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Subject: FYI
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Attachments: [May 3 Threat Write-up.docx](#)

Deliberative document on POTUS event at Lincoln Memorial.

Captain Michael Libby
Intelligence and Counterterrorism Branch

O). (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

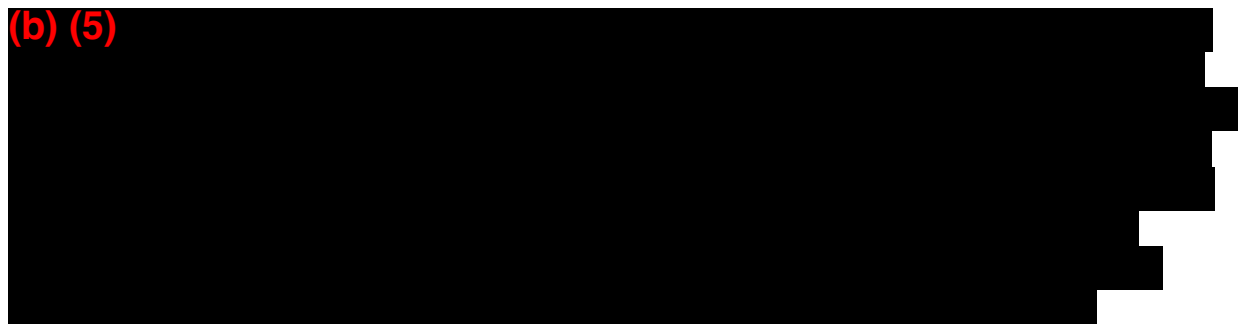
M). (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

On 3 May 2020, President Donald J Trump will hold a live “town hall” media event in the chamber of the Lincoln Memorial. Multiple press agencies are reporting that President Trump will address issues and concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Multiple media outlets are now reporting on and publicizing this event. It is anticipated that this media reporting will continue over the coming 48 hours, bringing more public attention to the event.

While currently there are no known active threats against the Washington Metropolitan Area (WMA), the overall threat picture for the area remains unstable. During ‘normal times’, the WMA remains a highly valued target due to the area’s iconic landmarks of national and historic significance. However, these are not ‘normal times.’ The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact every member of society, raising stress and anxiety levels of individuals throughout the nation. The U.S. Park Police Intelligence and Counterterrorism Branch (ICTB) has noted a rise in social media postings calling for individuals to take action against multiple perceived injustices being forced onto people due to the pandemic. Calls for action are being voiced by individuals and groups that self-identify as originating from all sides of the political and social landscape. Law enforcement has recorded leaders of groups attempting to use the current pandemic environment to inspire their followers to at times, commit illegal and violent actions – all in the furtherance of that group’s particular goals and aspirations. As one example, a significant number of self-identified white supremacist groups have been observed encouraging their members to target minority groups using the confusion of the pandemic to maximize the attack potential of their actions. Recently it is believed that one such attack was planned against a hospital in Missouri. The suspected attacker, who was killed by law enforcement just prior to him carrying out his attack reportedly had ties to a local white supremacist group and specifically targeted the hospital due to it caring for COVID-19 patients. Additionally, loosely affiliated anarchist groups have also been recorded on multiple occasions as attempting to use the confusion and anxiety caused by the COVID-19 pandemic as a motivation to its members to attack law enforcement and government officials. To compound the current threat matrix, the COVID-19 pandemic has energized many “conspiracy” individuals into believing and spreading many false narratives that attempt to exploit the fear and anxiety being experienced by many in society. A number of conspiracy believers are convinced that COVID-19 is fake and is being used to cover various covert government activities. A significant number of anti-government groups have used this as evidence to encourage their members to attack or disrupt government activities. Additionally, the stress being placed on individuals due to COVID-19 pandemic has also placed an additional strain on mental health consumers. Within the past 90 days, the U.S. Park Police has encountered multiple mental health consumers who were attempting to gain access to restricted areas or other displayed other concerning / possibly violent behavior in reported attempts to solve the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to the information listed above, this event also contains multiple attributes that groups such as ISIS and al’Qaeda have historically encouraged their followers to use to identify targets for attacks in the Homeland. The event is being held at a globally identifiable landmark; a landmark that represents the core values of the United States. The event will also feature high profile government officials and be televised live to the nation. An attack on such a venue would bring instant and overwhelming global media attention to whichever group staged the attack.

(b) (5)



Considering the overall current threat environment in the WMA, the U.S. Park Police's security commitment deemed necessary to protect this event is considerable. Such a large commitment of resources will certainly not be able to be accomplished with the current "steady state" staffing levels currently employed.