



ARMY THREAT INTEGRATION CENTER (ARTIC)  
**Indications of Extremism in the Military 2017 - 2019**



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## (U) Scope & Methodology

(U//FOUO) Due to indications of an increase in extremist activity by former and current military personnel, evidenced by a spike in open source reporting, the ARTIC has produced this report examining 22 cases of current and former DoD members expressing support for and or allegedly affiliated with extremist groups while serving in or having recently separated from the military from 2017 - 2019. For the purposes of this report, the ARTIC considered an organization to be “extremist” if its core ideology espouses racially motivated hatred, such as Neo-Nazism, white supremacy, or black separatism, and or religious hatred, such as espoused by al-Qa’ida or the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. The majority of the information within this report was obtained via open sources. Due to the nature of open source reporting, and the possibility of ongoing investigations involving DoD personnel within this report, some of the allegations presented may prove to be unfounded.

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## **(U) Army Policy on Extremist Organizations & Activities**

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**(U//FOUO)** Participation in extremist organizations and activities by Army personnel is inconsistent with the responsibilities of military service. It is the policy of the United States Army to provide EO and fair treatment for all Soldiers without regard to race, color, sex (including gender identity), national origin, religion, or sexual orientation. Enforcement of this policy is a responsibility of command, is vitally important to unit cohesion and morale, and is essential to the Army's ability to accomplish its mission. It is the commander's responsibility to maintain good order and discipline in the unit. Every commander has the inherent authority to take appropriate actions to accomplish this goal. This paragraph identifies prohibited actions by Soldiers involving extremist organizations, discusses the authority of the commander to establish other prohibitions, and establishes that violations of prohibitions contained in this paragraph or those established by a commander may result in prosecution under various provisions of the UCMJ. (Army Regulation 600-20; Para 4-12)

### **(U) Executive Summary**

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**(U//FOUO)** Twenty out of the 22 reports examined by the ARTIC from 2017 to 2019 involved military members allegedly demonstrating support for white supremacist or neo-Nazi ideology and or associating with explicitly white supremacist or neo-Nazi organizations. Two reports involved alleged support for ideology in support of foreign terrorist organizations, namely ISIS. In all 22 reports the suspects were male.

**(U//FOUO)** Of the 22 cases examined, 13 involved Soldiers, six involved Marines, two involved Airmen, and one involved a member of the Coast Guard. Seven out of the 22 members engaged in, or discussed engaging in, violent acts involving explosives and or firearms.

**(U//FOUO)** Nine of the cases involved members of "Identity Evropa", which re-branded as the American Identity Movement (AIM), an alt right white supremacist group; three cases involved members of "Atomwaffen Division" (AWD), a violent anarchist neo-Nazi group that became active in 2016; two cases involved individuals fighting with far-right paramilitary groups in Ukraine; two cases involved supporters of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS); two cases involved individuals belonging to an alleged white supremacist affiliated group called "Ravensblood Kindred"; one case involved a member of the "Patriot Front (PF), a pro-white nationalist, anti-multicultural and anti-immigrant organization; and three were unspecified.

**(U//FOUO)** It is likely that most if not all service members who embrace extremism were exposed to extremist ideology via the internet or social media applications. While the ARTIC found no evidence of extremist organizations specifically targeting DoD members through social media or other means, according to open source research, social media platforms play an important role in the likely self-radicalization processes of US extremists. According to the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), in 2016 alone, social media contributed to the radicalization processes of nearly 90% of extremists contained within their database. Right-wing extremist networks in particular use Twitter, post videos on YouTube, establish Facebook pages, create Instagram accounts, and communicate on social media sites with minimal moderation such as Gab and 8chan.

**(U//FOUO)** The ARTIC notes that based on investigations conducted by the Army Criminal Investigative Command (CID), CID does not assess a danger of white supremacy or any other form of racially motivated violent extremism becoming a pervasive issue across the Army. According to CID, focused collection on extremist activity within the past year revealed a common thread for the Soldiers identified as participating in extremist groups being that they are commonly isolated in units, failing to fully integrate into Army life, rather than emerging as influential among their Soldier peers. Although the ARTIC has not coordinated with investigative agencies from other military branches, based upon the reporting reviewed, we judge the findings by CID are likely applicable across the military.



## (U) Army: Extremist Reporting 2017 – 2019

### (U) Brandon Trent East & Dalton Woodward

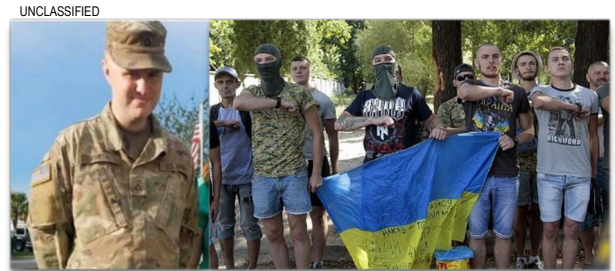
(U) On 27 DEC 19, it was reported that Brendon Trent East and Dalton Woodward, of the Alabama and Georgia Army National Guard, received separation notices from their respective units for membership in “Norse pagan group Ravensblood Kindred” which is alleged to endorse white supremacy. Both East and Woodward are reported to have also attended a 2017 speech by a prominent white nationalist held at a public university in Alabama. ([Open Source](#), 27 DEC 19; [Open Source](#), 27 DEC 19)



Brandon Trent East (L) & Dalton Woodward (R)

### (U) Jarrett William Smith

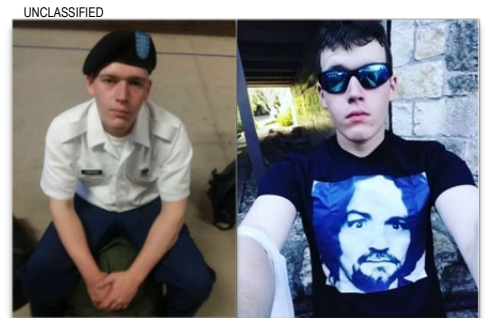
(U) On 21 SEP 19, Spc. Jarrett William Smith was arrested and charged with one count of distributing information related to explosives and weapons of mass destruction. Smith was serving at the time of his arrest as an infantryman with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, at Fort Riley, Kansas. Smith stated that he did this to cause ‘chaos.’ The FBI began an investigation after it was reported in March 2019 that Smith had “disseminated guidance on how to construct improvised explosive devices” and had spoken about his desire to travel to Ukraine to fight with the Ukraine-based far-right paramilitary group, Azov Battalion. ([Open Source](#), 23 SEP 19)



Jarrett William Smith (L), Members of Azov Battalion (R)

### (U) Corwyn Storm Carver

(U) As of 07 MAY 19, Fort Bliss, Texas, was investigating active duty soldier, Pfc. Corwyn Storm Carver, 22, in connection with reports he is a member of the Atomwaffen Division (AWD). The investigation arose after a reporter accused Carver of holding leadership in the AWD in April 2019, following open source reporting of 11 other service members under investigation for ties to Identity Evropa, another white supremacist group. ([Open Source](#), 03 MAY 19)



Corwyn Storm Carver in uniform & wearing Charles Manson shirt

### (U) Mark Domingo

(U//FOUO) According to a DHS & FBI Joint Intelligence Bulletin (JIB), on 26 APR 19, FBI Los Angeles arrested Army veteran Mark Domingo for providing material support to terrorists by planning to conduct an attack at a political rally. Domingo met with an undercover employee (UC) at a residence to obtain an inert explosive device—which he believed to be functional—and told the UC his preferred length of time for the device’s timer after the UC showed Domingo how to operate the device. Once he took possession of the device, Domingo exited the residence to place it in the UC’s vehicle, where he was then taken into custody. According to the complaint:



Mark Domingo

(U//FOUO) On 14 MAR 19, on an online platform, Domingo described his anger for the Christchurch shootings in New Zealand and indicated his desire to kill in retaliation for the event. When discussing how many people Domingo would like to kill in retaliation for the New Zealand attacks, Domingo referenced a nearby synagogue with limited parking, “so they’re forced to find parking and walk to the synagogue.” Domingo did not give further details on a location of the synagogue and moved onto other topics shortly thereafter. On 16 MAR 19, Domingo again expressed anger over the Christchurch shootings and mentioned he owned an AK-47, which he was keeping next to his bed.

(U//FOUO) On the evening of 18 MAR 19, Domingo met with a Confidential Human Source (CHS) and discussed different targets for an attack, including Jews, police officers, churches, and a military facility. Domingo also noted that martyrdom was preferable to getting caught or arrested.

(U//FOUO) On 19 APR 19, Domingo met with the CHS and discussed using IEDs to conduct an attack on an upcoming political rally. Domingo stated that they would need to conduct surveillance of the proposed target and check for daily updates on the rally.

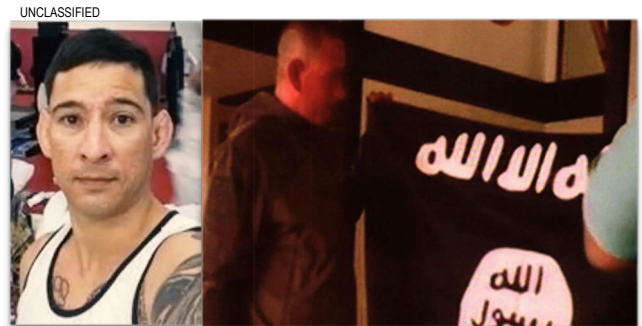
(U//FOUO) On 23 APR 19, Domingo purchased several hundred nails to be used as shrapnel inside an explosive device, provided the nails the next day to a UC working for the FBI—whom Domingo believed to be a collaborator—and instructed the UC to manufacture an explosive device for Domingo to use in an attack.

(U//FOUO) On 03 APR 19, Domingo met with the CHS and discussed using an improvised explosive device on a freeway and firearms to attack police officers in Los Angeles and expressed his admiration for Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of ISIS. Domingo discussed several strategies for attacking police officers and drew a diagram to explain the details to the CHS. (DHS / FBI, IA-34434-19, 29 APR 19)

#### (U) Ikaika Erik Kang

(U//FOUO) According to FBI reporting, Hawaii-based Soldier Ikaika Erik Kang was arrested on 08 JUL 17 on material support to terrorism charges, specifically for attempting to provide material support or resources to ISIS.

(U//FOUO) In or about November 2016, Kang indicated he wanted to travel to Turkey because ISIS “had a consulate there,” but he had not purchased a ticket because he believed he would be arrested. Kang discussed the possibility of joining ISIS and said he wanted to run a combatives beginners course at ISIS basic training to teach ju-jitsu, judo, kickboxing, mixed martial arts, and “basic rifle marksmanship.”



Ikaika Erik Kang

(U//FOUO) From in or about December 2016 and March 2017, Kang made the following comments to fellow soldiers: if deployed to Iraq, he would not shoot back at ISIS and did not believe they were doing anything wrong; the terrorist attacks on 11 SEP 01 were an inside job conducted by the US government; and if the United States went to war without proof, then we are the terrorists. Kang also said he had previously been at a point in his life where he felt so overwhelmed by his knowledge of “the truth” that he thought about martyrdom, and that he did not care if he went to jail because of what he knew.

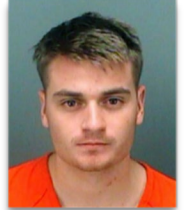
(U//FOUO) In or about June 2017, Kang attempted to provide unclassified military documents to ISIS. The documents included unclassified For Official Use Only military documents, as well as unclassified military documents that had been approved for dissemination, such as military manuals on various topics. Kang detailed how they would be helpful to ISIS, saying, “Knowing how to react to contact and communicate will help them a lot.” In or about June 2017, Kang attempted to provide 14 classified military documents to ISIS. When asked if these documents would help ISIS, Kang said, “It will, definitely.” Kang also identified a document that pertained directly to the US Army in Afghanistan. Kang indicated he understood the documents were classified and that he was not concerned about them being traced back to him, although the classifications on one of the documents had been deleted.

(U//FOUO) In or about July 2017, Kang swore a pledge of loyalty, commonly known as “bayat,” to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of ISIS, and accepted a folded ISIS flag. After his pledge to ISIS, Kang discussed how he wanted to take his rifle and his magazines and kill “a bunch of people.” (DoJ, 04 DEC 18)

**(U) Brandon Russell**

(U) Officials were alerted in May 2017 about explosives belonging to neo-Nazi and Florida National Guard member, Brandon Russell, by his roommate. According to the roommate, Russell had written online about plans to kill people and detonate bombs. Mr. Russell, who kept a framed picture of the Oklahoma City bomber, Timothy McVeigh, on his dresser, was a founding member of the Atomwaffen Division, according to the Justice Department. ([Open Source](#) 10 JAN 18)

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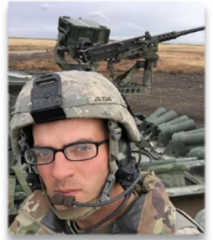


Brandon Russell

**(U) Jonathan Gould**

(U) Army specialist Jonathan Gould is currently under investigation for links to Identity Evropa. Gould is also alleged to have frequented neo-Nazi message boards online. Reportedly, in October 2017 Gould uploaded a poster of Uncle Sam which stated: "I want YOU to be a white advocate." ([Open Source](#), 01 MAY 19)

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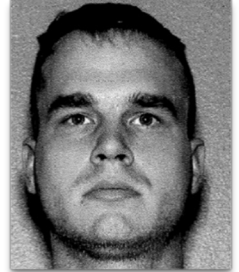
Jonathan Gould

**(U) Craig Lane**

(U) According to open source, in early 2017 US Army veteran Craig Lang travelled to Ukraine to fight with the far-right nationalist "Right Sector". In June 2017, Lang traveled to Kenya to fight the al-Qa'ida-linked group al-Shabaab but was apprehended and returned to the United States while attempting to enter South Sudan.

(U) in April 2018, Lang and another accomplice allegedly killed a husband and wife in Lee County, Florida, during an armed robbery. In court documents, authorities said Lang had committed the robbery to fund travel to Venezuela, where he wanted to participate in armed conflict against the Venezuelan government. ([Open Source](#), 23 SEP 19)

UNCLASSIFIED



Craig Lane

**(U) Marines: Extremist Reporting 2017 – 2019****(U) Felipe Maher**

(U) In June 2019, a social media user posted images from Marine 2nd Lt. Felipe Maher's Snapchat account, which showed Maher allegedly making racist comments. The images, apparently posted to Maher's Snapchat story, were part of a series of photos and videos taken at a party where Maher and other attendees marked Martin Luther King Jr. Day by eating fried chicken and watermelon.

(U) The images include a picture of a mock zero dollar bill with a former POTUS face on it along with the caption, "My n\*\*\*a Obama comin in deep wit dat welfare checc," and video of Maher getting a watermelon crown placed on his head with the caption, "I'm king n\*\*\*a." Additionally, according to open source Maher had posted a photo of himself on Facebook in December 2017 with the caption, "Gucci Goy." A Hebrew term typically used to denote non-Jews, "goy" is often used jokingly by white nationalists to refer to themselves. ([Open Source](#), 13 JUN 19)

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Felipe Maher



**(U) Mason Mead**

(U) In February 2019 open source reported an investigation into Lance Cpl. Mason Mead, a Hawaii-based Marine with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, who shared a number of racist social media posts—including one of himself in blackface—and Nazi propaganda. One of Mason's posts depicted military explosives placed in the shape of a Swastika. As of June 2019, Mason was to be separated from the Marine Corps with an other-than-honorable discharge. ([Open Source](#), 12 JUN 19)



Lance Cpl. Mason Mead &amp; Explosives in shape of Swastika

**(U) Vasillios Pistolis**

(U) On 20 JUN 18, Vasillios Pistolis, a Marine Corps lance corporal who was identified as a neo-Nazi and assailant during the 2017 white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, was convicted at a court martial on charges of disobeying orders and making false statements.

(U) According to open source reporting, Pistolis' is a member of the Atomwaffen Division and Traditionalist Worker Party. Pistolis was alleged to have expressed interest in communism and Antifa prior to joining Atomwaffen. ([Open Source](#), 04 SEP 18)



Vasillios Pistolis in uniform (L) &amp; attacking a protester (R)

**(U) Erik Sailors**

(U) According to open source, Marine veteran Erik Sailors is an alleged leader of the Texas chapter of the white-supremacist group Patriot Front. Sailors reportedly uses his military experience to train other Patriot front recruits in military tactics. Sailor allegedly gives "hip-pocket classes" to white nationalists which include instruction on "gear lists" or what members should bring to protests (Marine Corps-issued combat boots and decontaminate wipes) to lessons in mixed martial arts and hand-to-hand combat techniques. Patriot Front is a white supremacist group that splintered from one of the main groups at the white-power rally in Charlottesville, Virginia in 2017, according to media reporting. ([Open Source](#), 11 JUN 18)



Erik Sailors

**(U) Airforce: Extremist Reporting 2017 – 2019****(U) Cory Reeves**

(U) Master Sgt. Cory Reeves of the 50th Space Wing at Schriever is alleged to have been a member of Identity Evropa. Reeves also allegedly posted white supremacist propaganda in Colorado on several occasions. Further, Reeves has served as an organizer with the group and is a "patron" member.

(U) Open source reporting states that Reeves has appeared in photographs wearing clothes with the Identity Evropa logo, and taking part in a protest sponsored by the group. ([Open Source](#), 01 MAY 19)

(U) In November 2019, open source reported that Reeves had been reduced in rank to Technical Sergeant and allowed to remain in the Air Force. ([Open Source](#), 12 NOV 19)



Master Sgt. Cory Reeves

## (U) Coastguard: Extremist Reporting 2017 – 2019

### (U) Christopher Paul Hasson

(U) On 15 FEB 19, the FBI and Coast Guard Investigative Service arrested USPER Christopher Paul Hasson after uncovering a stockpile of weapons, ammunition, opioids, and steroids in his Maryland home. Hasson is an active duty lieutenant in the US Coast Guard stationed at headquarters in Washington, D.C. as an Acquisitions Officer for the National Security Cutter Acquisition Program. Hasson self-identified as a white nationalist for over 30 years and advocated for “focused violence” to establish a “white homeland.” From approximately 1988 to 1993, Hasson served in the United States Marine Corps, and thereafter spent approximately two years on active duty in the Army National Guard. Hasson allegedly did not receive tactical, weapons, or explosives-related training in his current assignment.



Christopher Paul Hasson & weapons cache discovered

(U) Hasson planned to conduct a widespread domestic terror attack targeting politicians and journalists. In January 2019, Hasson compiled a list of prominent Democratic Congressional leaders, 2020 presidential candidates, and MSNBC and CNN journalists. He also searched the Internet using phrases such as “best places in DC to see Congress people” and “are Supreme Court Justices protected.”

(U) In an email drafted in June 2017, Hasson contemplated conducting biological attacks or bombing/sniper campaigns and targeting the food supply as methods for an attack. He visited thousands of websites selling firearms and tactical gear and made nearly two dozen purchases of firearms related equipment over the past two years. Authorities seized 15 firearms, including several long guns and rifles, and more than 1,000 rounds of mixed ammunition from Hasson’s home.

(U) Hasson studied the 1,500-page manifesto of Anders Behring Breivik, a Norwegian citizen and far-right domestic extremist who executed two coordinated terror attacks in Norway that killed 77 people in 2011. Hasson’s planning was consistent with the manifesto that outlined how Breivik prepared for his attacks, including the process of identifying “traitors” and targets, classifying targets, and stockpiling narcotics to enhance his ability to conduct attacks. (NTIC, Intelligence Bulletin Product No. 2019-02-041, 21 FEB 19; Affidavit, Case 8:19-mj-00063-GLS, 19 FEB 19)

## (U) Multibranch: Extremist Reporting 2017 – 2019

(U) According to open source, on 17 MAR 19 two Marines (Stephen T. Farrea and Jason Laguardia), two Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets (Jay C. Harrison and Christopher Hodgman), an Army physician (Christopher Cummins), a member of the Texas National Guard (Joseph Kane), and one member of the Air Force (Dannion Phillips) were identified as members of Evropa. In addition to holding racist views, the seven military members were allegedly found to participate in Evropa campaign efforts to include posting stickers and flyers in cities and on college campuses. ([Open Source](#), 18 MAR 19)



Christopher Cummins (L), Stephen T. Farrea (C), and Joseph Kane (R)



## (U) Neo-Nazi / White Supremacist Organizations

### (U) Atomwaffen Division (AWD)

(U) According to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the AWD is a small neo-Nazi group that became active in 2016. The group is believed to have originated online from a now-defunct Neo-Nazi forum called Iron March, which was known for its extreme content and calls for violence. According to the AWD website, they are “a revolutionary national socialist organization centered around political activism and the practice of an autonomous fascist lifestyle.” They promote the idea that societal and governmental “systems” are collapsing and that democracy and capitalism have “given way to Jewish oligarchies and globalist bankers resulting in the cultural and racial displacement of the white race.”



(U) Members train in preparation for an impending race war and promote the use of violence to reach their goal of “uncompromising victory.” In a promotional video published on 21 JAN 18, members, dressed in military-styled camouflaged fatigues, shout “gas the Kikes” and “race war now” as they fire weapons and practice tactical maneuvers.

(U) In December 2017, one of AWD’s leaders, John Cameron Denton (AKA Vincent Snyder), laid out the group’s plans on their Siege Culture website: “Our responsibility right now is resistance, anything that happens after that we’ll simply adapt to it and work with what we have.” Denton, who lives in Texas, has attended white supremacist rallies and events in Houston and Austin alongside members of the White Lives Matter movement and the Aryan Renaissance Society. ([ADL](#), 2019; [Open Source](#), 01 FEB 18)

### (U) American Identity Movement (AIM)

(U) According to the ADL, the AIM is an alt right white supremacist group that began in 2019 as a rebranding of Identity Evropa, one of the largest groups within the alt right segment of the white supremacist movement.

(U) On 08 MAR 19, during Identity Evropa’s annual conference, the group’s leader, Patrick Casey, announced the dissolution of Identity Evropa and the creation of AIM. During the conference, all Identity Evropa members in good standing were invited to join AIM. ([ADL](#), 2020)



### (U) Azov Regiment (AR)

(U) The Azov Regiment is a combined arms special task unit of the Ukrainian National Guard comprised of contract soldiers to include foreign fighter volunteers. It was formed in May 2014 as a volunteer military battalion to counter Russian-backed proxy forces fighting in the Azov sea coastal region of Mariupol. In November 2014 it was incorporated into the National Guard and updated to a Regiment in January 2015. The regiment, considered ultra-national, includes elite units trained in Reconnaissance and EOD specialties by former Ukrainian Army Special Forces. According to open source, Azov is rooted in neo-Nazism based on ideologies expressed by leadership and emblems associated with the group. In 2018, US Congress pass legislation blocking military aid to Azov due to suspected white-supremacy goals.



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## (U) Patriot Front (PF)

(U) The Patriot Front is considered a pro-white nationalist, anti-multicultural, anti-immigrant, and anti-Semitic organization. The Patriot Front broke from the white-nationalist group Vanguard America in August 2017 following the August 2017 Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. The Patriot Front believes the United States' unique cultural identity was forged by pan-European pioneers, explorers, visionaries, and is being compromised by a dysfunctional and tyrannical government. The Patriot Front claims to seek a return to the traditions and values (political, social, and religious) defined by America's forefathers. The group embraces imagery depicting American patriotic and traditional fascist themes. The Patriot Front is known to distribute propaganda through fliers and stickers, often at universities and synagogues. During public demonstrations, the Patriot Front has called for the deportation or marginalization of non-whites. Reporting indicates the Patriot Front has not directly engaged in violent activity.



## (U) The Base

(U) The Base is identified as a white nationalist survivalist group that proclaims to defend the European race while establishing a network of supporters willing to use violence to overthrow the current social and political order and hasten in a perceived impending race war. The Base was formed in 2018 and operates primarily in the US although reporting indicates some low level activity in Europe. The Base reportedly draws inspiration from the neo-Nazi hate group Atomwaffen Division (AWD) and writings by prominent Neo-Nazi Authors. The Base reportedly includes members from the AWD and the far-right environmental groups such as the Eco-Fascist Order. ([Open Source](#), 25 JAN 20; [Open Source](#), 16 NOV 19; [Open Source](#), 2020)

