



NCITE

NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM
INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGY,
AND EDUCATION CENTER

A U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Prepared for the Department
of Homeland Security

Evaluating Current Threat Assessments and Threat Management - Test Efficacy



Agenda

- The TeamProject Work PlanNext Steps



Our Research Team

- Dr. Sam Hunter - NCIT
Dr. Austin Doctor - NCIT
Dr. Joel Elson - NCIT
Dr. Erin Kearns - NCIT
Dr. Matt Allen - NCIT
Dr. Paul Gill - UCL



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Project Support Team

- National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center
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Federal Government Partners

- Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) Contract # 70RSAT21G000000002/70RSAT21FR00000084 Public Safety and Violence Prevention Evaluations, Task 3



2. Project Work Plan

Project Goals and Objectives

1. Conduct an outcome evaluation and testing on the general quality and role of threat assessments and threat management programs to determine whether these efforts were successful in achieving its intended objectives
Conduct an impact evaluation to measure intended and unintended changes that can be attributed to implementation and outcomes of various threat assessments and models.

Project Objectives

1. Provide a systematic, comprehensive, integrative, and tailored view of threat assessment tools and management approachesTo identify gaps in fields of research and practiceTo provide empirically driven recommendations on best practices, tools, and protocolsTo be recognized as a “go to” partner in threat assessment knowledge and practice

Additional “Pillar” Objectives

- Pillar 1: Lessons from allies in the UK Dr. Paul Gill (supported by Zoe Marchment & Amber Seaward)
- Pillar 2: Lessons from local and state law enforcement Dr. Erin Kearns (supported by Kat Parsons)
- Pillar 3: Insider threat and insider threat assessment Dr. Matthew Allen (supported by Dr. Erin Kearns)
- Pillar 4: Malevolent creativity and novel threat Drs. Hunter, Doctor, & Elson (supported by Kayla Walters & Tin Nguyen)

Pillar 1: Lessons from allies in the UK

- Summary of global threat assessment models, tools, and approaches across a range of harmful outcomes
Contrasting features of U.K. (and other global) threat assessment and U.S. threat assessment
Recommendations for opportunities to improve or alter U.S. threat assessment models, tools, and approaches

Pillar 2: Lessons from local and state law enforcement

- To inform federal level threat assessment, the team will perform interviews, case analysis, and survey-embedded conjoint experiments
Interviews: inform case analysis and survey design
Case analysis: utilize archival cases, analyze for broad themes
Survey: survey of federal authorities, local authorities, & comparison sample of general public
Conjoint experiment: randomized factorial experiment to assess latent preferences and allow for powerful within and between group comparisons

Pillar 3: Insider threat and insider threat assessment

- We will take a broad-spectrum approach to insider threat, focusing on those threats that may reside outside of USSS and the USG (e.g., those being protected by security detail, contractors) Interviews will be conducted to provide an anchor for the literature review and insider threat model/tool summary A comprehensive literature review will be conducted on insider threat broadly, with specific recommendations being based on observations from interviews

Pillar 4: Malevolent creativity and novel threat assessment

- Novel threats represent a pressing and critical issue – to gain a deeper understanding of how novel threats are perceived, the team will engage in several tasks
Interviews – to gain a baseline understanding, we will coordinate interviews with other pillar tasks and seek input on how novel threats are treated
Gather information on common/baseline threats as well as less frequent, more novel threats
Conduct experiments utilizing the CABLab behavioral research tools

Year One

- Integrative SummaryProvide summary of threat assessment tools, models, and protocols
- Pillar 1 Summary and FindingsLess ons from allies in UK and globally
- Pillar 2 Summary and FindingsLess ons from state and local

Year Two

- Pillar 3 Summary and FindingsLess ons from insider threat literature and approaches
- Pillar 4 Summary and FindingsLess ons on novel threat literature and reactions to novel threats
- Expanded Integrative SummaryUp dating, integrating, and extending initial summary

Quick “wins”

More novel and specific

More integrative

MILESTONES AND DELIVERABLES	Year 1												Year 2											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Milestone 1																								
Contract award																								
Contract kick-off meeting																								
Milestone 2																								
Identify data sources																								
Milestone review																								
Monthly Status Report																								
Literature review																								
State of Science Summary Report																								
Best Practices Guidelines Report																								
IRB and CAPO for year 2 tasks																								
Report Findings																								
Initial Report Findings																								
Pillar 1 Summary Report																								
Pillar 2 Summary Report																								
Pillar 3 Summary Report																								
Pillar 4 Summary Report																								
Integrative supporting summary and recommendations on capability enhancements																								
Final Evaluation Report																								
Final Impact Evaluation Report																								
Milestone 3																								
Contract Close-Out Meeting																								

Project Progress

- Project Work Plan Draft in process. IRB and CAPO review Will begin early, year 1 (with data collection late year 1 and year 2) Literature collection and review In process.

3. Next Steps



Next steps (short-term)

- Stakeholder identificationIdentify security professional end-usersUnderstand unique needs of end-usersUnderstand context/environment of threat assessment for end-usersContinue literature review, expand based on end-userBegin IRB process (early) to allow for responses and changes

Questions & Situational Awareness

- Building an effective working relationship with USSS: Push or pull? In two years, what would success look like? Meeting cadence and primary project manager? Are data or data sources available to supplement reviews?

HOW TO CONNECT

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 <https://unomaha.edu/ncite>



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CONTACT

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