



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION SITUATIONAL INFORMATION REPORT

### Criminal Tradecraft Alert

San Antonio and Houston Divisions

16 August 2011

### **(U//LES) Observed Emblems and Insignia of Sovereign Citizen Group, The Republic of Texas**

(U//LES) The Republic of Texas (ROT) is a sovereign citizen group formed in 1995 with the stated purpose of existing as “a constitutional republic and an independent nation comprised of Texas.” Members of ROT believe the United States illegally annexed the Republic of Texas in 1845, and consequently claim they are citizens of a sovereign nation and are exempt from the United States legal system, all tax responsibilities, and are not subject to any federal, state, and municipal laws.

(U//LES) ROT has created insignia and emblems in an attempt to legitimize their organization. Examples include flags, license plates, magnetic vehicle emblems, forms of identification, law enforcement badges, and currency. The ability to recognize ROT emblems and insignia is important, as ROT members have periodically become violent when confronted with law enforcement.

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*(U) Note: This product reflects the views of the San Antonio and Houston Divisions and has not been vetted by FBI Headquarters.*

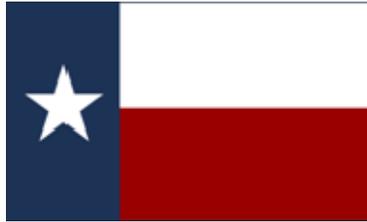
**(U//FOUO) ROT Flags**

(U//FOUO) ROT uses three flags.

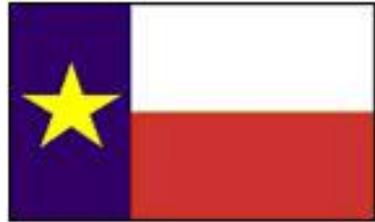
(U//FOUO) Texas republic  
National Standard



(U//FOUO) Texas republic  
Admiralty



(U//FOUO) Texas republic  
Customs



**(U//FOUO) ROT License Plates**

(U//LES) ROT license plates vary from professionally produced plates to a piece of paper with printing. License plates may indicate “Do not detain.”

(U//LES) ROT License Plates



**(U//FOUO) ROT Magnetic Vehicle Emblems/Markings**

(U//LES) In December 2009, the Kerrville, Texas, Police Department seized ROT magnetic vehicle emblems from an identified US person’s vehicle (USPER1). During the interview, USPER1’s father (USPER2) arrived on the scene. USPER2’s vehicle also displayed ROT magnetic vehicle emblems. The officers seized USPER2’s magnetic emblems.

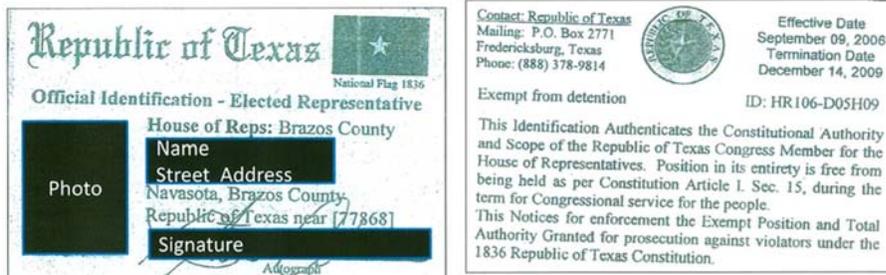
(U//LES) ROT Magnetic Vehicle Emblems



**(U//LES) ROT Forms of Identification and Law Enforcement Badges**

(U//LES) ROT currently produces driver's licenses and identification cards and intends to upgrade them to include professionally designed holograms and magnetic strips. ROT also intends to create passports, which will appear similar to international passports.

**(U//LES) ROT ID Card**



Front

Reverse

(U//LES) In October 2010, USPER1 was sentenced for falsely identifying himself as a police officer. His father, USPER2, was sentenced for a felonious attempt to purchase two law enforcement officer badges. The badges USPER2 attempted to procure were for "Constable of Bexar County, Texas."

(U//LES) An identified US person (USPER3) and ROT member has reportedly procured a badge and credentials nearly identical to those of the Texas Rangers, the only difference being the phrase "Republic of Texian" written on the bottom.

**(U//FOUO) ROT Currency**

(U//FOUO) In 2010, ROT developed its own official currency in the form of silver and copper coins. The silver coins are in the form of one-ounce medallions. ROT members may attempt to use ROT currency when making purchases.

**(U//FOUO) ROT Silver Coin**



Front

Reverse

**(U//FOUO) ROT Vehicle Signage**

(U//LES) ROT members may post “For Sale” or “Private Vehicle” signs on their vehicles, as they believe it will prevent seizure of their vehicles. ROT vehicles may also fail to display a state inspection sticker.

**(U//FOUO) Comment**

(U//LES) Individuals who adhere to the sovereign citizen ideology believe that almost all branches of the US government are illegitimate entities that make, enforce, and interpret illegal and immoral laws. Sovereign citizen rejection of laws and regulations leads to their frequent involvement in criminal activity, such as federal firearms and explosives violations; redemption schemes; the use of fake license plates, drivers licenses, and documents that falsely claim diplomatic and law enforcement privileges.<sup>1</sup>

(U) This report has been prepared by the San Antonio and Houston Divisions of the FBI. Comments and queries may be addressed to the San Antonio Field Intelligence Group, 210-225-6741.

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<sup>1</sup> (U//LES) FBI San Antonio Division; 21 May 2010; *(U//LES) Identified Tactics Used by Sovereign Citizen Group Members and Supporters When Interacting with Law Enforcement*; UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE.