



SOVEREIGN CITIZENS

Sovereign Citizen

- The FBI, state and local police list them among the nation's top domestic terror threats.

Sovereign Citizen

- The sovereign citizen movement has a presence in every state in the country, and is active in Tennessee

Sovereign Citizen

- Sovereign citizens are anti-government extremists who believe that even though they physically reside in this country, they are *separate* or “*sovereign*” from the United States and have renounced their citizenship

Sovereign Citizen

As a result, they believe they don't have to answer to any government authority,

- including courts,
- taxing entities,
- motor vehicle departments,
- or law enforcement.

History

- The sovereign citizen movement grew from an extremist group called **Posse Comitatus**
 - The movement is rooted in racism and anti-Semitism



- In recent years most new recruits are people who have found themselves in a desperate situation and are searching for:
 - a quick fix or
 - easy money and living a lawless life, free from any unpleasant consequences
 - They are not all racists – or even all white

Sovereign Citizen

- Sovereign citizens believe that they are answerable only to English Common Law and are not subject to any statutes or proceedings at the federal, state or municipal levels.

Beliefs

- in 1933 when the U.S. abandoned the gold standard
- The U.S. dollar was no longer backed by gold, but by the "full faith and credit" of the U.S. government
 - the government has pledged its citizenry as collateral, by selling their future earning capabilities to foreign investors, effectively enslaving all Americans
 - U.S. Government could borrow money

“Straw Man”

- Baby is born
- Birth certificate is issued
- Parents apply for Social Security Number
- Government sets up a corporate trust in the baby's name
- Secret treasury account \$630,000 – 20 million

JANE DOE versus Jane Doe

- Birth certificates use capital letters – “straw man”
- Not capital letters is the “flesh and blood” name
- Most legal documents use capital letters (including IRS) so they refer to corporate identity not the real person
 - John of the family Smith
 - John of Smith
 - John:Smith
 - John (commonly known as)

Redemption

- The process sovereigns have devised to separate the straw man from the flesh-and-blood man is called “redemption”
- File letter with state and Register of Deeds – renouncing citizenship
- File forms with Uniform Commercial Code (UCC)

Redemption

- Two things happen once the flesh and blood man is separated from the “straw man”
 - The Sovereign Citizen is now outside the jurisdiction of admiralty law
 - They can now use the secret Treasury account (TDA)
 - Access secret account by using sight drafts (rubber checks) to make purchases and pay debts *Fraudulent

Outside Admiralty Law

- After the redemption process they believe they have renounced their citizenship and are no longer required to follow the laws including:
 - Pay taxes
 - Get a driver's license
 - Register their vehicles
 - Pay traffic tickets
 - etc

Paper Terrorism

- When confronted by law enforcement the Sovereign Citizen will respond with “paper terrorism”, fraudulent legal documents and filings to harass and intimidate police officers, prosecutors, judges, public officials and court clerks
- File fake tax forms - cause enemies to be audited by the IRS
 - (examples)

Paper Terrorism

- Sovereign filings can quickly exceed a thousand pages
- The size of the documents is an issue, but so is the nonsensical language the documents are written in
- They have a kind of special sovereign code language that judges, lawyers and other court staff can't understand

Tactics

- Although these strategies are primarily considered frivolous, filed liens have lead to government officials' credit ratings being negatively impacted. (Examples)
- While the liens can be removed it takes time and money to restore their credit rating
- Tax payers are negatively impacted because judges will recuse themselves and another will have to be appointed – involving time and travel expenses

Tactics

- Sovereigns use the Internet to download a variety of templates and documents to use in their paper terrorism, how to books, and on-site training programs are available to assist sovereign citizens.
 - Usually led by a guru (for a price)
 - (Example)

Threats Against USG and Law Enforcement

- Holding Common Law Courts (The Continental Marshals)
 - Issuance of Warrants
 - Issuance of Subpoenas
 - Issuance of Bounties
- Plot to kill officers and other government officials (6 law enforcement officers killed)
- Violence toward officers, especially during traffic stops
- Stand-offs, to include shoot-outs

Potential for Violence

- Sovereign citizen criminal activity includes violent acts, the most infamous attack occurred in West Memphis where 2 officers were killed by a father and son team of sovereign citizens during a traffic stop in May 2010.

Jerry and Joeseeph Kane

- Image from officers vehicle surveillance camera:



- Suspects.....later killed:



Jerry Kane and his 16-year-old son Joe

Criminal Acts/Extremism

- White Collar scams, including mail fraud, bank fraud, and mortgage schemes
- Impersonate police officers and diplomats
- Use fake currency, passports, license plates, and driver's license
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Claiming Diplomatic Authority

- Many sovereign citizen extremists claim diplomatic status since they maintain they are not part of the United States.
- Diplomatic badges and credentials
- Passports
- License plates, identification
- State and local law enforcement do not always recognize them as fake.
- Known uses:
 - Provided at traffic stops
 - Bypass court security
 - Bypass airport security screening



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
• 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
• Retaliation against Federal Judge or Federal LEO	10yrs+fine

Tennessee Statute 39-17-117

- It is an offense for any person to knowingly prepare, sign, or file any lien or other document with the intent to encumber any real or personal property when such person has no reasonable basis or any legal cause to place such lien or encumbrance on such real or personal property.

Tennessee Statute 39-16-510

- A person commits the offense of retaliation for past action who harms or threatens to harm a witness at an official proceeding, judge, district attorney general, an assistant district attorney general, an employee of the district attorney general or a law enforcement officer, clerk, juror or former juror, or a family member of any such person, by any unlawful act in retaliation for anything the witness, judge, district attorney general, assistant district attorney general, employee of the district attorney general or a law enforcement officer, clerk, or juror did in an official capacity as witness, judge, district attorney general, assistant district attorney general, employee of the district attorney general or a law enforcement officer, clerk, or juror. The offense of retaliation for past action shall not apply to an employee of a clerk who harms or threatens to harm the clerk.

March 28, 2017

- “In what may be the largest joint prosecution of sovereign citizens, authorities are bringing a 320-count criminal indictment against 10 of the antigovernment activists just arrested after a year-long investigation in Tennessee.”
- Southern Poverty Law Center

Between January 2014 and June 2016

- 11 SCEs have been identified who have filed mass liens, the majority of filings occurring in 2016
- -153 liens were filed of which 137 were filed against law enforcement and public officials
- 2 Billion Dollars worth of liens were filed TNSOS on individuals, public officials, law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and etc....
(364 felony charges) Forgery Class A Felonies

Outlook/Trends

- Movement is growing
- Loose networks, no one leader
- Redemption and other fraudulent schemes aimed at those in financial distress
- Increased presence on the internet
- Widening demographic

Sovereign Citizen

...Police Response

- Resources:
 - Southern Poverty Law Center
 - <http://www.splcenter.org/what-we-do/hate-and-extremism/law-enforcement>
 - And
 - UNC School of Government
- <https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwid6LStyLLZAhWHx4MKHaL5B6oQFgg7MAI&url=http%3A%2F%2Fsogpubs.unc.edu%2Felectronicversions%2Fpdfs%2Faojb1504.pdf&usg=AOvVaw2PmT8T3sn7MgWbZ36mj6V5>