Tips for Assessing Threats
Site Visits (face-to-face), Letter/Email, Phone Call, Social Media

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SITE VISIT (Face-to-Face)

Example Scenario

Subject: Rep. Webb, can I have a minute of your time?

Rep: Of course, what can I do for you?

Subject: I can’t believe that you won’t support the many of your constituents that desperately desire that the Confederate Battle Flag is not removed from the state house grounds. Do you even know what your constituents want or are you simply going along with the crowd?

Rep: If I could explain...

Subject: The time for explanations is over. You are deliberately not representing the majority and catering to the minority. I am tired of your grandstanding to the press. We are not going to go away silently. If you do not stop your rhetoric against the flag I may not be responsible for my actions or the actions of others.

Rep: If I could respond...

Subject: As a matter of fact, I am a Marine and a member of the Confederate Sons of America. That flag represents our heritage in a way that you can’t even hope to understand. The flag is being blamed for the actions of one individual. Are you willing to demean the sacrifice that my ancestors made in service to this state? Are you degrading our states past veterans or are you against all of our veterans past and present? Have you ever served?
Rep: Well...

Subject: Don’t even try, I know the answer; you haven’t so how could you even possibly talk to me about sacrifice, service, and honor. You are responsible for saying that my ancestors sacrifice was wrong and are causing me great pain. I will make sure that you never see another term in this office. In fact, when I am done you will be lucky to get elected to dog catcher. I will make your life just as painful as mine when I get through with you in the press and tell my story and what you are doing to me and our states past veterans. I am tired of listening to your lies and want to hear nothing more from you. You need to change your ways, or else.

- Remember, no matter where you are, you are subject to being recognized and you may have no idea who they are or what their intentions are.
- Is the subject trying to have a conversation or make a statement in a public forum and garner attention to himself?
- Is the subject making a threat (direct or implied)?

Government Employees

- When you enter any room or building:
  - Observe all exits and determine which is closest; in case of an incident.
  - Note an alternate exit in the event that you are unable to escape from the closest.
  - Be aware of your surroundings and those in close proximity to you.
  - Don’t fall into a pattern.
  - Be alert—trust your instincts.
  - Don’t debate or challenge the individual.
  - Disengage ASAP.
  - Immediately report this communication to security and/or law enforcement.
  - This individual has strong and established beliefs about this legislation.
  - What could you possibly say that would convince him otherwise?
  - He is not posing a question to you, it is a statement.
  - Immediately report/forward any further correspondence or contact with this individual; NO MATTER WHAT THE CORRESPONDENCE SAYS!
Security/Law Enforcement

- Introduce yourself and ask the individual to relocate to a location where you can talk to him.
- De-escalate the situation.
- What’s going on tonight?
- What can we do to help you?
- LISTEN... LISTEN... LISTEN.
- Understanding and inquisitive tone and demeanor—not demanding and commanding.
- Divert attention from the target
- Take into consideration his 1st amendment rights.
- Explain that this type of communication scares some people and they don’t understand.
- Observe surrounding and demeanor of the individual
- Is this person simply “venting” or does he have mental health issues that need to be addressed?
- Request his permission to pat him down for weapons—“For your safety and mine”.
- Have another officer check for wants/warrants on the individual.
- After the event, conduct a background on the subject.
  - Criminal history
  - Police reports
  - Mental health history
  - Ability to access the target
  - Civil court history
  - Drivers history
  - Recent weapons acquisitions
  - Check with the law enforcement agency where the individual lives to see if they are familiar with him.
  - Check with other governmental agencies to see if they have had contact with this individual. FREQUENT FLIERS
  - Monitor the individual and consider posting a BOLO at governmental buildings.
Letter/Email (see separate letter)

- Is this a threat (direct or implied)?

Government Employees

- Immediately report this communication to security and/or law enforcement.
- DO NOT respond to this letter.
- This writer has strong and established beliefs about the government.
- What could you possibly write that would convince him otherwise?
- He is not posing a question to you, it is a statement.
- Immediately report/forward any further correspondence or contact with this individual; NO MATTER WHAT THE CORRESPONDENCE SAYS!

Security/Law Enforcement

- Conduct a background on the subject.
  - Criminal history
  - Police reports
  - Mental health history
  - Ability to access the target
  - Civil court history
  - Drivers history
  - Recent weapons acquisitions
  - Check with the law enforcement agency where the individual lives to see if they are familiar with him.
  - Check with other governmental agencies to see if they have had contact with this individual. FREQUENT FLIERS
- Consider risk/value of law enforcement making contact with this individual.
  - If yes:
    - 1st amendment considerations
    - What can we do to help you?
    - Divert attention from the target
    - Explain that this type of communication scares some people and they don’t understand.
    - Observe surrounding and demeanor of the individual
Is this person simply “venting” or does he have mental health issues that need to be addressed?

Phone Call

Example Scenario

Staff: Senator Jones office, how may I help you?

Caller: Yes, I need to talk to the Senator.

Staff: the Senator is out of the office right now, do you want to leave a message or is there something that I can help you with?

Caller: I don’t think that you can help me will all the corrupt sons a bitches that work down there. They are all trying to kill me and my family.

Staff: Maybe if you explain your situation I can better help you.

Caller: Those bastards want to raise my gas tax to pay for roads that I don’t even drive on. I am an independent truck driver and have to pay for my own diesel. This tax will put me out of business. Things are already tight and this will be the final death nail in my coffin. How am I gonna keep my house and feed my kids?

Staff: I hear you, if I could just get your name and callback numbers I can have someone contact you and try to help.

Caller: This is Bullshit!!! I don’t need to talk to someone; I need to talk to the Senator. He is the only one that can help me. I have already been transferred three times and been put on hold on every occasion. I am tired of waiting... it’s now time for action.

Staff: if you could just give me your name and callback number...

Caller: BOB SMITH 864-555-1792!! I know that y’all don’t care you just want to get rid of me.

Staff: how do you feel that the Senator can help so he will have that information when he calls back?

Caller: Stop this bill or else... The time for talk is over... if something isn’t done I don’t know what I will be forced to do... CLICK.

Staff: Hello...
• Is the subject making a threat (direct or implied)?
• Is this a question or a statement?

**Government Employees**

• Don’t engage or argue with the caller.
• Keep the caller on the line and try to get as much information as possible.
• Note the date, time and phone number (caller ID) of the caller.
• Write down as much of the conversation as you can.
• Immediately report this communication to security and/or law enforcement.
• DO NOT immediately respond to the caller.
• This writer has strong and established beliefs about the Bill.
• What could you possibly say or write that would convince him otherwise?
• He is not posing a question to you, it is a statement.
• DO NOT call the subject back until he has been properly vetted by security/law enforcement.
• Immediately report/forward any further correspondence or contact with this individual; NO MATTER WHAT THE CORRESPONDENCE SAYS!

**Security/Law Enforcement**

• Conduct a background on the subject.
  o Criminal history
  o Police reports
  o Mental health history
  o Ability to access the target
  o Civil court history
  o Drivers history
  o Recent weapons acquisitions
  o Check with the law enforcement agency where the individual lives to see if they are familiar with him.
  o Check with other governmental agencies to see if they have had contact with this individual. FREQUENT FLIERS
• Consider risk/value of law enforcement making contact with this individual.
• If yes:
  o 1st amendment considerations
What can we do to help you?
- Divert attention from the target
- Explain that this type of communication scares some people and they don’t understand.
- Observe surrounding and demeanor of the individual
- Is this person simply “venting” or does he have mental health issues that need to be addressed?

Social Media (see separate posts)
- Is this a threat (direct or implied)?

Government Employees
- Immediately report this communication to security and/or law enforcement.
- Provide the header information of the email.
- Provide the date/time and IP address of the recipient.
- Avoid forwarding to others.
- Resist the temptation and DO NOT respond to this post.
- DO NOT debate or challenge this individual!!
- What could you possibly post that would be an appropriate response to such a comment?
- If you believe that you do have an appropriate response, how do you see the result?
- They are attempting to “poke” you into a response. If you respond, you are giving in to them and giving them exactly what they want.
- They are not posing a question to you, it is a statement.
- Remember that the only person that you have control over is yourself.
- Immediately report/forward any further correspondence or contact with this individual; NO MATTER WHAT THE CORRESPONDENCE SAYS!

Security/Law Enforcement
- Identify the subject
- Conservation letter to Facebook, etc.
- Search warrant/subpoena for subscriber information
• Conduct a background on the subject.
• Criminal history
• Police reports
• Mental health history
• Ability to access the target
• Civil court history
• Drivers history
• Recent weapons acquisitions
• Check with the law enforcement agency where the individual lives to see if they are familiar with him.
• Check with other governmental agencies to see if they have had contact with this individual. FREQUENT FLIERS
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  o What can we do to help you?
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