

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: PRIORITY

Date: 10/14/2003

To: Counterterrorism Division

Attn: Domestic Terrorism
Operations Unit,
Special Events-
SSA [redacted]
SSA [redacted]

Atlanta

Info

From: Atlanta
Columbus Resident Agency (CRA)

Contact: SA [redacted]

Approved By: [redacted]

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Drafted By: [redacted] ra

Case ID #: 266D-AT-90739 (Pending) -62

Title: SCHOOL OF AMERICAS WATCH;
CGR-FT. BENNING, GA;
UNLAWFUL ENTRY ON A
MILITARY RESERVATION;
11/21-23/03;

Synopsis: To advise FBIHQ of the annual scheduled demonstration that will occur in Columbus and the Ft. Benning, Georgia Military reservation during the week of 11/21-23/03.

Details: The annual School of Americas (SOA) WATCH protest is scheduled for the weekend of November 21-23, 2003. In the past, the event has drawn between 6,000 to 10,000 protestors. The culmination of the protest is on Sunday, November 23, 2003.

By way of background, ROY BOURGEOIS a CATHOLIC priest was the founder and leader of this protest since its inception in 1988. The event has grown dramatically during the past several years attracting college students and others sympathetic to the issue. The primary issue of the protest is the funding and training by the Department Of Defense (DOD) and the Department of State of Latin American military officers at the Ft. Benning, Ga. military installation. This event draws protestors who object to human rights violation conducted in these countrys, and more specifically, to the event in which a group of Catholic missionaries were murdered in Central America. The SOA WATCH

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 01-05-2006 BY 60309/AUC/TAM/DCG/YMW

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266D-AT-90739-62

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To: Counterterrorism Division From: Atlanta
Re: 266D-AT-90739, 10/14/2003

group determined that SOA graduates took part in this crime or had knowledge related to the murders.

The leaders of the SOA Watch have taken strides to impart upon the protest participants that the protest should be a peaceful event. As the size of the event has grown, the leaders control has been strained. Part of the groups tactics has been and likely remain to have a number of willing participants arrested on misdemeanor trespassing charges. Those charged are taken before a U.S. Magistrate for a hearing. The protestors use the hearing to garner press coverage and further their views. The 2002 protest resulted in eighty two arrests for trespassing.

Ft. Benning authorities constructed a chain link fence and the gate at the Main entrance which is closed during the event. The Columbus Police Department (CPD) has primary crowd control responsibilities. CPD is dedicating approximately officers for this event. The military utilizes a combination of Department of Defense (DOD) law enforcement officers and Military Police (MPs) to secure the post.

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The CRA monitors the event and serves in a liaison capacity with the local and military authorities. Should any of the protestors actions rise to the level of felony violations, the CRA will handle those matters.

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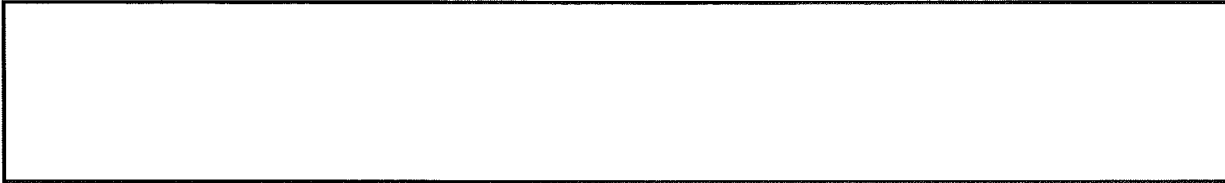
LEAD(s):

Set Lead 1: (Action)

COUNTERTERRORISM

AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

AT FBIHQ- DOMESTIC OPERATIONS UNIT



Set Lead 2: (Action)

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COUNTERTERRORISM

AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

AT FBIHQ-SPECIAL EVENTS

For info and appropriate dissemination.

Set Lead 3: (Info)

ATLANTA

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

For information, read and clear.

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