



# Sovereign Citizen Movement

SSA Jeffrey Van Nest  
JTTF/DT Squad  
FBI Minneapolis

# Domestic Terrorism Program

## FBI Authorities

18 USC § 2331(5) – Domestic Terrorism Defined

28 CFR § 0.85(I) – Lead Agency for Terrorism Cases

## Sub-Programs

- ▣ Anarchist Extremism
- ▣ Animal Rights/Environmental Extremism
- ▣ Anti-Abortion Extremism
- ▣ Black Separatist Extremism
- ▣ Militia Extremism
- ▣ Sovereign Citizen Extremism
- ▣ White Supremacist Extremism

# SCE Movement Evolution

- ▣ Posse Comitatus
- ▣ Timothy McVeigh/Terry Nichols – Patriot Movement
- ▣ Republic of Texas
- ▣ Montana Freemen
- ▣ Republic for the united States of America
- ▣ Alaska Peacemakers
- ▣ Internet Presence

# Minneapolis FBI Strategy

- ▣ Information Sharing
  - Sovereign Citizen Working Group
    - ▣ IRS, BCA, MPD, HCSO, SPPD, RCSO, MN DOC
  
- ▣ Outreach Initiative
  - Post-accredited LEO Training
  - Courthouse Staff Training
  
- ▣ Disruption

# Successful Prosecutions

Name	Charges	Sentence
James Timothy Turner - Alabama	Title 18 USC 371: Conspiracy to Defraud; Title 18 USC 514 (a)(2) & 2: Fictitious Obligations; Title 26 USC 7212(a): Attempting to Interfere with IRS; Title 26 USC 7203: Failure to File Taxes; Title 18 USC 152(2): False Testimony	Eighteen years, five years supervised release, pay \$26,021 in back taxes, and \$925.00 assessment fee.
Kenneth Wayne Leaming - Washington	Title 18 USC 1521: Retaliation; Title 18 USC 922 (g): Felony Possession	Ninety-seven months, three years supervised release, and forfeiture of all firearms.
Denny Ray Hardin - Missouri	Title 18 USC 514: Fictitious Filings (11 counts); Title 18 USC 1341: Mail Fraud (10 counts)	One hundred twenty months, three years supervised release and \$2,100 special assessment.
James Allen Hennis - Mississippi	Title 18 USC 1521: Retaliation; Title 18 USC 2: Principal	Forty-one months, three years supervised release, and \$10,000 fine.

# Federal Statutes Successfully Charged

Counterfeit coins or bars	15 yrs+fine
Uttering gold or silver coins	5 yrs+fine
Counterfeit securities	10yrs+fine
Fictitious financial obligations	25 yrs
Use of likeness of great seal of the US	6mon+fine
Mailing threatening communications	20yrs+fine
Use of government seal	5yrs+fine
Mail fraud	20-30yrs+1,000,000
Wire fraud	20-30yrs+1,000,000
Bank fraud	30 yrs+1,000,000
Retaliation against Federal Judge or Federal LEO	10yrs+fine
National Firearms Act violations	10yrs+10,000
Attempt to evade or defeat tax	5 yrs+100,000
Willful failure to collect or pay tax	5yrs+10,000
Filing false tax returns	3yrs+100,000

# Court Security Improvement Act of 2007

## 18 USC § 119 (Publish Personal Information)

5 yrs+fine

(a) **In General.**— Whoever knowingly makes restricted personal information about a covered person, or a member of the immediate family of that covered person, publicly available— (1) with the intent to threaten, intimidate, or incite the commission of a crime of violence against that covered person, or a member of the immediate family of that covered person; or (2) with the intent and knowledge that the restricted personal information will be used to threaten, intimidate, or facilitate the commission of a crime of violence against that covered person, or a member of the immediate family of that covered person, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

## 18 USC § 1521 (Filing False Liens)

10 yrs+fine

Whoever files, attempts to file, or conspires to file, in any public record or in any private record which is generally available to the public, any false lien or encumbrance against the real or personal property of an individual described in section [1114](#), on account of the performance of official duties by that individual, knowing or having reason to know that such lien or encumbrance is false or contains any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned for not more than 10 years, or both.

# Sovereign Video



# Best Practices When Encountering SCE Tactics

- Exercise extreme officer safety
- Do not engage in debate; you will be recorded
- Prohibit cell phone use during encounter
- Seize and document any false I.D. cards or license plates
- Verify identity
- Notify Intelligence Unit and FBI/JTTF
- Don't be intimidated

# Additional References

- Francis X. Sullivan, *The Usurping Octopus of Jurisdictional Authority: Legal Theories of the Sovereign Citizen Movement*, 1999 Wis. L. Rev. 785 (1999)
- Erica Goode, *In Paper War, Flood of Liens Is the Weapon*, N.Y Times, Aug. 23, 2013, at A1.

# Minneapolis JTTF/DT Contact Information

SSA Jeffrey Van Nest  
JTTF/DT Squad  
FBI Minneapolis  
(763) 569-8420

IA Julia Wegner  
JTTF/DT Squad  
FBI Minneapolis  
(763) 569-8409