

# CVE Network Sync

# 5RD

15 February 2022

## Attendees:

| AUSTRALIA              |                                                                                                           |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| David Kernot           | Defence Science and Technology                                                                            |
| Ellen Lihos            | Defence Science and Technology                                                                            |
| Kelly Gwyn             | Home Affairs                                                                                              |
| Adela Damiao           | Home Affairs                                                                                              |
| CANADA                 |                                                                                                           |
| Brett Kubicek          | Public Safety Canada                                                                                      |
| Jihan Rabah            | Public Safety Canada                                                                                      |
| Jillian Hunchak        | Public Safety Canada                                                                                      |
| Marc-Andre Argentino   | Public Safety Canada                                                                                      |
| David Yuzva Clement    | Public Safety Canada                                                                                      |
| Annette Greenley       | Public Safety Canada                                                                                      |
| NEW ZEALAND            |                                                                                                           |
| Glenn Williams         | The Department of Internal Affairs                                                                        |
| UNITED KINGDOM         |                                                                                                           |
| Susannah Taylor        | Home Office                                                                                               |
| UNITED STATES          |                                                                                                           |
| Richard Legault        | DHS Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships                                                       |
| Nadine Frederique      | DHS Science and Technology Directorate                                                                    |
| Ajmal Aziz             | DHS Science and Technology Directorate                                                                    |
| Llewellyn Salgado, Jr. | DHS Science and Technology Directorate                                                                    |
| Cheena Pongase         | DHS Science and Technology Directorate                                                                    |
| Samuel Hunter          | University of Nebraska at Omaha; National Counterterrorism, Innovation, Technology, and Education (NCITE) |

## Recap:

- Admin
- [All Partners Access Network](#) will be used as the shared platform for the Network. Network members should receive note to join the network page by end of week. Please be on the look out for an email from 'APAN Community'

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- Activity tracker has been updated to include 106 activities have been identified across all partners. Please review as there are significant areas of overlap. This activity tracker will help the group identify what to pursue collectively moving forward.
- Each network sync will feature a rotating topic brief. The goal of these topic briefs is to highlight current lines of effort that might be of particular interest to the group

## Threat Assessment and Prevention Programming Best Practices Study Overview

- Background:
  - The topic brief for this meeting was led by Dr. Sam Hunter who is a professor of Industrial and Organizational Psychology at the University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO) National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center (NCITE) Center of Excellence. He serves as one of DHS S&T's Principal Investigators and spoke about current efforts looking at evaluations of assessment tools/techniques and prevention best practices.
- Threat/Risk Assessment research study
  - Looking at risk assessment from a multi-variant approached. Research team is going through stages of interviews with practitioners and operators to see how applicable and functional the tools are. Open to any recommendations from partners that would help inform the study.
  - Big takeaway is that threat assessment tools are working to date and are useful. No specific tool came out on top, but the general framework/approach that seems to best practice is the Structured Professional Judgment (SPJ).
  - There are 4 pillars. The following pillars will be worked on in sequence.
    1. *Lessons learning from the UK.* The UCL literature review of over 2000 studies came out with a broad set of conclusions.
    2. *Work with the state/local police to gather tips/approaches that can be applied at the federal level.*
    3. *Insider threat.* This is an area that is growing in interest that can range from IP theft to workplace violence. They will be conducting interviews to build up a body of knowledge to understand vulnerabilities since these perpetrators are a part of the organizations themselves and intervention that can be used (peer influence, leader influence, culture/climate refinement).
    4. *Novel threats (innovative/creative) may require researchers to reconsider scoring and the tools that are currently being used.* This pillar is looking to answer if there are blind spots that are not being considered.
  - DHS S&T has another research study that aims to develop prevention programming best practices. This effort will conduct multiple Delphi studies with SMEs and practitioners to inform this analysis. Open to any recommendations from partners on potential groups/programs/individuals we can reach out to.

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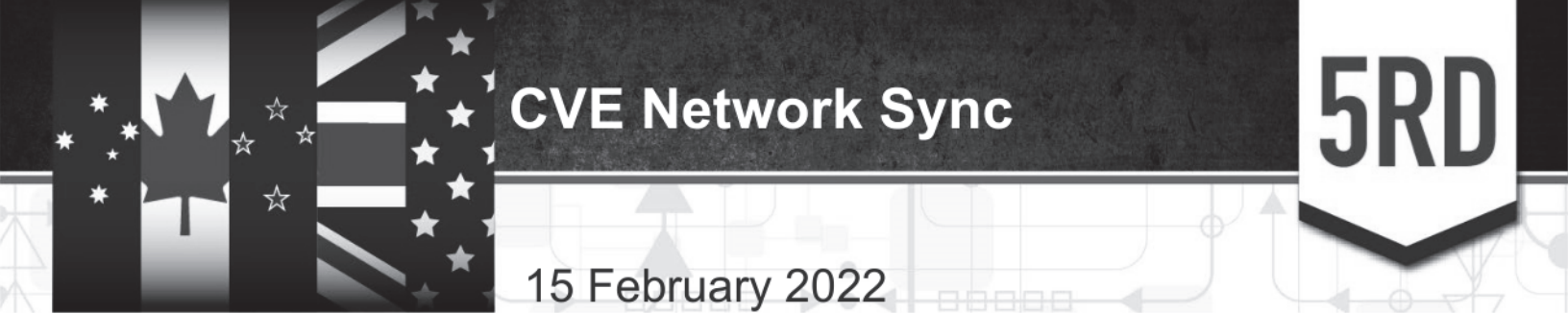
- Group discussion
  - Dr. Paul Gill is conducting a systematic review on fit of use for risk assessment from CPN PREV. Connections can be made. (Brett Kubicek)
  - Reviewing the psychology side at social networks may be interesting. (David Yuzva Clement)
  - There is a big focus on insider threat. Focus on DTEKS and Trap18, and other new tools. (David Kernot)
  - Tools should be threat agnostic. To what extent are they? (Susannah Taylor)
    - Suggestion of looking at mix/unclear/unstable ideology and how the vulnerability assessment compare across these different groups.
  - Systematic review on juvenile justice can help inform this study. As NCITE can perform classified work, they may be able to pursue work with David Kernot on their classified assessment on tools. (Richard Legault)
  - Drawing data from funded programs may be an opportunity to sort out what data is needed (cases and referrals coming in). How can we line this up based off front line intervention programming and inform on what they are doing? (Brett Kubicek)

## Country Updates:

- **Australia: DST/David**
  - Minister for Home Affairs announced an expansion of the Australian Governments countering violent extremism programs. This recent announcement included the establishment of the international Centre of Excellence for CVE Research, Risk Assessment and Training.
    - Being established in the rural areas to support the rising issue of domestic extremism.
    - Director General of ASIO in his annual threat assessment raised the issue of an increased instance of a younger cohort (mentioned young children aged 13) observed becoming radicalized since covid
      - COE within HA established 2/2/22 with a particular focus on youth engagement (> 20% of case load nationally). They are currently in the process of sorting out governance. (Kelly Gwyn)
- **Canada: PSC/Brett**
  - The community threshold study report will be finished soon pending some review from the UK/AUS and workshops (roll off school professions on PVE, support for prison chaplains, etc.). They have also wrapped up proposals.
  - Topics need to be narrowed down for Covid Analytical Framework. There was a DIESOG meeting on Friday that will require a quick touch base with the UK lead.

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- There is an intermingling of ideologies and overlap with conspiracy theories; the group is looking to answer what this will mean for government action in this space as there is a lot of research available.
- **United Kingdom: HO/Susannah**
  - The group has taken on the responsibility of evaluation of prevent delivery and RICU. They are trying to understand ways to evaluate online interventions.
  - A summary for evaluation projects developed by prevent funding will be published in a few months. Also aiming to publish methodology on Chanel evaluation.
- **New Zealand (NZ): DIA/Glenn**
  - Currently experiencing the same issues as Canada; riots with extremist ideologies. Online extremism is increasing – 25% increase in posting.
  - Refer to latest ISD reports on NZ extremism and research commissioned by Digital Safety 2021 misogyny and anti-Semitism – *provided via email and available on APAN*
- **United States (US): DHS/Rik**
  - There has been a recent publication (FOUO) on national priorities for R&D on Information Integrity, that is published through the White House. There is also a current effort to write a national strategy regarding MDM.
  - On a department level, a Mis-Dis-Mal-Information Governance Board has been stood up with the goal of understanding and building a long-term strategy on MDM policy, operations, and research. Board will have broader implications outside of violence.
  - Two grant awards issued looking at insider threats in law enforcement and extremism in policing.
  - The Department is planning for fiscal year 2023 (October 1); the call for solicitation will likely come in the next few months and can be shared with partners.
    - Engagement with the Center of Disease Control to identify ways to collaborate on research and evaluation of targeted violence from a public health perspective.
    - Some partnership opportunities may be available as they will be some work with NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS).
    - A survey will be coming out regarding MDM from the State Department. This will help inform what research needs to be done and will be sent to academia.



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## Action Items:

- Admin
  - All – confirm APAN access by next network sync
- Information Sharing:
  - David – determine shareability of classified assessment tools effort
  - Ajmal – reach out to Brett for assistance on connecting UNO to PSC fit for purpose team
  - Ajmal – reach out to Country leads for suggestions for POCs for study on prevention programming best practices
  - Brett – read out from DIESOG meeting
- Network Priorities and Reset meeting – Summer/Fall 2022?
  - All – where should the next in person meeting take place? Recommendations for location?
  - DHS S&T is able to provide facilitation support, to include drafting an After Action Report.

