



United States Park Police

Executive Brief

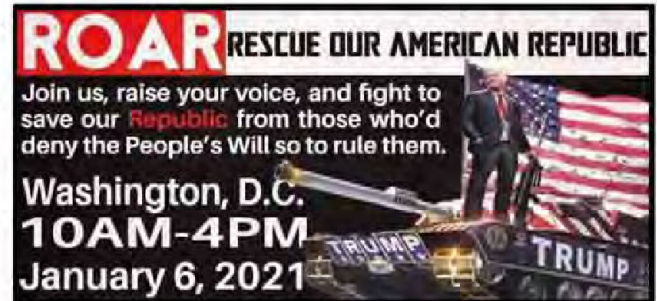
Date: 28 December 2020

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(U) 6 January 2021—WMA Demonstrations Activity

(U//LES) Along with our federal, state, and local partners, we continue to evaluate calls for a “Stop the Steal / MAGA 3” event being scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 6 January 2021 in Washington, DC. While many specifics concerning the event such as time and location are not yet finalized, all available evidence indicates that we should expect an event similar to those



that occurred on 14 November 2020 and 12 December 2020 in Washington, DC. We have observed indications that opposition groups are aware of the event and plan to counter-protest as they have in the past. We have also witnessed indications that despite 6 January falling on a Wednesday, a higher than expected number of people have already made concrete plans to travel to the District of Columbia for the event. The significance of 6 January is the fact that it is the date, set by law, for a joint session of Congress to meet (at 1300 hours) to count the Electoral College votes and officially declare the results. This action is seen by many as the last hurdle to overcome before the 20 January Presidential Inauguration. There is some concern that individuals may display more aggressive and desperate behavior as they interpret 6 January as their final opportunity to act on their grievances. A recent event on Christmas morning may directly reference this desperation leading to violent actions by a motivated and determined individual.

(U//LES) On 25 December a vehicle bombing occurred in Nashville, Tennessee. While the exact motive behind the bombing remains unknown, there have been some social media postings concerning conspiracy theories stating that election data stored at the AT&T building was targeted by the bomber. There remain no specific or credible threats to the District. However, the 25 December bombing should act as a vivid reminder as to the despair and the dedication to act that exists from a small minority of individuals concerning recent social and political events.

(U//LES) In comparison to the 14 November and 12 December events, it appears that more pre-planning is taking place for the various MAGA and “Stop the Steal” events with increases in ride-sharing sites as well as hotel reservation coordination. Hotel booking and reservation requests have shown a significant increase for 6 January throughout the immediate DC area. We are aware that many members of the far-right group ‘Proud Boys’ plan on being in Washington on this date.

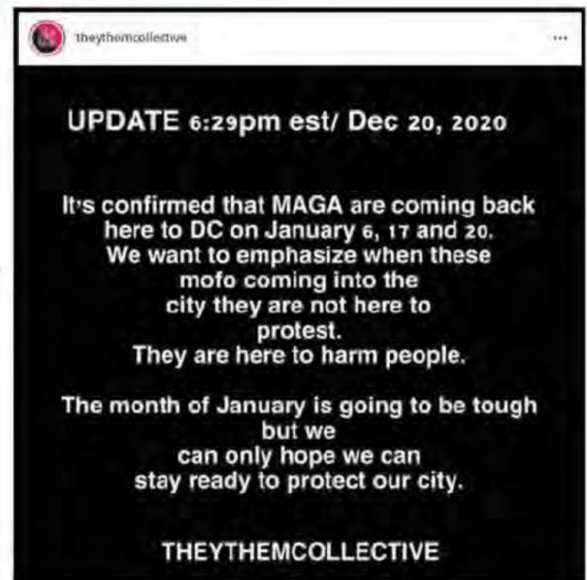
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(U//LES) The Proud Boys have not publicly stated their intentions for 6 January; however, we do anticipate street-level confrontation/violence between them and those opposed to their ideology. Initial reports were that a smaller number of Proud Boys were expected to travel to the District on 6 January, but this statement has not been recently updated or re-evaluated. A recent eGuardian report from the FBI detailed plans for individuals to engage in civil disobedience such as blocking major transportation routes leading into the District. As has also occurred at previous rallies, there have been multiple calls by individuals for attendees to participate in these events while armed. Some social media posts have gone as far as to state that protesters outnumber law enforcement

and that law enforcement would be easily overcome. While striking in their content, there is no indication that these individuals will follow through with their threats and travel to the District in any coordinated fashion. The more likely scenario is that individuals will arm themselves with weapons such as knives, baseball bats and chemical irritants such as bear spray. We also expect far-left groups to continue to engage law enforcement and their opposition with weapons such as bottles, bricks, commercial grade fireworks and laser pointers.

(U//LES) While there appears to be more pre-planning by organizers of the MAGA and "Stop the Steal" events, there is still minimal coordination between some of the like-minded groups planning to attend. The National Park Service and USPP Special Events continues to work with the groups in negotiating the limited available demonstration areas. Organizers are announcing they plan to gather both at the U.S. Capitol and on the National Mall (with a march to the U.S. Capitol). As has occurred in previous rallies, it is expected that many of these smaller gatherings will congeal into one larger, yet mostly unorganized group. While some events will likely originate on USPP jurisdiction, it is expected that as the day progresses the vast majority of the demonstration activity and attention will be focused on Capitol Hill.

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