



# Reference Aid

## **(U) National Socialist Movement**

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## (U) National Socialist Movement

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*(U) Prepared by the Extremism and Radicalization Branch, Homeland Environment Threat Analysis Division.*

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### (U) Overview

(U//FOUO) The National Socialist Movement (NSM)<sup>USPER</sup> is the most active neo-Nazi group operating in the United States. It has grown from a small organization with a limited following confined to the mid-western United States to the preeminent National Socialist group in the nation. Despite having recently suffered a defection of several regional leaders, NSM remains an influential force within white supremacist circles and the only major racist group that eschews all attempts to distance its methods and objectives from those of the Third Reich. NSM has a reputation for conducting numerous public rallies that have triggered a violent response, including a riot in Toledo, Ohio, in October 2005.



(U) NSM Logo

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## (U) Description

(U//FOUO) The National Socialist Movement (NSM) is the largest neo-Nazi organization in the United States. Founded in 1974 by two former members of the American Nazi Party<sup>USPER</sup>, NSM claims that it is the only “legitimate” Nazi party operating in the United States. Although active since 1974, NSM only became a major player in the white supremacist movement in the late 1990s and has had its greatest period of growth over the past three years. This growth likely resulted from the collapse of other prominent neo-Nazi groups such as the National Alliance<sup>USPER</sup> and Aryan Nations<sup>USPER</sup>.

## (U) Ideology and Objectives

(U//FOUO) NSM promotes the ideology of traditional National Socialism, which is a mix of racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia, rabid anti-communism, and white supremacy. NSM seeks to transform the United States into a National Socialist state that would deny all rights to Jews, nonwhites, and gays. NSM also advocates the mass deportation of all illegal immigrants, the militarization of the Mexican border, the end of all foreign aid, and the severing of all ties with Israel.

## (U) Symbology

(U//FOUO) NSM patterns its uniforms after those of the Third Reich’s Wehrmacht and the Waffen SS. The armbands, shoulder boards, and collar insignia used by NSM are replicas of those worn by the military units and political officers of Nazi Germany. NSM also uses many forms of Nazi symbols and imagery in its propaganda.

## (U) Leadership and Organization

(U//FOUO) NSM has a paramilitary structure, with a network of national officers and regional leaders arranged into a chain of command that mimics a military organization.



Regional chapters are led by sergeants and corporals; and low-level NSM members are referred to as stormtroopers. NSM

patterns its national leadership after Nazi Germany, complete with a Propaganda Ministry, Office of Information, and Office of Foreign Affairs. NSM also has a women’s auxiliary and a youth program called the Viking Youth Corps<sup>USPER</sup>. The senior position in NSM is that of National Commander, an office currently held by Jeffrey Schoep<sup>USPER</sup>, who recently moved NSM’s headquarters from Minneapolis to Warren, Michigan.

## (U) Active Membership

(U//FOUO) Although NSM has small chapters operating throughout the country, over half of its estimated active membership is based in the Midwest, primarily in Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Another large concentration of NSM members operates in the Southwestern United States, centered mainly in Arizona and Nevada. There are an estimated 300 active NSM members along with a similar number of associates that are active on NSM's various Internet forums. Online members have little direct involvement with the group.

## (U) Financial Support

(U//FOUO) All active NSM members as well as new recruits are required to contribute monthly dues to help sustain the organization. NSM also generates a great deal of its revenue from sponsoring white power rock concerts and from the sale of racist music CDs, DVDs, video games, and other white power paraphernalia. NSM conducts much of their sales through its own music distributor, NSM88Records. The group uses funding to further their political ambitions, propaganda mechanisms, and various commercial enterprises that sell Nazi regalia and memorabilia.

## (U) Type and Nature of Training

(U//FOUO) NSM members are encouraged to own and become familiar with small arms, knives, and other personal weapons. The bulk of this training is done as an



(U) NSM Rally Photo (2005)

individual initiative, although it is conducted as part of a loosely established NSM program. Some members are known to engage in weight training programs and to practice unarmed combat drills and martial arts. These activities are often conducted in small groups or individually. The NSM reportedly also has published instructions on how to build explosive devices such as fertilizer bombs.

## (U) Operational Capability

(U//FOUO) NSM is best known for its ability to organize rallies and generate media publicity and for its sophisticated Internet presence. Since its creation, NSM has planned and conducted numerous public rallies, public events, private group meetings, and other social gatherings. NSM uses a secure Internet website and a private social networking website to exchange information among its members. It also created an online radio station with streaming audio for both communication and propaganda.

(U//FOUO) Although a fairly large number of NSM members possess a considerable degree of skill in the use of firearms and other weapons, there is no evidence to indicate

that the organization is seriously considering a terror campaign to further its objectives. The lack of evidence, however, does not preclude the possibility that individuals or small groups of NSM activists could engage in violent activity on behalf of a racist revolutionary agenda.

## **(U) Targets of Actions**

(U//FOUO) To date, NSM confines its activities primarily to conducting a series of high profile public rallies and marches targeting minority neighborhoods, illegal immigrants, and U.S. support to Israel. In several instances, these activities have triggered violent confrontations between protestors opposing NSM and law enforcement attempting to preserve public order. During an October 2005 march in Toledo, Ohio, police were unable to prevent local residents from rioting for several hours following the NSM rally. The disturbances resulted in the arrest of 120 rioters and the destruction of several local businesses. Toledo's mayor was forced to restore order by imposing a curfew.

## **(U) Criminal Activity**

(U//FOUO) There is little or no evidence that NSM, as an organization, is engaged in any organized criminal activity. A large number of current and former members of NSM, however, have engaged in sporadic criminal acts that are unrelated to their involvement with the group. NSM members have committed a wide range of crimes to include: murder, kidnapping, rape, domestic violence, pedophilia, burglary, trespassing, and narcotics possession.<sup>\*,†,‡</sup>

## **(U) Links to Other Groups**

(U//FOUO) A handful of small, regional Klan groups occasionally have allied themselves with NSM as a result of their shared interest in countering illegal immigration as well as to support each other during rallies. Nevertheless, the conduct and Nazi-like appearance of NSM members have caused most other white supremacist groups to distance themselves from the group, and several prominent racist groups have become so alienated from NSM that they consider the organization an enemy and have been known to attack its members on sight. The most infamous example of this occurred at a white power concert in 2006, when skinheads from the Vinlanders Social Club<sup>USPER</sup> pummeled five NSM members so severely that they needed to be escorted from the site of the concert.

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\* (U) John Edward Snyder (former Indiana NSM leader) was convicted of rape, criminally deviant conduct, and criminal confinement and is listed on the Indiana Sheriff's Sex and Violent Offender Registry: [www.insor.org](http://www.insor.org), 5 June 2008.

† (U) NSM Ohio member Martin Tucker was convicted of kidnapping and aggravated burglary and is listed as a convicted felon on the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway site. In 1998, NSM National Director Jeffrey Schoep was convicted of burglary for stealing computers from an elementary school. Sherburne County, Minnesota, District Court, Case # 98006844, Disp. Date 19 November 1998.

‡ (U) "Incident: 2<sup>nd</sup> Deg.," East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office, Public Bulletin, 18 November 2006.

(U//FOUO) Various internal conflicts within NSM over the past two years have resulted in the emergence of a pair of competing groups. These competing organizations are composed primarily of dissident NSM members and operate as the American National Socialist Workers' Party<sup>USPER</sup> and the National Socialist Order of America<sup>USPER</sup>. Although neither is as large as NSM, they have to a small extent diminished NSM's importance.

## **(U) Outlook**

(U//FOUO) Although there has been no implication of NSM's involvement in terrorist activity, the emphasis the organization places on weapons training and paramilitary activity, combined with its preoccupation with creating a Fourth Reich in the United States, provides ample justification to maintain ongoing monitoring of its activities. In addition, NSM propaganda has exhorted individuals to embrace many of the tenets of "lone wolf activism," under which the individual operates autonomously and attacks targets of his or her choosing, without any contact with the larger group. Federal authorities repeatedly have warned that one of the primary domestic terrorist threats emanates from lone wolves.

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