



UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE


WASHINGTON, DC 20510

INSPECTOR GENERAL


May 26, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Yogananada D. Pittman
Acting Chief of Police

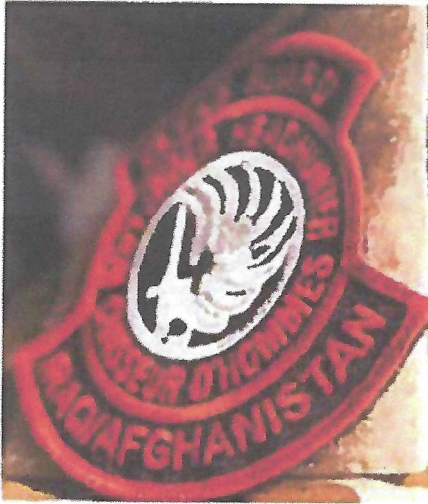
FROM: Michael A. Bolton 
Inspector General

SUBJECT: *Management Advisory Report: Containment Emergency Response Team Contractor* (Report Number OIG-2021-07)

During our Review of the events surrounding the January 6, 2021, takeover of the United States Capitol, we became aware of a contractor, utilized by the Containment Emergency Response Team (CERT), who has questionable content on their website. During 2018 and 2019 USCP spent \$90,075 for CERT to train with . The home page of the company's website uses the motto or slogan, "For those who have hunted armed men training is never the same."

On several pages of  website and Facebook page they prominently display the Devil's Guard patch. See Exhibit 1 for the Devil's Guard patch taken from  Facebook page. The Devil's Guard patch is derived from a 1971 novel titled *Devil's Guard* by George Robert Elford. According to the Washington Post, "The book follows a Nazi SS officer named Hans Josef Wagemueller who manages to fight his way out of Czechoslovakia in the waning days of World War II, only to flee Germany and join the French Foreign Legion. Once inside the legion, Wagemueller and his fellow SS compatriots form a unit led by Nazi officers that eventually is deployed to Vietnam, part of what was then known as French Indochina, to quell the growing insurgency there in the 1950s." The Washington Post further describes the book as, "overly sympathetic to the Nazis, especially the SS."

Exhibit 1 – Devil's Guard Patch



Source: 

Exhibit 2 –

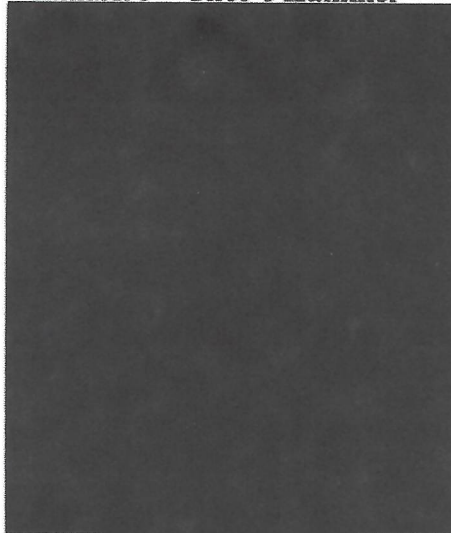
Source: 

Additionally, the company logo which appears on every page of the website is a combination of two Nordic runes (Tiwaz or Tyr and Othala or Othal). See Exhibit 2 for the logo. According to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), an organization that tracks hate symbols, "The Tyr rune is one of many

Page 1 of 3

ancient European symbols appropriated by the Nazis in their attempts to create an idealized "Aryan/Norse" heritage. . . Nazi Germany used the Tyr rune as a symbol for a number of Nazi entities, including the leadership schools (Reichsführerschulen) of Hitler's brownshirts, the Sturmabteilung, and a Waffen SS infantry division, among others. . . Since World War II, neo-Nazis and other white supremacists continued to use the Tyr rune in a racist context." Regarding the Othala rune, according to ADL, "In the 20th century, Nazis in Germany adopted the othala rune, among many other similar symbols, as part of their attempt to reconstruct a mythic "Aryan" past. Nazi uses of the symbol included the divisional insignia of two Waffen SS divisions during World War II. Following World War II, white supremacists in Europe, North America, and elsewhere began using the othala rune. Today, it is commonly seen in tattoo form, on flags or banners, as part of group logos, and elsewhere." For both runes, ADL advises that because of their use in the historic runic alphabet, "Care should be taken to evaluate the symbol in the context in which it appears."

Exhibit 3 – Thor's Hammer



Source: [REDACTED]

Furthermore, another company logo consists of a symbol commonly referred to as Thor's Hammer with the face of a Viking embedded in the logo. See Exhibit 3. According to ADL, "Although its traditional origins are non-racist. . . , the Thor's Hammer symbol has been appropriated by neo-Nazis and other white supremacists, especially those who practice racist or white supremacist versions of neo-Norse beliefs under the guise of Odinism or Wotanism." ADL further advises, "One should never assume that the Thor's Hammer appearing by itself necessarily denotes racism or white supremacy. Instead, one should carefully judge the symbol in the context in which it appears."

While some of these logos and slogans could have multiple meanings, their use at Department provided training could lead employees to feel unsafe or uncomfortable. Furthermore, USCP participation at training provided by [REDACTED], could lead individuals to believe that USCP sanctions the use of these symbols.

Recommendation 1: We recommend that the United States Capitol Police review the appropriateness of utilizing [REDACTED] for further training.

Due to the nature and brevity of this work, OIG did not conduct this work in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Had we followed such standards, other matters might have come to our attention, and we may have identified additional issues.

cc: Assistant Chief Chad B. Thomas
Acting Assistant Chief Sean P. Gallagher
Mr. Richard Braddock, Chief Administrative Officer
[REDACTED] Capitol Police Board
Thomas A. DiBiase, General Counsel
[REDACTED], Audit Liaison