becomes duty," and variations.
- (U) "We are everywhere" and "expect us," "I will not comply," and "All enemies foreign and domestic."
- (U) "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants."
- (U) "I became unreasonable"
- (U) "His name was Duncan Lemp"
- (U) "Well Regulated American Militia"

(U) MVEs consider the following individuals to be Martyrs:

- (U) **Vicki Weaver** (Ruby Ridge 1992)
- (U) **Marvin Heemeyer** (Killdozer 2004)
- (U) **LaVoy Finicum** (MNWR 2016)
- (U) **Duncan Lemp** (2020)
- (U) **Ashli Babbitt** (Capitol Siege 2021)

(U) SYMBOLS OF MILITIA NETWORKS SOME MVEs MAY SELF-IDENTIFY WITH

(U) **Three Percenters, III%ers, 3%ers, Threepers:** A US ideology based on the myth that only 3% of Americans fought back against the British during the Revolutionary war. Often represented by the roman numeral "3" surrounded by 13 stars to represent the original 13 states.



(U) **American Contingency:** Mainstream militia, nationwide, mostly online activity, low history of violence.

Light Foot Militia



(U) **Light Foot Militia:** Self-described decentralized organization of local, county-based militia units.



(U) **Oath Keepers:** A US-based, loosely organized militia group consisting of current and former military, police, and first responders who pledge to fulfill the oath that all military and police take to "defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

(U//FOUO) SIGNIFICANT EVENTS MVEs MAY REFERENCE

(U) Ruby Ridge:	(U) 21 August 1992, 11-day armed siege at the Weaver residence, Naples, Idaho.
(U) Waco:	(U) 28 February 1993, Armed siege at the Branch Davidian Compound, Waco, Texas.

(U//FOUO) NOTABLE ATTACKS OR CRIMINAL ACTIVITY THAT INSPIRE MVEs

(U) Timothy McVeigh:	(U) 19 April 1995, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah building. Targeting the US government, killed 168, several hundred injured.
(U) The Crusaders:	(U) October 2016, three MVEs were arrested for planning to conduct an IED attack on an apartment complex in Garden City, Kansas, where Muslim immigrants from Somalia lived and worshipped.
(U) Steven Carrillo:	(U) In late May and early June 2020, two ambush-style attacks by alleged MVE occurred against security personnel and law enforcement officers. 2 were killed and 3 injured.

(U//FOUO) TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS IN MVE HISTORY 2014 - PRESENT

2014	2016	2017	2019	2020	2021
(U) April	(U) January-February	(U) June	(U) August	(U) April	(U) March
(U) Bunkerville, Nevada standoff at Bundy Ranch between LEOs and Bundy supporters over unpaid cattle fees	(U) 41-Day occupation of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Princeton, Oregon after armed MVEs seized and occupied the building	(U) Plot to bomb a Bureau of Land Management cabin	(U) Minnesota mosque bombing	(U) MVEs misrepresent themselves as law enforcement, detain migrants at the southern border illegally	(U) Duncan Lemp killed during a no-knock warrant in Maryland
					(U) June
					(U) An MVE is arrested after a shootout with LEOs; writes "BOOG" on a car
					(U) January
					(U) Individuals, including some MVEs, participate in a siege of the US Capitol Building