

b(2) b(6)

From: NOC Media Monitoring b(2) b(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 03, 2008 8:27 AM
To: b(2) b(6)
Subject: Republican National Convention--NSS Update #14

Title: Affidavit outlines plans for chaos
Location: St. Paul, Minnesota

CIR#3 identifying events with operational value...corroborating critical information

News Article:

Almost a year to the day before the Republican National Convention began, members of a self-described anarchist group gathered to talk about ways to disrupt it, including kidnapping delegates, sabotaging air vents at the Xcel Energy Center, blocking bridges and "capturing federal buildings" in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Unbeknown to the RNC Welcoming Committee, two police informants and an undercover investigator had infiltrated their ranks, according to an affidavit and search warrant application filed Tuesday. The informants and investigator accessed group e-mails, attended meetings, talked strategies with members and participated in camps and workshops.

Another person talked about using large puppets to conceal and transport Molotov cocktails, bricks, caltrops (devices used to stop buses and other vehicles), shields and lockboxes, the affidavit said. They also planned to throw marbles under the horses of mounted police to trip the horses. The affidavit also said that group e-mails from the Welcoming Committee talked about leaving abandoned or overturned vehicles at intersections, pulling a single officer from a police line and beating them, using liquid sprayers filled with urine or chemicals, "unarresting" techniques to free people arrested by police, obtaining fake credentials and dozens of other tactics.

Investigators also seized homemade devices used to disable buses and other vehicles, weapons, gas masks, flammable liquids and rags that could be used to make Molotov cocktails, computer storage devices, documents, pamphlets and banners. Some materials, such as banners and signs, were returned Monday for demonstrators to use during the protest marches.

Source:

Minneapolis Star Tribune
<http://www.startribune.com/27793634.html>

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From: NOC Media Monitoring b(2) b(6)
Sent: Friday, August 29, 2008 2:08 PM
To: b(2) b(6)
Subject: Republican National Convention, MN--NSS Update #1

Title: Police investigate suspicious package found in downtown parking ramp
Location: Minneapolis, MN

MMC CIR #3: Identifying events with operational value... corroborating critical information.

News Article:

Minneapolis Police are investigating a suspicious package found in a parking ramp this morning, said Sgt. William Palmer.

Several streets in the vicinity of the Hilton Municipal Ramp at 10th Street and 2nd Avenue S. have been closed. The ramp from Interstate Hwy. 35W to 11th Street also has been closed as a precaution.

"We are being careful being it's in proximity to the Convention Center and hotels," Palmer said. A security spokesman at the Hilton Hotel and Towers said operations have continued as normal. The incident began around 9:45 a.m. Palmer expects the situation to be resolved within the next hour.

Source:

Star Tribune

[http://www.startribune.com/local/27657874.html?](http://www.startribune.com/local/27657874.html?elr=KArksLckD8EQDUoaEyqyP4O:DW3ckUiD3aPc:_Yyc:aU7EaDjaMDCiUT)

[elr=KArksLckD8EQDUoaEyqyP4O:DW3ckUiD3aPc:_Yyc:aU7EaDjaMDCiUT](http://www.startribune.com/local/27657874.html?elr=KArksLckD8EQDUoaEyqyP4O:DW3ckUiD3aPc:_Yyc:aU7EaDjaMDCiUT)

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From: NOC Media Monitoring (b(2) b(6))
Sent: Monday, September 01, 2008 6:28 PM
To: b(2) b(6)
Subject: Republican National Convention--NSS Update #10

Title: Some turn violent in march to GOP convention
Location: St. Paul, Minnesota

CIR#3 Identifying events with operational value...corroborating critical information

News Article:

- Protesters smashed windows, punctured car tires and threw bottles in a violent counterpoint to an otherwise peaceful anti-war march to the Republican National Convention.
- Police in downtown St. Paul used pepper spray in confrontations with demonstrators and arrested 13.
- The protesters, many clad in black and identifying themselves as anarchists, wrought havoc away from the antiwar march by damaging property and setting at least one fire.
- Police say five people were arrested for lighting a trash bin on fire and pushing it into a squad car. Authorities didn't have immediate details on the other arrests.
- Police estimates of the crowd shifted several times, ranging from 2,000 to 10,000. The crowd was clearly in the thousands. Late this afternoon, long after the antiwar marchers had dispersed, police were joined by 150 Minnesota National Guard soldiers to help control splinter groups.

Source:

WKBT

<http://www.wkbt.com/Global/story.asp?S=8933121>

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From: NOC Media Monitoring b(2) b(6)
Sent: Monday, September 01, 2008 8:48 PM
To: b(2) b(6)
Subject: Republican National Convention--NSS Update #11

Title: 10,000 demonstrators flood St. Paul; more than 100 arrested
Location: St. Paul, Minnesota

CIR#3 Identifying events with operational value...corroborating critical information

News Article:

- While block after block of marchers chanted and peacefully waved signs, the carnival atmosphere turned violent as Monday afternoon wore on.
- Hundreds of cops, sweltering in heavy riot gear, swept in to block streets and protect delegate buses as the St. Paul police requested help from 150 National Guard troops by 3 p.m.
- More than 100 people were arrested, dozens were pepper-sprayed and tear-gassed.
- One police officer was punched in the back, another suffered from heat exhaustion and St. Paul hospitals reported nine minor injuries and several heat-related cases in emergency rooms.
- St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman praised officers for showing restraint and said a small number of law-breaking demonstrators marred what was an otherwise peaceful day of free speech.

Source:

Star Tribune

[http://www.startribune.com/politics/27736044.html?](http://www.startribune.com/politics/27736044.html?elr=KArksLckD8EQDUoaEyqyP4O:DW3ckUiD3aPc:_Yyc:aUnciaec807EyUsr)

[elr=KArksLckD8EQDUoaEyqyP4O:DW3ckUiD3aPc:_Yyc:aUnciaec807EyUsr](http://www.startribune.com/politics/27736044.html?elr=KArksLckD8EQDUoaEyqyP4O:DW3ckUiD3aPc:_Yyc:aUnciaec807EyUsr)

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From: NOC Media Monitoring b(2) b(6)
Sent: Monday, September 01, 2008 9:29 PM
To: b(2) b(6)
Subject: Republican National Convention--NSS Update #12

Title: At Least 130 Arrested During Protest March
Location: St. Paul, Minnesota

CIR#3 Identifying events with operational value...corroborating critical information

News Article:

- According to Ramsey County Sheriff Bob Fletcher, approximately 130 people have been arrested in the city of St. Paul as **scattered violence** erupted alongside an antiwar march by thousands of people to the site of the Republican National Convention.
- Instead of a single coherent march that organizers had hoped for, **fringe groups of anarchists and others wrought havoc** along the streets between the state Capitol and the Xcel Energy Center where the convention is taking place.
- Most of the trouble was in pockets of a neighborhood near downtown, several blocks from where the convention was taking place.
- The arrests occurred in confrontations several blocks from the convention arena.
- About 200 people from a group called Funk the War noisily staged its own separate march. Wearing black clothes, bandanas and gas masks, some of their members smashed windows of cars and stores.
- "Unfortunately today, a very small handful of individuals decided to break the law, damage property, and put people's safety at risk," Mayor Chris Coleman said. **Most involved in marches remained peaceful.**
- Chief Harrington said, people who were arrested were clearly committing acts of criminal assault and vandalism.

Source:

KSTP

<http://kstp.com/article/stories/S563244.shtml?cat=1>

WCCO

<http://wcco.com/rnc/republican.national.convention.2.807452.html>

MY FOX Twin Cities

<http://www.myfoxtwincities.com/myfox/pages/Home/Detail?contentId=7334945&version=34&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSFY&pageId=1111>

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From: NOC Media Monitoring : b(2) b(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 03 2008 9:29 PM
To: b(2) b(6)
Subject: Republican National Convention--NSS Update #15

Title: Police hope to avoid more GOP convention violence
Location: St. Paul, Minnesota

CIR#3 Identifying events with operational value...corroborating critical information

News Article:

- After an anti-war march Monday that drew about 10,000 people and an anti-poverty march Tuesday with about 2,000 people at it height, and nearly 300 arrests since the weekend, the scene Wednesday outside the Republican National Convention was much quieter.
- No police were seen at an event on the Capitol grounds, staged by 9/11 conspiracy theorists. Only about two dozen people showed up.
- Most of the arrests, and some sporadic violence, happened Monday. Police blamed a group of about 200 who broke car and store windows, attacked delegates, tried to block intersections, turned over garbage cans and slashed car tires.
- With the largest planned protest now in the past, police hoped they could avoid more violent disruptions. The convention ends Thursday night.
- Total arrests stood at 294 since Saturday

Source:

Associated Press

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hksHDvIi55R2qYl6dkmMm10uxZ0AD92VH86G0>

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From: NOC Media Monitoring b(2) b(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2008 5:21 PM
To: b(2) b(6)
Subject: Republican National Convention--NSS Update #19

Title: Two Arrested in Brief Police "Raid" on Public Square
Location: St. Paul, Minnesota

CIR#3 Identifying events with operational value...corroborating critical information

News Article:

- Police raid in St. Paul in public square to arrest two individuals
- Large number of riot police present due to crowds already present
- Two were immediately taken into custody and the police withdrew, no information as to why the two were targeted by police
- More to follow as information becomes available

Source:

FOX News Live Broadcast

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From: NOC Media Monitoring b(2) b(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2008 10:09 PM
To: b(2) b(6)
Subject: Republican National Convention--NSS Update #22

Title: Police block anti-war march to GOP convention
Location: St. Paul, Minnesota

CIR#3 Identifying events with operational value...corroborating critical information

News Article:

- Several people who refused to clear the area Thursday were arrested after a planned, anti-war march to the site of the Republican National Convention became a sit-in after police blocked the protest route.
- Hundreds tried to cross two different bridges leading from the state Capitol to the Xcel Energy Center, where Sen. John McCain was accepting his party's nomination for president. But they were met by lines of police, in gas masks and riot gear, who blocked the bridges after the marchers' permit expired.
- Police began making arrests about two hours into the standoff as the crowd dwindled from about 1,000 to around 100.
- Even as police made arrests, the mood was more relaxed than earlier in the week, when violence erupted.
- More than 400 people have been arrested in the past week, most on Monday, when violence broke out at the end of another anti-war march.

Source:

Associated Press

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hksHDv1i55R2qY16dkmMm10uxZ0AD9308KBG0>

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From: b(2) b(6) on behalf of NOC FUSION
Sent: Monday, September 01, 2008 6:32 PM
To: NOC.SWO
Cc: NOC.FUSION
Subject: FW: Jackson/Sibley area protest

FYSA

V/R,

b(6)

Defense Analyst/Fusion Desk Officer
Department of Homeland Security
National Operations Center
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HSDN:

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From: b(6)
Sent: Monday, September 01, 2008 6:18 PM
To:

b(2) b(6)

Subject: Jackson/Sibley area protest

Provided for your SA

Event 330: Originally Jackson and Sibley 16:36 Police receiving incoming projectiles. Police deploying gas.

Jackson/Shepard: Group approaching Police 16:42

16:51 Anarchists throwing feces at LE

Awaiting updates.

According to an LE feed: 17:14 considered a riot: police announce "arrest mode"

Awaiting further updates.

b(6)

DFIS I&A Intelligence Operations Specialist MNJAC

BB 202-557-1(2) Wk 612-373 b(2)

b(2) b(6)

b(2) b(6)

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b(2) b(6)

From:
Sent:
To:

b(2) b(6)
Monday, September 01, 2008 6:35 PM

b(2) b(6)

b(2) b(6)

b(2) b(6)

Subject: NGB SPOTREP: RNC update (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: FOUO

ALCON:

U/FOUO:

Two 75 PAX National Guard teams arrived and linked up with the St. Paul Police Department.

About 150 soldiers are at a key intersection near the Xcel Center and are being used as a blocking force.

They are blocking two different approaches to the intersection at this time.

~~As of 011748 SEP, they are not directly engaged with any protesters.~~

The St. Paul PD is engaged, in multiple, different locations, with protesters.

At 1700, convention events end, and convention participants may board buses to leave the convention center.

It is possible that protesters may attempt to block their access to the buses as they have done before.

The protesters are somewhat worn down, but at one point today, there were potentially 10,000 of them, most peaceful.

Small clusters of protesters are engaged in illegal activities.

The following information is classified as UNCLASSIFIED.

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The following information is classified as UNCLASSIFIED.

NGS JOC continues to monitor.

b(6)

NGS JOC Team Chief

703 607- b(2)

703 607- b(2)

b(2) b(6)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: FOUO

b(2) b(6)

From: b(6) on behalf of NOC.FUSION
Sent: Monday, September 01, 2008 9:10 PM
To: NOC SWO
Cc: NOC.FUSION
Subject: FW: Critical mass Disbanded

FYSA

V/R,

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Defense Analyst/Fusion Desk Officer
Department of Homeland Security
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From: b(2) b(6)
Sent: Monday, September 01, 2008 9:06 PM
To: b(2) b(6)
b(2) b(6)
b(2) b(6)

Subject: Critical mass Disbanded

FYSA-

The critical mass group that assembled in Minneapolis and rode some major thoroughways to St Paul has now -20:00 CST-, according to the IOC, apparently disbanded. No instances of violence or arrests have been

reported.

b(2) b(6)

DHS I&A Intelligence Operations Specialist MNJAC

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b(2) b(6)

From: b(6)

Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2008 5:41 PM

To: b(2) b(6)
b(2) b(6)

Subject: AP: Protesters organize final march at RNC

Protesters organize final march at RNC

By AMY FORLITI, The Associated Press
2008-09-04 21:34:13.0
Current rank: *Not ranked*

ST. PAUL, Minn. -

At least two people were arrested at the beginning of an anti-war march set to coincide Thursday with John McCain accepting his party's nomination for president at the Republican National Convention.

A group of about 10 police officers on bikes rode onto the Capitol lawn to arrest a young man and young woman lying on the grass.

As they made the arrests, a crowd of protesters circled the officers chanting, "Let them go, let them go."

Speakers at the rally, which attracted about 500 people, angrily accused police of trying to intimidate protesters and vowed the march would go on.

"The kids were just sitting on the ground and the police walked up to them and jumped them," said Lisa Stone, 41, of St. Paul, who witnessed the arrests. "This is a demonstration to try to promote peace. That's not going to happen if this is the way they're going to act. All it's doing is hyping everyone up."

Police on bikes, in riot gear and on horseback surrounded the Capitol and the march route.

More than 400 people have been arrested in the past week, most coming on Monday when violence broke out at the conclusion of an anti-war march.

The Anti-War Committee, which organized Thursday's march, urged others to join in and denounced the increased presence of police in riot gear and acts of "intimidation" in the streets of St. Paul.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty blamed the violence this week on a small group of "anarchists, nihilists, and goofballs who want to break stuff and hurt people."

"They need to be dealt with," Pawlenty said in an interview with WCCO-AM of Minneapolis

In a warmup to Thursday's expected main protest, about 50 college and high school students staged an anti-war rally at the Capitol at midday. Eight police officers watched the rally from afar, with most leaning against their cars. None wore riot gear.

Organizers said they were trying to put on a safe, nonviolent event for the whole family. When a musician singing and playing a guitar uttered a profanity, she was chastised by the crowd and quickly promised to clean up her language.

That was in stark contrast to the largest rally of the week on Monday where nearly 300 people were arrested. There were a handful of arrests across the Twin Cities on Tuesday and Wednesday, but the rallies and marches since Monday went off without major incident.

About 150 people marched peacefully Thursday from the Capitol across the Mississippi River to a park near Xcel Energy Center, the convention site, chanting "Hey hey, ho ho, Bush and Cheney need to go to Guantanamo."

Police said they successfully disrupted anarchists who wanted to throw Molotov cocktails, interfere with delegates and generally cause mayhem.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed a federal lawsuit on Wednesday to recover leaflets seized during police raids, claiming a violation of First Amendment rights because protesters haven't been able to distribute the flyers.

Federal authorities Wednesday announced charges against another man accused of planning to use Molotov cocktails to attack the Xcel Center. Felony charges were also filed against eight people authorities said were core members of the RNC Welcoming Committee, a group that has worked to plan and support efforts to attack the convention.

An attorney representing the group denounced the charges.

"What they're charged with is entering into a conspiracy to do things that essentially didn't happen," said attorney Larry Leventhal.

Members of the Welcoming Committee denied committing any violence.

"There are no terrorists up here. There are no terrorists in the Ramsey County Jail," said Betsy Raasch-Gilman with the group. "There are terrorists in the Xcel Energy Center. There are terrorists in the White House."

b(6)

Intelligence Analyst
Department of Homeland Security
Intelligence Watch and Warning

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From: b(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2008 2:17 PM
To: b(6)
Cc: b(6)
Subject: Downtown St. Paul, MN Businesses - Potential Protest Activities & Employee Safety
Attachments: image003.jpg

Sir

b(6) reports potential protest activity in St. Paul could curtail business activities this afternoon. Please see the reports below.

R
b(6)

From: b(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2008 2:14 PM
To: b(6)
Subject: FW: Downtown Businesses - Potential Protest Activities & Employee Safety

FYI...could be a busy afternoon here in St. Paul. Will keep you apprised. Ted

From: b(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2008 2:09 PM
To: b(2) b(6)
Subject: Downtown Businesses - Potential Protest Activities & Employee Safety

FYI

I learned from the PSA in the State EOC, b(6), that information is circulating in the private sector, downtown St Paul (St. Paul Building and Owners and Managers Association - BOMA) that as a result of concerns about potential protestor activity later this afternoon, and the impact it may have on businesses there (based on what happened on Monday), some owners are making decisions to curtail accepting visitors and/or to actually close their facilities early to allow employees to go home.

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Supervisory Protective Security Advisor
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Great Lakes Area
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312.353 b(2)
312.485 b(2)
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From: b(6) > on behalf of b(6) |
Sent: Wednesday, September 03, 2008 4:03 PM
To: b(6)
Subject: St. Paul, MN PD raid yields Molotov Cocktails

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

From: b(6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 03, 2008 4:00 PM
To: b(2) b(6)
b(2) b(6)

Subject: SPPD raid yields Molotov Cocktail finds

This information is provided FYSA only. This is an **ongoing investigation**. Release of this information outside of authorized channels is not authorized.

U//LES 03Sep08: At 0430 hrs, SPPD raided a residence in St Paul MN. This raid was conducted based on information that SPPD received that an unnamed anarchist planned to use Molotov cocktails against a remote inspection station (supported by USSS TSD reps and other law enforcement agencies) located at Concordia and Western Avenues in St Paul. No arrests were made but St Paul HAZMAT units confiscated 7 Molotov cocktails.

Note: Concordia and Western is located approx 1 mile NW of the Xcel Center.

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DHS I&A Intelligence Operations Specialist MNJAC

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From: NOC Media Monitoring b(2) b(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 04 2008 11:06 PM
To: b(2) b(6)
Subject: Republican National Convention--NSS Update #23

Title: Police use tear gas to disperse protestors
Location: St. Paul, Minnesota

CIR#3 Identifying events with operational value...corroborating critical information

News Article:

- Police arrested an estimated 200 anti-war protesters Thursday night after using tear gas and percussion grenades to disperse a crowd near the State Capitol, about a mile from the Republican National Convention.
- Police used the gas when dozens of marchers -- most in their 20s, some chanting "F--- the police tried to cross a bridge leading to the Xcel Center convention site after being warned not to.
- Minnesota State Public Safety Commissioner Michael Campion estimates 200 arrests at the interstate overpass near on Marion Street in St. Paul, where police used chemical agents and flash grenades to disperse the crowd.
- At one point, police on horses, motorcycles and bicycles followed marchers on a street-to-street chase that led through a shopping mall parking lot.
- A number of people wound up on the ground with their hands behind heads.

Source:

CNN

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/09/04/rnc.protests/>

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From: NOC Media Monitoring b(2) b(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2008 1:23 AM
To: b(2) b(6)
Subject: Republican National Convention--NSS Update #16

Title: Codepink members arrested at RNC
Location: St. Paul, Minnesota

CIR#3 Identifying events with operational value...corroborating critical information

News Article:

- Four people were arrested Wednesday when they crawled under a fence outside the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn., police said.
- The arrests of the members of Codepink, a peace organization, brings to 294 the total number detained by police so far during the political convention, Minneapolis television station KARE reported.
- Of those arrested, 16 felonies and 47 gross misdemeanors have been charged in Ramsey County court. The others were cited for misdemeanors and released, let go pending further investigation, or released outright, the television reported.
- Group spokeswoman Jean Stevens says a Code Pink vehicle was searched by authorities about 3 a.m. Sunday. Ms. Stevens said the bright-pink Winnebago bears the slogan "War is not green" and was parked on a street in Minneapolis.
- Officers cited complaints about a suspicious vehicle in the area, and searched the RV, but "didn't take anything that we know of," she said.
- A spokeswoman at the Joint Information Center - a coordinated law enforcement hub during the convention - said she had no information about any search of a Code Pink Winnebago.

Source:

United Press International

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2008/09/04/Codepink_members_arrested_at_RNC/UPI-12651220504385/

Washington Times

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/sep/01/code-pink-calls-authorities-search-of-parked-winne/>

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From: NOC Media Monitoring b(2) b(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 04 2008 3:56 AM
To: b(2) b(6)
Subject: Republican National Convention--NSS Update #17

Title: At least 85 GOP convention protesters arrested after Rage Against the Machine concert
Location: Minneapolis, Minnesota

CIR#3 Identifying events with operational value...corroborating critical information

News Article:

- Police arrested more than 80 protesters in downtown Minneapolis early Thursday following a concert by the political rock group Rage Against the Machine.
- Lisa Kiava, a spokeswoman for the Hennepin County sheriff's office, says at least 85 people had been arrested, but final figures weren't immediately available. She says most of the charges are expected to be misdemeanors.
- Police had expressed concern Wednesday about the possibility of trouble after the concert.
- At least 320 people had been arrested in Minneapolis and St. Paul since Saturday in pre-emptive raids and at protests that were marred by violence from people hoping to interfere with the Republican National Convention.

Source:

Star Tribune

[http://www.startribune.com/politics/national/conventions/27807854.html?
elr=KArks:DCiUo3PD:3D_V_qD3L:c7cQKUiD3aPc:_Yyc:aUU](http://www.startribune.com/politics/national/conventions/27807854.html?elr=KArks:DCiUo3PD:3D_V_qD3L:c7cQKUiD3aPc:_Yyc:aUU)

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From: NOC Media Monitoring b(2) b(6)
Sent: Thursday, September 04 2008 4:23 AM
To: b(2) b(6)
Subject: Republican National Convention--NSS Update #18

Title: Terrorism charges filed in alleged plot to disrupt GOP convention
Location: St. Paul, Minnesota

CIR#3 Identifying events with operational value...corroborating critical information

News Article:

- As clashes between police and protesters subsided outside the Republican National Convention on Wednesday, county prosecutors charged eight people with conspiring to cause a riot as part of a terrorist act.
- The eight suspects were arrested in connection with raids of homes in the Twin Cities that were conducted by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department before the convention began.
- The charges are highly unusual because of the terrorism aspect. Ramsey County Atty. Susan Gaertner said she could recall no such case in her 24 years with the prosecutor's office.
- "This was the most serious charge that we found that was supported by the evidence," she said. "The terrorism aspect is appropriate. This is not your average criminal charge, but this was not your average crime."
- If convicted, the suspects could each face up to five years in jail, a \$10,000 fine, or both.
- The arrests follow a nearly yearlong investigation by the sheriff's office and federal law enforcement agencies.

Source:

La Times

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-terror4-2008sep04,0,7911659.story>

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From: NOC Media Monitoring b(2) b(6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 02 2008 12:31 AM
To: b(2) b(6)
Subject: Republican National Convention--NSS Update #13

Title: Police Arrest Hundreds In St. Paul
Location: St. Paul, Minnesota

CIR#3 identifying events with operational value...corroborating critical information

News Article:

- Police wielding pepper spray arrested at least 256 people.
- Of the arrestees, 119 faced possible felony charges, authorities said.
- About 180 protesters who weren't part of the march caused trouble, St. Paul Police Chief John Harrington said.
- Protesters attacked delegates, smashed windows, punctured car tires and threw bottles Monday, a violent counterpoint to an otherwise peaceful anti-war march at the Republican National Convention.
- The main antiwar march was peaceful, police said, estimating about 10,000 people participated. Late Monday afternoon, long after the antiwar marchers had dispersed, police requested and got 150 Minnesota National Guard soldiers to help control splinter groups near downtown.
- Members of the Connecticut delegation said they were attacked by protesters when they got off their bus near the Xcel Center, KMSP-TV reported. Delegate Rob Simmons told the station that a group of protesters came toward his delegation and tried to rip the credentials off their necks and sprayed them with a toxic substance that burned their eyes and stained their clothes.

Source:

WBZTV

<http://wbztv.com/cbsnational/republican.convention.protesters.2.807593.html>

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From: NOC Media Monitoring b(2) b(6)
Sent: Friday, August 29, 2008 9:31 PM
To: b(2) b(6)
Subject: Republican National Convention, MN--NSS Update #4

Title: FBI outlines role during RNC
Location: St. Paul, Minnesota

CIR#3 Identifying events with operational value...corroborating critical information

News Article:

- The Secret Service established the Multi-Agency Communications Center (MACC) is the central point of communications for the agencies involved in the operational security efforts for the 2008 Republican National Convention.
- The MACC allows everyone from the Secret Service to local law enforcement to area hospitals to work to gather and disseminate information as events happen, and they say they're prepared for anything.
- The FBI has set up a separate Intelligence Operations Center at an undisclosed location, where information on suspicious people or activity will be collected and immediately analyzed. The agents will have access to all FBI and local databases.
- "There are more FBI resources here than have ever been collected in the state of Minnesota so this is unprecedented for Minnesota," FBI Special Agent in Charge Ralph Boelter said.
- The FBI has also set up a Joint Operations Center, which would become a command center and be used only in the event of a crisis.
- "There is nothing that is profound (in Denver) that is impacting our concerns here," he said. "There are threats out there. These threats are very public. There is one particular anarchist group that has a Web site and they've been very public about disrupting the RNC. ... Anything that we are aware of in terms of threats regarding this event, we're working on" Boelter said.

Source:

Star Tribune

<http://www.startribune.com/politics/27671734.html?elr=KArksUUUU>

FOX Twin Cities

<http://www.myfoxtwincities.com/myfox/pages/Home/Detail?contentId=7319957&version=2&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=1.1.1>

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From: NOC Media Monitoring b(2) b(6)
Sent: Friday, August 29, 2008 7:40 PM
To: b(2) b(6)
Subject: Republican National Convention, MN--NSS Update #3

Title: Protesters prepare to crash party
Location: St. Paul, Minnesota

CIR#3 Identifying events with operational value...corroborating critical information

News Article:

- Thousands of protesters are expected to converge on the downtown doorstep of next week's Republican assembly at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.
- The largest gathering of protesters during the four-day convention is scheduled for Monday, when the Coalition to March on the Republican National Convention and Stop the War plans to parade from the Minnesota's state Capitol to the Xcel Energy Center.
- Coalition spokeswoman Meredith Aby said organizers expect roughly 50,000 people to participate in the march.
- Members of the Republican National Convention Welcoming Committee - a self-described "anarchist/anti-authoritarian organizing body" - could create mayhem during the four-day event. The group's Web site (www.nornc.org) discusses plans during the convention that include traffic blockades.
- The Secret Service will be in charge of overall security at the event, but Tom Walsh, a spokesman for the St. Paul Police Department, said 3,500 police officers from all over Minnesota and nearby states will be helping with public order and crowd control as well.

Source:

Washington Times

<http://washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/29/protesters-prepare-to-crash-party/>

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From: NOC Media Monitoring b(2) b(6)
Sent: Friday, August 29, 2008 7:00 PM
To: b(2) b(6)
Subject: Republican National Convention, MN--NSS Update #2

Title: GOP Considers Delaying Convention
Location: Minneapolis, Minnesota

CIR#3 Identifying events with operational value...corroborating critical information

News Article:

- Republican officials said yesterday that they are considering delaying the start of the GOP convention in Minneapolis-St. Paul because of Tropical Storm Gustav, which is on track to hit the Gulf Coast, and possibly New Orleans, as a full-force hurricane early next week.
- The threat is serious enough that White House officials are also debating whether President Bush should cancel his scheduled convention appearance on Monday, the first day of the convention, according to administration officials and others familiar with the discussion.
- One senior GOP official said he does not anticipate a convention delay at this point, but he said the event would have to be reorganized if a large storm hit a major city on the coast.

Source:

Washington Post

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/28/AR2008082803165.html?sub=AR>

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From: b(2), b(6)
Sent: Friday, August 29, 2008 3:08 PM
To:
Cc: b(2) (cc)
Subject: RE: Republican National Convention, MN--NSS Update #1

Issue Closed!

Thanks Jason

--Eli

-----Original Message-----

From: b(2) b(6)
Sent: Friday, August 29, 2008 2:51 PM
To: b(2) b(6)
Cc:
Subject: FW: Republican National Convention, MN--NSS Update #1

This item is CLOSED.

" Narrative:

UPDATE TO RN0061. MPD determines suspicious items in Nissan Pickup were scuba gear and homemade spear fishing equipment.

Original Post

On 29 August 2008 at 0940 MPD Bomb squad responding to suspicious vehicle, Nissan Frontier Pickup possibly registered to an identified individual. Back of pickup contains 4 cylinders, PVC Pipe with sign "Boom", "Safe" on it and a switch. Individual who left vehicle was wearing a purple Hawaiian shirt."

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NOC Fusion Desk
Department of Homeland Security
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-----Original Message-----

From: b(2) b(6)
Sent: Friday, August 29, 2008 2:48 PM
To: b(2) b(6)
Subject: FW: Republican National Convention, MN--NSS Update #1

Narrative:

UPDATE TO RN0061. MPD determines suspicious items in Nissan Pickup were scuba gear and homemade spear fishing equipment.

Original Post

On 19 August 2008 at 0940 MPD Bomb squad responding to suspicious vehicle, Nissan Frontier Pickup possibly registered to an identified individual. Back of pickup contains 4 cylinders, PVC Pipe with sign "Boom", "Safe" on it and a switch. Individual who left vehicle was wearing a purple Hawaiian shirt.

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DHS I&A Intelligence Operations Specialist MNJAC
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b(2) b(6)

From: b(2) b(6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 02, 2008 5:13 PM
To: b(2) b(6)
Subject: CNN: Hundreds to be charged in court after RNC protests
Attachments: image001.gif

Hundreds to be charged in court after RNC protests

- Story Highlights
- NEW:** Police say 130 of those arrested are charged with felonies
- Anarchist group "did a disservice to those that came here to protest," police say
- Nearly 5,000 protesters marched peacefully in St. Paul
- "Splinter group" broke windows, threw benches, vandalized squad cars, police say

ST. PAUL, Minnesota (CNN) – Almost 300 people will be formally charged in Ramsey County District Court on Tuesday after they were arrested during protests at the Republican National Convention, a police spokesman said.

Police arrested 284 people Monday after firing projectiles, pepper spray and tear gas to disperse a crowd demonstrating near the convention site.

Police used plastic handcuffs to detain between 20 and 30 of them a few blocks from the security perimeter around the Xcel Energy Center in downtown St. Paul.

St. Paul police said 130 of the 284 arrested were being held on felony charges. The rest were charged with various misdemeanors. iReport.com: Cops swarm bikers, protesters

A crowd of about 300 people conducted what appeared to be a sit-in in a parking lot near the Mississippi River on Monday.

Earlier in the day, a group of self-described anarchists threw park benches into streets and smashed windows, police said.

St. Paul police spokesman Thomas Walsh said Monday afternoon that some of those arrested are accused of property damage and conspiracy to riot.

The arrest of the "anarchists" came after almost 5,000 protesters marched peacefully outside the site of the convention. Walsh said they were part of a "splinter group" of the main body of protesters. He said he would not characterize their activity as a protest.

"I think they did a disservice to those that came here to protest," he said.

Five police cars were among the property that was damaged, Walsh said.

On Sunday, police saw little disruption ahead of the convention, which was scaled back because of Hurricane Gustav. Despite Monday's disruptions, the security plan is working, Walsh said.

"We had some expectation that there may be some of this activity," he said.

The Republican convention, which began Monday, has been designated a "national special security event," which means the Secret Service is responsible for planning and implementing security.

But the primary responsibility for street-level security falls to local police agencies. St. Paul received \$50 million in federal grant money to pay for additional security.

The St. Paul Police Department estimated it would require \$34 million to pay 3,500 extra officers. The remaining money is for training and equipment, the department said.

~~Numerous federal agencies are helping provide security, including the FBI, Federal Protective Service, Customs and Border Protection, the Coast Guard and the Transportation Security Administration.~~

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Intelligence Analyst
Department of Homeland Security
Intelligence Watch and Warning

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From: b(2) b(6)
Sent: Saturday, August 30, 2008 1:21 PM
To: b(2) b(6)
Subject: Republican National Convention, MN--NSS Update #6

Title: Police raid multiple houses in advance of RNC
Location: St. Paul, Minnesota

CIR#3 Identifying events with operational value...corroborating critical information

News Article:

AP

Republican National Convention protesters said police raided three Minneapolis homes on Saturday, just a few hours after Ramsey County sheriff's deputies raided an organizing site of a group seeking to disrupt the convention.

Gina Berglund, an attorney helping to represent protesters, said at least three people were arrested at one of the Minneapolis homes and booked on probable cause of conspiracy to commit a riot.

In a statement, Sheriff Bob Fletcher said authorities moved to head off planned illegal acts. "These acts include tactics to blockade and disable delegate buses, breaching venue security and injuring police officers," Fletcher said.

Minneapolis police deferred questions on the raid to a joint media center that wasn't yet in operation.

MPR

Police conducted a series of raids Saturday morning apparently targeting protesters who planned to demonstrate during the Republican National Convention.

Four people were arrested in Saturday's raids, according to the National Lawyer's Guild. The **RNC Welcoming Committee**, which is organizing protests, told reporters this morning four raids took place and five people were arrested.

Tony Jones, a member of the **RNC Welcoming Committee**, says 60 people were detained last night for at least two hours. No arrests were made, but computers, Welcoming Committee paraphernalia, maps and puppets were confiscated. Jones said the police said they were carrying out a warrant to search for bomb making materials. He says the group received no copy of the warrant.

Source:

The Dickenson Press (AP)

<http://www.thedickinsonpress.com/ap/index.cfm?page=view&id=D92SMVVO0>

Minnesota Public Radio

http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2008/08/30/more_raids/

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From: b(2) b(6)
Sent: Sunday, August 31, 2008 1:53 AM
To: b(2) b(6)
Subject: Republican National Convention, MN--NSS Update #7

Title: GOP Convention Braces for Online Threat
Location: St. Paul, Minnesota

CIR#3 Identifying events with operational value...corroborating critical information

News Article:

- The danger of cyber attack doesn't worry convention planners the way that protests and more-concrete threats do. But the result of an online assault could be a lot more spectacular than just some lost e-mail.
- An online attack could have less dramatic, but still potentially debilitating, results as well. Denial-of-service attacks, in which hordes of computers are harnessed to send repeated requests to a server, could bring down the convention website.
- Sensitive information such as flight schedules, Social Security numbers, and credit card numbers can be harvested from stolen laptops and compromised networks.
- Darrin Blackford, an agent and spokesman with the Secret Service, expressed confidence that federal, state, and local officials are as prepared online as off. "One of our subcommittees is dealing with critical infrastructure," he said. "There will be assets in place to deal with any type of cyber attack."

Source:

National Journal

http://www.nationaljournal.com/conventions/co_20080831_3375.php

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