

**TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY TRAINING CENTER  
LESSON PLAN**

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| <b>UNIT TITLE:</b><br>The Sovereign Citizen Movement in America   | <b>UNIT NO:</b>  |
| <b>INSTRUCTOR:</b><br>Dwayne Collins/Dan Gilley   | <b>INSTRUCTOR NOTES:</b>   |
| <p><b>I. INTRODUCTION:</b></p> <p>A. The instructor will explain the purpose of this course is to prepare students with the knowledge and resources to be able to present a condensed 2-hour block of training to other law enforcement personnel regarding this threat.</p> <p><b>II. COURSE OBJECTIVES:</b> The students will be prepared to:</p> <p>A. Increase officer's basic knowledge of the sovereign Citizen Movement in the U.S.</p> <p>B. Increase the officer's understanding of the ideology of the Sovereign Citizen Movement;</p> <p>C. Increase the officer's familiarization of false documents commonly used by Sovereign Citizens;</p> <p>D. Present common tactics utilized by Sovereign Citizens:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. During traffic stops; Harassment of officials and law enforcement;</li> <li>2. Common criminal involvement;</li> <li>3. "Red Flags" or warning signs of Sovereign Citizen involvement;</li> </ol> <p>E. Officer safety considerations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prior to the encounter;</li> <li>2. During the encounter;</li> <li>3. Post encounter</li> </ol> <p>F. Increase officer's awareness through case studies;</p> <p>G. Summary and Questions;</p> <p><b>III. THREAT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT</b></p> <p>A. Sovereign Citizens falls under the FBI's Domestic Extremism program;</p> <p>B. Definition of "Sovereign Citizen;"</p> <p>C. Common actions of a Sovereign Citizen, such as use of false documents, refusal to pay taxes, use of illegitimate courts, clogging up the legitimate court system, and the use of fake money orders, personal checks, etc.</p> <p>D. Common criminal activities of sovereign citizens, such as murder, threats to public officials, impersonation of law enforcement, use of fake currency passports, licenses, and vehicle plates, and various white collar scams and fraud;</p> | <p>This training is unclassified, but should be used for official purposes only.</p> <p>From the FBI's Standing Requirement for investigating Sovereign Citizens under the Domestic Terrorism Program. From FBI.gov on domestic terrorism.</p> <p>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.</p> |
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| <p><b>IV: WHO ARE THEY?</b></p> <p><b>A. History of the Sovereign Citizen Movement in the U.S.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Originated in the Midwest in the late 1970's;</li> <li>2. First prominent Sovereign groups were the Posse Comitatus and Montana Freeman;</li> <li>3. Case study of Gordon Kahl:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Founder of Possee Comitatus;</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Case study of Terry Nichols:</li> <li>5. a. Oklahoma City co-conspirator;</li> <li>6. Case study of Detective Tom Laughlin:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Law enforcement is not exempt;</li> <li>b. Self-proclaimed "Freeman;"</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>B. Impact on Law Enforcement:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Background on the West Memphis shooting;</li> <li>2. Case study of Jerry and Joe Kane:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Father and Son Sovereign Citizens;</li> <li>b. Financial troubles and personal tragedies set the stage for their extremism;</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Analysis of events of the West Memphis shooting:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. End result: death of two officers;</li> <li>b. Signs of growing radicalization in Kane family;</li> <li>c. "The Perfect Storm:" Kane's criminal history, anti-government rants, personal tragedies, hate for authority;</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>C. Show Southern Poverty Law Center Role Call Training Video.</b></p> <p><b>D. First break (there will be a 10 minute break after an hour of instruction).</b></p> | <p>Nichols was connected to Timothy McVeigh (behind U.S. Marshal in picture).</p> <p>An example of someone you would never expect to be sovereign. He was turned over to internal affairs by his co-workers for espousing the sovereign doctrine. He was introduced to the movement by his brother.</p> <p>While the sovereign movement began in the 1970's, this case struck a more recent chord with LE and brought the phrase "sovereign citizen" into the limelight.</p> <p>Joe Kane exits the van with his AK-47. This is the last thing the officers saw before they were gunned down. While some sovereigns will use fraudulent plates, Kane used a legitimate plate registered to a church, "House of God's Prayer" in New Vienna, Ohio. A previous owner of his property was Harold Ray Redfearin, a one-time leader of the Aryan Nations and successor of Richard Butler. No connection between Kane and Redfearin has been made as of yet.</p> |
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| <p><b>V. WHAT DO THEY BELIEVE?</b></p> <p><b>A. Sovereign Citizen Ideology:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sovereign American Nationals or Living Souls.</li> <li>2. Not residents of the Federal Zone, or Washington DC.</li> <li>3. Not subject to contracts with corporations.</li> <li>4. Trademark their names.</li> <li>5. Create fraudulent documents.</li> <li>6. Recognize only the authority of the elected sheriff.</li> <li>7. Refuse all presentments or contracts of government.</li> <li>8. Reference U.S. codes in Uniformed Commercial Code</li> <li>9. Believe common law has been replaced by admiralty law.</li> <li>10. They believe a secret Treasury account is set up for a person at birth as collateral for foreign investors to tap into a person's future earning potential.</li> <li>11. They believe a "strawman" account is set up by the government for every newborn in the U.S.</li> <li>12. Believe in name punctuation: ex. JOHN-ROBERT: DOE. Actually refers to the corporate shell of a person.</li> <li>13. They separate the corporate shell" from the "flesh and blood" body of the actual person, or sovereign.</li> <li>14. They believed in the use of the Latin phrase "Sui Juris" which means "of one's own right." Added to legal documents.</li> <li>15. Believe they can gain access to their corporate treasury account through use of the Uniform Commercial Code.</li> <li>16. Believe that the 1099-OID form gives them access to the money in the secret treasury account funded for them a birth.</li> <li>17. Use of Common-Law Courts, or Freeman Courts. Officials may be tried for treason, and to formalize the process known as asseveration that formalizes a citizen's claim of sovereignty.</li> <li>18. Believe the fringe on the U.S. flag is a symbol of admiralty law.</li> </ol> | <p>The contemporary sovereign citizen belief system is based on a decades-old conspiracy theory. At some point in our history, sovereigns believe, the American government set up by the founding fathers, with a legal system the sovereigns refer to as common law, was secretly replaced by a new government system based on admiralty law, the law of the sea and international commerce. Under admiralty law, they are slaves, and secret government forces have a vested interested in keeping them that way. Some sovereigns believe the perfidious change occurred during the Civil War, while others blame the events of 1933, when the U.S. abandoned the gold standard. Either way, they stake their lives and livelihoods on the idea that judges around the country know all about this hidden government takeover but are denying the sovereigns' motions and filings out of treasonous loyalty to hidden and malevolent government forces.</p> <p>The belief in the strawman accounts comes from the use of all capital letters on birth certificates, indicating the child is really a corporate shell identity.</p> <p>Source: Southern Poverty Law Center</p> |
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| <b>WHAT DO THEY BELIEVE? (CONT.)</b> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">       19. Use of “Accepted for Value” on bills to be paid from their secret treasury account.<br/>       20. Use of Bills of Exchange to access their secret funds.<br/>       21. Use of a “bloody” thumbprint and red ink on documents.<br/>       22. Use of “Refused for Cause.”     </p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">       A. Show video “Traffic Stop On Extremists”<br/>       B. Information on Guardians of the free Republic, RuSA, Birther Movement, Walter Fitzpatrick, Darren Huff, Hutaree, Alaska Citizen Militia, The Natives (Little Shell Band), Turtle Island, Moorish Science Temple of America, The Embassy of Heaven, Kingdom of Heaven, Richard Poplawski.     </p> <p><b>VI. RED FLAGS: INDICATORS, SYMBOLS, TACTICS</b></p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">       A. False ID’s and Tags – examples<br/>       B. Fake Law Enforcement Credentials – examples<br/>       C. Fraudulent Badges – examples<br/>       D. Fake Driver’s Licenses – examples<br/>       E. Common Sovereign Bumper Stickers – examples<br/>       F. Sovereign Property Signs – example<br/>       G. The Sovereign Handbook<br/>       H. Republic of the united States or RuSA American Rangers – considered equivalent to U.S. Marshals. Allegedly being recruited and trained. Carrying realistic IDs.<br/>       I. Little Shell Pembina Band of North America – example of tag<br/>       J. Moorish American National – example of tag<br/>       K. Embassy of Heaven – example of tag<br/>       L. Kingdom of Heaven Documents – examples of IDs and driver’s license<br/>       M. Show video: “CNN – Sovereign Citizen Tactics”     </p> | <p>       On February 4, 2011, Sheriff JJ Jones of Knox County, Governor Bill Haslam, and the Tennessee Secretary of State received letters from Terry Lee: Davidson (aka DAVISON) declaring sovereignty and the right to travel without interference. FBI JTTF officers attempted to make contact with Davison but were unsuccessful. He had a sign on his gate driveway claiming a financial penalty for trespassing on his property.     </p> <p>       Good examples of the warning signs of Sovereign Citizen involvement officers may encounter when about to deal with a Sovereign Citizen.     </p> <p>       Available online for \$25<br/>       Waivers for training are given to “adequately trained” RuSA members who have military or law enforcement training. It is believed some American Rangers are armed and already carrying these credentials.     </p> |
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| <p><b>VII. TRAFFIC STOPS INVOLVING SOVEREIGN CITIZENS: OFFICER SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS</b></p> <p><b>A. Tactical aspects to evaluate prior to engaging a suspected sovereign citizen in a traffic stop.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ask what was the initial observation of the offender’s violation.....could it have been intentional?</li> <li>2. Ask what are the observable characteristics and suspicious movements clearly viewed by the officer (include passengers).</li> <li>3. Remain at a safe but observable distance behind suspect vehicle, and notify dispatch of the pending traffic stop.</li> <li>4. The officer should always determine the time and location where the traffic stop occurs, not the suspect.</li> <li>5. Consider how close a back-up is from the scene.</li> <li>6. Be cognizant of the area in regard to pull-offs, cross-overs, and exit ramps).</li> <li>7. Always prepare TACTICALLY in your mind.</li> <li>8. The “What If Game” should be used.</li> <li>9. Be ready to disengage if you are at a disadvantage from a tactical perspective.</li> <li>10. Remember: a misdemeanor violation is not worth serious injury....or your LIFE.</li> <li>11. Refer to page 7 of the ROCIC manual for common behaviors employed by sovereign citizens during a confrontational encounter with law enforcement.</li> </ol> <p><b>B. Tactical aspects to evaluate during the traffic stop encounter.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. May roll down window just enough to be heard.</li> <li>2. May refuse to cooperate with law enforcement and exercise their right to remain silent.</li> <li>3. May make statements regarding their 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment rights.</li> <li>4. May ask if you are requesting or demanding their license.</li> </ol> <p>May provide strange responses to law enforcement questions that do not make sense.</p> | <p>These tactical considerations were also covered in the video “Traffic Stop on Extremists” shown earlier in the presentation, but are explained in detail here.</p> <p>These behaviors are covered both in the ROCIC manual, as well as in the video shown earlier in the presentation.</p> <p>Covered very well in the video.</p> <p>Also, at this point the instructor will ask the students to turn to P. 7 of the ROCIC “Sovereign Citizen Movement” Special Research Report to follow along as he or she reads this list of behaviors, making sure the students are familiar with this portion of the handout.</p> |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. May claim that they do not have a DL, and may present some other form of ID, perhaps homemade.</li> <li>6. May claim that it is unconstitutional to require individuals to have a DL and obey traffic laws.</li> <li>7. If an official state DL is presented, they may claim that the person in the picture is not them, is not human, or is an extraterrestrial.</li> <li>8. They may claim a request for a Social Security number for an ID is an invasion of their privacy and a violation of their rights.</li> <li>9. They may write “under duress” beneath their signature, or cite various Uniform Commercial Codes.</li> <li>10. The individual’s vehicle may bear a fraudulent or homemade license plate.</li> <li>11. If affiliated with a sovereign citizen group, the subject may state he is licensed within the jurisdiction of that particular group.</li> </ol> <p>C. Tactical aspects to evaluate after the traffic stop is made.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wait for back-up and a second set of eyes.</li> <li>2. Continuously think about being in a tactically advantageous position to be able to react.</li> <li>3. Watch hands and feet, as well as body language.</li> <li>4. Watch for excessive or suspicious movement in the vehicle.</li> <li>5. Do not allow the driver to distract.</li> <li>6. Do not accept false or fraudulent paperwork.</li> <li>7. If arrest is required, remain in a tactically alert posture and follow your training.</li> <li>8. Be alert for other vehicles that may be responding to this stop.</li> </ol> <p>D. Suspicious Activity Reporting – How It’s Done</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conclusion and Questions</li> </ol> | <p>Having the students turn to this portion of the booklet handout will help familiarize them with this, and the other content for future easy reference. This is also a departure from a power point to actual hands-on reference material.</p> <p>Covered well in power point.</p> <p>These power points were provided by the Tennessee Fusion Center. The importance of reporting this information will be emphasized.</p> |
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## **SUMMARY:**

**At the conclusion of this course, students will be provided a copy of this power point for their own future reference, a copy of the 2-hour power pointer presentation to use in their training, along with either a CD or a supply of the ROCIC Special Report to use as a handout. They will be instructed on how to obtain additional copies of the Special Report directly from ROCIC.**

**With the ever-growing danger to Law Enforcement from the Sovereign Citizen Movement, emphasized by the shootouts in West Memphis, it is absolutely imperative that this, and similar training be made available to local and state law enforcement officers as quickly as possible, and in formats that will be easy and convenient to deliver within a short time frame. Our ultimate goal is to prevent another "West Memphis" from ever happening again. We feel this can be best achieved by providing law enforcement officers with the basic knowledge to recognize, in advance, the warning signs, or red flags, signaling a pending confrontation with a sovereign citizen, and the knowledge of what they can expect, and what they can do from a tactical consideration, to minimize the chance that a tragedy could occur.**