

From: Abbate, Paul M. (DO) (FBI)
Subject: Internal concerns
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: January 13, 2021 3:36 PM (UTC-05:00)
Thank you [REDACTED] for sharing everything below.

b6 -2
b7C -2

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 2:34 PM
To: Abbate, Paul M. (DO) (FBI); [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - Internal concerns

b6 -2
b7C -2
b7E -3

Hello Paul,

I know how occupied you must be with the investigation of the Capitol insurrection and the larger-scale preparation for Inauguration week. If I didn't believe it was of significant importance, I wouldn't be sending you this email while you're in that crush. There's no good way to say it, so I'll just be direct: from my first-hand and second-hand information from conversations since January 6th there is, at best, a sizable percentage of the employee population that felt sympathetic to the group that stormed the Capitol, and said it was no different than the BLM protests of last summer. Several also lamented that the only reason this violent activity is getting more attention is because of "political correctness". Here's a sampling of what is happening across multiple field offices:

I literally had to explain to an agent from a "blue state" office the difference between opportunists burning & looting during protests that stemmed legitimate grievance to police brutality vs. an insurgent mob whose purpose was to prevent the execution of democratic processes at the behest of a sitting president. One is a smattering of criminals, the other is an organized group of domestic terrorists.

I was talking to an A/SSA in a "red state" office who was telling me that over 70% of his CT squad + roughly 75% of the agent population in his office, disagreed with the violence "but could understand where the frustration was coming from" which led to the "protestors getting carried away".

An analyst in "purple state" described watching horrified as the events were unfolding on the news, while several co-workers chalked up the insurgency as a "response to everyone being quarantined at home for months" and more "on edge, because so many lost their jobs and lack steady income because of COVID".

b6 -1
b7C -1

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] after the TVs in that squad's space were tuned to far-right media channel Newsmax. Those TVs previously were tuned to Fox News but post-election the group found that Fox News was "playing to the left" and reporting "fake news".

I've spoken to multiple African American agents who have turned down asks to join SWAT because they do not trust that every member of their office's SWAT team would protect them in an armed conflict.

A senior analyst from my first unit who retired less than 2 years ago has a Facebook page full of #StoptheSteal content.

There are not one-off events -- they are representative of a larger group within the organization.

Do I think they were in the group storming the Capitol? No. But I know that that group of insurgents included state & local police officers and current and retired military personnel. I have seen from news coverage that at least one current federal agent is under investigation for participating in the siege, and that a current Secret Service agent is under admin leave/suspension as his agency investigates the social media postings he made supporting the insurrection. Nothing about how the Bureau is comprised is unique from any of those other organizations, which

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