What is a Sovereign Citizen/Anti-Government Extremist?

"Sovereign Citizen" is one who adheres to a political/religious movement which has grown out of the belief in perceived abuses of governmental power.
Common Names/Identifiers

- Freeman
- Natural Person
- Posse Comitatus
- Constitutionalist
- Common Law Citizen
- Patriot
Subgroups

- White Power/Neo Nazi
- KKK, Skinheads, Aryan Brotherhood
- Black Panthers, New Black Panthers
- Nation of Islam
- Christian Identity Movement
Adherent’s cherry-pick from Constitutional law, British Common Law, Commercial Code, Admiralty law and other various U.S. jurisprudence to justify their claims that the federal, state and local governments are illegitimate.

The Bible (or Quran) and the U.S. Constitution are the primary sources for the movement's claims that its adherents are "sovereigns," and thus not subject to the various governments in the United States.
They use fraudulent documentation, harassment, intimidation and violence in their attempt to remove themselves from the current system and restore their vision of the original, Judeo-Christian-inspired Constitutional republic.

Groups believe in Anti-Government and Anti-tax.

As of 2012, there were estimated to be approximately 300,000 (0.1% of the U.S. population) adherents to the Sovereign Citizen ideology, of which approximately one-third (0.03% of the U.S.)

These groups DO NOT support or accept the authority of anyone in this room.
Some of the sovereign theories are based upon interpretation of legal language and parsing words and legal terms.

Sovereigns will argue, based on the parsed definitions of these terms.

A “driver” is one who is employed in conducting a coach, carriage, wagon, or other vehicle.

“Travel” is to journey or to pass through or over, whether on foot, horseback, or in any conveyance as a train, automobile, carriage, ship or aircraft.
Sovereigns will argue, especially during a traffic stop, that they are “not driving,” and thus do not require a driver’s license; they will claim they are “travelers on the land.”

How do Law Enforcement Officers deal with these situations.

Always request another Officer.

Officer Safety is the largest concern when conducting a traffic stop with Sovereign Citizens.
Sovereigns do not accept the legitimacy of government identification cards of any kind (driver’s license, identification card, and passport).

There will usually be common sovereign language found on the card, which, to the trained eye, will reveal its fraudulent nature.

- “Travel Warrant.”
- “Diplomatic Agent.”
- “Right to Travel”

When a sovereign does possess a legitimate driver’s license or other state-issued ID, pay close attention to the signature, as it will usually have indicators of sovereign beliefs.
Drivers License/ID Cards

- Unusual/inappropriate punctuation.
- All rights reserved
- Without Prejudice
- Under Duress
- <First Name>: of the family <Last Name>

- What we need to consider is how are your agencies going to handle a situation described above.
- Sovereigns will often have no legitimate vehicle registration or insurance.
- A variety of homemade vehicle license plates are freely available on Internet.
- Many are constructed of the same material and dimensions as state-issued license plates, but they will be conspicuously different.
- Some plates are as simple as pieces of cardboard upon which the driver’s basic identifying information is written.
Examples of License Plates

- “Kingdom of Heaven.”
- “U.S. Constitutional License Plate.”
- “Republic of <State Name>.”
- “Sovereign Christian Citizen.”
- “Private Postmaster.”
One of the most popular fraudulent license plates, particularly in Arizona, is the “US DOT” plate, which displays the letters “US DOT” (United States Department of Transportation) followed by five or six digit number.

Sovereigns apply for a “Vehicle Registrant Only” US Department of Transportation number, similar to the US DOT numbers obtained for commercial vehicles.

Choose classifications of “Private Property” and “Private Passengers”

They will receive a legitimate US DOT number, which they will affix to their homemade license plate.

They believe their US DOT plate gives them official permission to “travel” in a private, non-commercial capacity.
“Paper Terrorism” or “False Filings”

- Paper terrorism refers to the use of fraudulently created documents and filings, as well as the misuse of legitimate documents and filings, in order to intimidate, harass, and coerce public officials, law enforcement officers and private citizens.
- The most common tactics are harassment and intimidation through the creation and filing of fraudulent documents.
- A favorite strategy is the filing of frivolous lawsuits and personal liens against property belonging to public officials, law enforcement and private citizens.
This is a particularly effective tactic because it can be done without the victim’s knowledge and the time and effort to undo the damage can be substantial and costly.

Placing liens on victims’ homes and personal property, can lead to unfavorable credit ratings and financial difficulties.

Arizona has been directly affected by these false filings causing Troopers and other law enforcement officials months of time and thousands of dollars to correct the problem.
Once you are reasonably certain that you are dealing with a Sovereign, Moor or other anti-government extremist, immediately advise OPCOM and request backup.

Consider waiting to engage or reengage the occupants until backup arrives (within reason, safety and time constraints).

Stay alert for the presence of concealed weapons, assume they are present (you can always ask!).
➢ Assume you will be audio/video recorded; it is not illegal in Arizona, do not “seize” their camera/phone/recording device as “evidence.”

➢ Understand “Phone Calling Trees,” assume the driver or passenger(s) has called other sovereigns to come to your location during the contact.

➢ If you don’t have any/足够的 back up yet, there is no shame in considering a tactical retreat.
Thank You!

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