

## Postal Service conducted SURVEILLANCE on protesters with anti-Biden agendas and who pushed gun rights, shocking report claims

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The United States Postal Service has been monitoring protesters around the country for anti-gun and ant-Biden activity, according to newly unearthed intelligence assessments.

Postal inspectors tracked the activities of gun rights activists in <u>Virginia</u> and far-right groups making their way to Washington, D.C. to protest President Biden's election, according to documents obtained by the Cato Institute.

Cato obtained heavily redacted records through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request that laid out postal inspectors' spying from September 2020 to April 2021, including their covert social media surveillance through a program called Internet Covert Operations Program (iCOP).

Analysts working for iCOP kept a particular eye on the 'Million MAGA March' in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 20, and compiled information on the march in the same 'situational awareness bulletin' as a firebomb threat against a USPS distribution center.

The Postal Service (USPS) assessed that the Million MAGA March was likely to cause heavy traffic delays.

Another heavily redacted intelligence summary in the bulletin was entitled 'Right Wing Extremist Website Organizing Violent Action on Inauguration Day,' and warned of the 'Million Militia March' in D.C. on Jan. 20, 2021.

Another head-scratching summary on threats to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was entirely redacted.

'Of particular note in the released documents is still-redacted information on threats to the House Speaker Nancy Pelosi,' said Patrick Eddington, the senior fellow at the Cato Institute who obtained the documents, told DailyMail.com. 'If that information has not been provided to the January 6 Select Committee, the Committee should demand it be turned over.'

An inspector general report in March of this year found the Postal Service did not have the legal authority to conduct such sweeping intelligence collection. 'So why is this program still funded?' Eddington questioned.

The inspector general's investigation was prompted by a Yahoo News report revealing the secret program used facial recognition software and other advanced technology to compile and disseminate reports on Americans' online speech and movements.

The report outraged lawmakers who questioned on what authority the postal service was able to target and collect information on citizens not accused of a crime.

According to the bulletin the U.S. Postal Inspection Service also tracked 'peaceful armed protests,' including when Virginians demonstrated at a Second Amendment rally for 'Lobby Day' in Richmond on Sept. 17, 2021.

'The gathering lasted approximately two hours, with members identifying themselves as affiliates of the Proud Boys, Boogaloo Bois and Last Sons of Liberty,' the postal inspectors' bulletin said. 'Counter-protesters from the Black Lives Matter movement also attended. With heavy law enforcement presence the demonstrations stayed peaceful in nature.'

Another intelligence summary from September 2020 detailed threats from Louisville, Ky. as the city was operating under a state of emergency anticipating an announcement from the state attorney general on the investigation into Breonna Taylor's death.

Other bulletins show postal inspectors were surveying social media sites like Parler and Wimkin. The Postal Service assessed in January 2021 that the deplatforming of Parler likely disrupted planned protests for Inauguration Day.

Asked about its surveillance practices, the USPS said its inspectors are law enforcement agents who are in charge of protecting Postal Service workers, infrastructure and customers.

'The U.S. Postal Inspection Service occasionally reviews publicly available information in order to assess potential safety or security threats to Postal Service employees, facilities, operations and infrastructure,' the agency said in a statement to the Washington Times.