



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN**
Counterterrorism Division

16 February 2006

(U//FOUO) Animal Rights Extremists Employing Denial-of-Service Attacks to Achieve Goals

(U) This Intelligence Bulletin addresses the terrorism (TERR) topic of the NIPF and responds to FBI intelligence requirement FBI TERR ARET-III.C.1.

(U//FOUO) Common tactics among animal rights extremists include vandalism of businesses engaged in animal testing and harassment of company officials. On at least four separate occasions in 2005, extremists claiming to represent the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) or Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) also employed denial-of-service (DoS) attacks against US companies' computer and telephone systems. As a result of such attacks, two targeted companies ceded to the attackers' demands and paid a substantial financial price.

(U//FOUO) ALF and SHAC sympathizers frequently publicize their actions on their Web sites. By highlighting a DoS attack's utility in affecting a company's operations, animal rights extremists could inspire more widespread use of this tactic by other terrorist groups.

- (U//FOUO) In late April extremists sympathetic to ALF crashed a US company's computer server by overwhelming it with e-mail, costing the business approximately \$1.25 million.¹
- (U//FOUO) In early October animal rights extremists used an auto-dialer to inundate the telephone system of a Delaware investment firm. The attack ended when the company agreed to sell all of its stock in Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS).² The attackers posted an account of their actions and the company's response on SHAC's Web site.
- (U//FOUO) In mid-October extremists again claimed credit on SHAC's Web site for a harassment campaign against a Wisconsin firm that included sending hundreds of e-mails. As a result of the attack, the company agreed to a demand that it sell off its shares of HLS. The business lost \$1.4 million from the sell-off.³
- (U//FOUO) In mid-December SHAC-affiliated extremists disrupted the operations of a California investment firm with a DoS attack against the company's phone system.⁴

(U//FOUO) The goal of a DoS attack is to deny legitimate users of a system access to that system. These attacks are typically identified as a type of computer network attack, such as ALF's actions in April 2005 that flooded the company's computer network with spurious e-mail and prevented employees from logging into the network. However, SHAC's October and December targeting of corporate phone systems were also DoS attacks because they prevented legitimate customers from contacting those businesses.

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(U//FOUO) HLS, headquartered in Cambridge, England, is one of the largest animal testing facilities in the world. SHAC is an animal rights campaign that began in the United Kingdom and migrated to the United States in 2000. SHAC targets HLS and other companies with which it does business in an effort to shut down HLS. In the United States, HLS is listed on the Over the Counter Bulletin Board under the name Life Sciences Research, Inc.

(U//FOUO) ALF originated in England in the 1970s and migrated to the United States in the 1980s. As the name suggests, ALF is concerned with the treatment of captive animals and prefers actions that inflict economic damage against perceived enemies.

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY