(U) 2010 State of the Union Address

Joint Threat Assessment

25 January 2010

Homeland Security

Federal Bureau of Investigation

US Capitol Police

National Counterterrorism Center

United States Northern Command

National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

Maryland Coordination & Analysis Center

Virginia Fusion Center

Washington Regional Threat & Analysis Center

National Capitol Regional Intelligence Center
(U) Joint Threat Assessment: 2010 State of the Union Address

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(U) Prepared by the DHS/I&A Domestic Threat Analysis Division, Regional Threat Analysis Branch, the Washington Division of the FBI, the FBI Counterterrorism Division/Threat Review Unit, the National Counterterrorism Center, and the U.S. Capitol Police. Contributing information received from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, NORAD-USNORTHCOM, the Terrorist Screening Center, the DHS/Transportation Security Administration, the National Capital Regional Intelligence Center, the Washington Regional Threat and Analysis Center, the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center, and the Virginia Fusion Center. This information is provided to support and assist federal, state, and local government agencies and authorities, and other entities to develop priorities for protective and support measures relating to an existing or emerging threat to homeland security. The Interagency Threat Assessment and Coordination Group reviewed this product from the perspective of our non-federal partners.

(U) Scope

(U//FOOU) This joint threat assessment provides the perspectives of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), US Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), the U.S. Capitol Police (USCP), and National Capital Region law enforcement agencies on potential threats related to the President’s delivery of the State of the Union address on 27 January 2010 at the US Capitol. This assessment will assist law enforcement personnel and security planners in monitoring threat information and ensuring a safe and secure event environment. The Secretary of Homeland Security has designated this event as a National Special Security Event (NSSE).

(U//FOOU) Information contained in this document is current as of 19 January 2010. Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies will update any threat information received after this date through intelligence information reports, situational intelligence reports, and operational situation reports as warranted.

(U//FOOU) The information contained in this assessment responds to the following intelligence requirements: Q-FBI-2400-002-04; CT-USA-TERR-CTD-SR-0042-10; HSEC-02-19000-ST-2009.
(U) Event Overview

(U) On 27 January 2010, the US President will deliver the annual State of the Union address in the House of Representatives chamber in the US Capitol. The Vice President, First Lady, Cabinet secretaries, both houses of Congress, Supreme Court Justices, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other senior government officials will attend. The event will be broadcast live on network and cable television nationwide.

(U) Lone Offender Threat

(U/FOUO) DHS, FBI, NCTC, NGA, USNORTHCOM, USCP, and National Capital Region law enforcement have no information indicating lone offenders plan to target the US Capitol during the State of the Union address. Lone offenders most likely lack the capability to overcome the heightened security measures that will be in place during the address. We assess, however, that lone offenders pose the greatest potential threat because their operational independence and limited trusted associations make it difficult to detect, monitor, and disrupt their intentions and activities.

(U/FOUO) Several highly publicized attacks in the United States in 2009 illustrate the potential threat posed by lone offenders.

— (U/FOUO) In November, a US Army officer stationed at Fort Hood, Texas allegedly opened fire on individuals at the installation, killing 12 and wounding at least 31.

— (U/FOUO) In June, a US citizen allegedly killed a special police officer posted at a museum in Washington, D.C. that attracts approximately two million visitors annually.

(U/FOUO) Although these attacks were not related to the State of the Union address, potential lone offenders have made numerous threats against the President and other government officials. We have no information, however, suggesting their rhetoric has progressed to operational planning.\(^b\)

(U) International Terrorist Threat

(U/FOUO) DHS, FBI, NCTC, NGA, USNORTHCOM, USCP, and National Capital Region law enforcement have no specific or credible information indicating an international terrorist threat to the Capitol or participants present during the State of the Union address but assess that al-Qa’ida and its affiliates remain interested in attacking the United States and constitute a persistent threat to US interests worldwide.

\(^b\) (U) For examples of threats made against government officials, please refer to the Threat Information by U.S. Capitol Police section of this assessment.