

***IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED WITHIN THIS DOCUMENT WAS PULLED FROM LESSON PLAN # 2601 – TERRORISM.**

****ALL PROGRAMS THAT RECEIVE CVE CURRICULUM WITHIN THEIR APPROVED TRAINING RECEIVE THE INFORMATION LISTED HERE.**

*****THIS INFORMATION WAS COPIED FROM AN INFOPATH SOFTWARE PLATFORM AND, ALTHOUGH ACCURATE, THE INFORMATION HAS BEEN MODIFIED FOR USE WITHIN MICROSOFT WORD.**

EPO #6: DEFINE THE TERM COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM (CVE) AND IDENTIFY THE METHODS WHICH TERRORIST GROUPS UTILIZE TO RECRUIT POTENTIAL OPERATIVES.

1. Definition of Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)
 - a. DHS defines CVE as the Department's efforts to:
 - b. support and coordinate efforts to better understand the phenomenon of violent extremism, including assessing the threat it poses to the Nation as a whole and within specific communities;
 - c. bolster efforts to catalyze and support non-governmental, community-based programs, and strengthen relationships with communities that may be targeted for recruitment by violent extremists; and
 - d. disrupt and deter recruitment or individual mobilization through support for local law enforcement programs, including information-driven, community-oriented policing efforts that for decades have proven effective in preventing violent crime.*
 - e. *This is a working definition based on the DHS Fact Sheet and current CVE approach.
 - f. The DHS Approach to Countering Violent Extremism is reflected in the DHS Fact Sheet.
2. Definition of radicalization

As with many issues in terrorism research, definitions of radicalization abound, with no commonly accepted definition. The definitions from scholars and think tanks can vary depending upon whether radicalization is thought to be about beliefs, and or subscribing to radical thoughts, and or about actions, specifically engaging in radical behavior with the possibility of engaging in terrorist activities.

a. National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC) Definition
(Overall view)

Radicalization is the process by which individuals come to believe that their engagement in or facilitation of non-state violence to achieve social and political change is necessary and justified.

b. FBI Definition of Islamic radicalization in the United States
(Specific view)

The FBI defines homegrown Islamic extremists as U.S. persons who appeared to have assimilated, but reject the cultural values, beliefs, and environment of the United States

Instructor Note: Most research available described Islamic Radicalization in the United States which is viewed as the current threat according to testimony of Donald Van Duyn, Deputy Assistant Director, Counterterrorism Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation before the House Homeland Security Committee Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment, Washington, DC, September 20, 2006. The intent of this EPO is not to disparage any religion or ethnic beliefs but rather to describe how radicalization occurs based on current research and recent events.

3. NCTC Chart with Definitions

(U) Radicalization and Mobilization Dynamics^a



^aAll specifics are examples and not exhaustive.

a. Radicalization

1) Personal factors –

NOTE: Personal Needs. Some important motivational needs that may increase an individual's vulnerability to the allure of extremist activities include a sense of power and potency, achievement and productivity, affiliation, intimacy, a sense of belonging, a sense of personal significance and esteem, a sense of purpose and meaning, and moral integrity.

Personal Context. An individual's immediate surroundings, including family and friends, as well as demographic characteristics such as education, age and social class influence how he or she will experience and interpret events and increase vulnerability to life challenges.

a) Psychological factors –

NOTE: Anxiety can be caused by many factors, such as identity confusion, financial insecurity, threats of violence, competition, moral threats and dilemmas, and uncertainty. Accepting rigid externally imposed moral codes and finding enemies to blame is one way to relieve anxiety. Belonging to an extremist organization can meet needs and relieve unpleasant feelings of anxiety, identity confusion or moral threat. Frustration and discontent regarding perceived unfairness, social exclusion, and unmet needs can drive a person to participate in radical groups. Immersion into radical activities reduces the sense of meaninglessness and helplessness that results from frustration and allows the individual to gain a sense of accomplishing great things.

b) Demographic background –

NOTE: Developmental and life-history events can include physical disabilities, loss of status, living in a violent environment, loss of people important to the individual, or loss of property. Such life events can predispose individuals to seek out an idealized past or compensate for a lost sense of self through participation in extremist activities.

c) Personal background –

NOTE: Traumatic experiences—such as physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect, witnessing abuse or violence against others, living in a conflict environment—can lead to lifelong physical and mental problems, hyper vigilance and reactivity, loss of the sense of predictability and control, and changes in worldview. The active engagement of doing something offered by extremist groups can provide the individual a way to regain a sense of power or control and manage the anxiety resulting from trauma by acting upon others rather than being acted upon.

Life Events (Triggering personal events)—such as losing a job or perceived discrimination—can drive individuals to seek revenge out of a sense of personal humiliation against a perceived enemy. This is especially true if the individual has adopted a violent ideology that binds personal experiences to global crises affecting Muslims.

2) Community factors –

NOTE: Selected characteristics of communities have been shown to encourage individuals and groups that support terrorism to emerge. These factors are especially salient in some diaspora communities whose members may experience socioeconomic pressures and discrimination in the broader society. When grievances, both real and perceived, are combined with insularity, isolation, and a lack of trust in societal and political institutions, can create the conditions that encourage a small minority to adopt a radical and even violent ideology.

Tensions with Law Enforcement such as perceptions of unfair policing also decrease the likelihood that the local community will cooperate with local officials.

a) Insularity, Alienation, Perceived Religious Discrimination, Marginality –

NOTE: Isolated and insular communities that rarely engage with the rest of society are more susceptible to violent radicalization than well-integrated ones. A lack of interaction and personal relationships with non-Muslims make it easier to demonize the West and accept appeals of jihadist caricatures of non-Muslims as enemies of Islam.

Religious Discrimination - Feelings of victimization and discrimination, especially incidents of violence targeting Muslims and Islamic symbols, can lead to alienation and feelings of threat that foster radicalization.

b) Diaspora relationships with home country –

NOTE: Reside in another country but maintain relations with home country.

3) Group factors –

NOTE: Group Factors are a driving force in the radicalization and mobilization of most individuals who pursue terrorist violence. Extremist leaders and ideologues can generate sympathy and boost engagement with terrorist groups by arguing that local conflicts involving Muslims represent a war against Islam and thus an assault on all Muslims. Becoming part of a larger entity that shares a set of collective grievances helps lower individuals' thresholds for participation in extremist activities, to include—for some—the use of violence.

Groups emphasize collective identity. Identities that transcend country borders enable extremists to catch the attention of a broad Muslim community and mobilize it on behalf of their cause. Muslim extremists rarely talk in terms of “I” when speaking about perceived religious grievances; more often they say “we” and “our.”

Group affiliations often evolve from preexisting relationships. Individuals usually engage with groups that build on childhood, social, and family ties, where bonds of trust form a foundation. Academic studies examining the process of joining terrorist groups show that a substantial number of individuals—45 percent in one study and 75 percent in another—shared previous personal ties.

Groups dehumanize opponents. Movement toward violence in extremist groups becomes more likely when members view their proposed response as moral, develop a vocabulary that dehumanizes their enemy, and minimizes their role in perpetuating violence by diffusing responsibility for their actions across the group.

a) Social networks, including family and peer groups

b) Group dynamics

4) Social Political Factors –

NOTE: Political and societal level conditions, events, and grievances can help drive an individual to seek an ideological explanation or reinforce existing beliefs. Such factors come in a variety of forms and can be specific or nonspecific, for example, anger at US foreign policy toward a particular country or conflict or frustration with the political, economic, or conflict situation in their home country or primary ethnic group.

a) Collective grievances –

NOTE: Broad Common Grievances. Al-Qa'ida and like-minded groups fan a number of common grievances and use them as a justification for violence, including perceptions of non-Muslim aggression against Muslims, Western economic exploitation, and attacks on Muslim values.

b) Foreign policy –

Aggression Against and Oppression of Muslims by Non-Muslims. Extremist ideologues argue that Muslims as a people or Islam as a religion and way of life face an existential threat or humiliation from the US. Their arguments are bolstered by the inability or unwillingness of Muslim countries to resist Western and Israeli military actions.

Western Economic Exploitation. Al-Qa'ida often publicly blames the weaknesses of Muslim governments and societies for the exploitation of Muslim wealth, such as Middle Eastern oil resources by the West and economic and political subversion by Western and Israeli conspirators.

c) External events –

NOTE: Specific External Events. Actions that are perceived to be influenced by the West, even when the US is not directly involved, can serve as drivers of radicalization and mobilization. For example, cartoon depictions of the Prophet Muhammad by a Danish newspaper sparked outcry among Muslim groups and Muslims worldwide, eventually precipitating international incidents and attacks.

5) Ideological Factors –

NOTE: Provides individuals an interpretive framework for world and life events as well as a set of values, beliefs, and goals for a movement or social entity. It also establishes the rationale for individual and collective action. Academic research has shown that ideology diagnoses the problem the movement or entity is obligated to resolve, provides remedies, and provides motivation to act.

Radical ideology explains the wrongs that damage the Muslim world, who is to blame, and why these wrongs demand immediate response.

- a) Influential Ideologues - Charismatic ideologues i.e. Anwar al-Awlaki, Bin Laden, etc. –

Al-Qa'ida and other extremist leaders assert a global conspiracy of "Crusaders and Zionists" (Westerners and Jews)—waging a world war to destroy Islam, plunder Muslim wealth, and prevent Muslims from uniting to challenge Western hegemony. Al-Qa'ida and other extremist leaders interpret many world events, decisions, and alliances as proof that the war against Islam began centuries ago and is currently at its most threatening point.

- b) Claim to Exclusive authority.

b. Inhibitors – Catalysts

- 1) Inhibitors - include law enforcement, community outreach, credible voices, and family –

NOTE: Community Engagement. Community outreach managed by various levels of government and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) can counter radicalization by improving relations with law enforcement, providing an opportunity to address some grievances, and increasing public awareness of the dangers of Radicalization.

Credible voices can be familiar figures in local communities who exert influence through internet, video camera, and others, such as Muslim popular musicians or actors, may have mass appeal to younger audiences and can serve as vehicles to counter extremist messages.

Increased awareness can help government and law enforcement officials address issues such as religious or ethnic discrimination and socioeconomic grievances that might otherwise contribute to radicalization. Such outreach can also encourage parents and religious organizations to alert law enforcement if they fear their young people are about to engage in violence or support to terrorism.

- 2) Catalysts - include social media, familial and social networks –

NOTE: The Internet is taking on a greater role in radicalization and mobilization as prospective extremists develop more online relationships and more extremist ideologues realize the full potential of online social networking.

Social Networks - Both physical and virtual connections to other extremists can be a potent force driving individuals toward terrorist violence. Social relationships, such as overseas family ties, can serve as vehicles for moving individuals into situations that make acceptance of violent extremism more likely. Extremist social networks provide access to training and indoctrination through established relationships with family members or others who can vouch for the credibility of the individual in question. Some individuals—although radicalized—may flounder because of a lack of access to individuals who can facilitate involvement in extremist activities, in particular, going abroad to fight in conflict zones.

c. Mobilization – Active Support

Mobilization is distinct from the radicalization process and is driven by separate factors such as access to training, capability-building, individual competence and other preparatory types of activities -

NOTE: Mobilization Component - Radicalized individuals who come to actively support violence have undergone the mobilization process, which is distinct from the radicalization process and is driven by separate factors. Access to training, capability-building, individual competence and other preparatory type of activities dominate the mobilization process.

- 1) Readiness to Act - Individual motivation and intent that keeps the person engaged and moving toward his or her intended goal. Readiness to act can vary across time and be influenced by multiple factors—including personal will and competence, experiences while in training, and motivation gained or lost as a result of established relationships.
- 2) Opportunity - Access to training and resources that provide individuals or groups the chance to take action. This can range from target practice at a local firing range to explosives training with terrorists overseas. Opportunity can also include having available time to engage in violent activities.
- 3) Capability - Training that has prepared an individual to follow through on his or her intentions. The individual's capability also includes his or her educational training and skill set acquired through life experiences.
- 4) Targets - Locations that the individual is familiar with because of where he lives or works or is interested in because of what they represent, such as supposed economic, political, or military dominance by the West.

NOTE: Any target like military bases, shopping malls, landmarks.

d. ACTION:

- 1) Movement to the Action phase is unpredictable and dependent on a variety of causalities. (U//FOUO) As the NCTC chart illustrates, a lack of access to some or all of these opportunities may be sufficient to demobilize individuals but not de-radicalize them, leaving them in a radicalized but inactive state. This state can last for months or years, and individuals may move back and forth between the spheres of radicalization and mobilization before attempting to commit violence.

- 2) Disruption of radicalization as depicted by the NCTC chart- (U//FOUO) All these factors work interactively to mobilize individuals and small groups toward violence. Countering the effect of any one of these may cause some to back away from violence. In other cases, however, it may result in individuals or groups modifying plans that change the nature of the target (for example, from a military base to a shopping mall) and type of training needed (for example, from explosives training to local target practice) to accomplish a given goal.

NOTE: Proceed with case study in PowerPoint.

4. Some ways radicalization takes place:
 - a. Internet
 - 1) Neo-Nazi groups “were among the first to seize upon the benefits of cyberspace,” establishing websites, bulletin boards, newsgroups, mailing lists, and chat rooms. Even today militant and terrorist groups are using the Internet to streamline their terrorist recruiting, radicalization, and training.
 - 2) The anonymity of the Internet, current regulations governing its surveillance and the sheer speed of communications across it makes it an easy tool for recruitment. Radicalization is usually backed up by face-to-face encounters.
 - 3) Examples:
 - a) Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, who allegedly attempted to blow up an American airliner in Detroit on Christmas Day was identified, contacted, recruited, and trained all within six weeks.
 - b) Colleen Renee LaRose, who assumed the name Jihad Jane online, apparently used YouTube and other websites to allegedly try to recruit radicalized individuals to stage attacks in the US, Europe and South Asia in the hope of helping Muslims.
 - c) Fort Hood shooter Major Malik Hasan used e-mail to contact a radical cleric in Yemen, even though government officials were aware of the exchanges

- 4) The primary focus of the movement's efforts online appears to be youth, including those living in the West. Websites are often flashy and colorful, apparently designed to appeal to "a computer savvy, media-saturated, video game-addicted generation".
- 5) There are varying opinions regarding the effectiveness of internet recruitment. According to RAND Corporation's Brian Michael Jenkins during testimony before the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment; "On-line exhortations to Americans have produced a very meager return—an army of online jihadists, but only a tiny cohort of terrorists in the real world,"
- 6) Jenkins also noted in the same article "there are thousands of English-language jihadist sites and yet only 125 U.S.-based individuals have turned jihadi". Jenkins, however, did note the number of cases has risen sharply since 2009 and that the threat of homegrown jihadist attacks is real.

b. Prison Radicalization

- 1) Radicalization is linked to prison gangs.
- 2) Radicalization in prisons occurs through gang association and charismatic inmate leadership.
- 3) Prison Radicalization appears to be internal in nature rather than by outside influence.
- 4) Charismatic leadership appears to have the overwhelming influence in prisons.
- 5) Personal crisis and searching (serial converters)
According to studies of why prisoners convert, some prisoners converted because of the need for protection, for others the primary motivation was spiritual "searching" — seeking religious meaning to interpret and resolve discontent.
- 6) Influential free-world leaders.

The studies also confirm the important role social networks play in how people are converted into new religious movements. Prisoners interviewed typically converted to non-Judeo Christian religions upon the advice of their parents, cellmates, and fellow gang members. Research revealed that although some inmates may be inspired by foreign terrorist organizations like al-Qaeda, these groups were not directly involved in the radicalization process.

7) Security from gangs / peer pressure.

Prisoners — especially those in gangs — have long recruited other inmates to act as their collaborators upon release. A new phenomenon that has occurred involves gang members radicalizing inmates into joining a prison gang with a terrorist agenda.

8) Manipulative purposes.

Although only a very small percentage of converts turn radical beliefs into terrorist action, gang intelligence officers in Florida and California reported having uncovered potential terrorist plots inside prisons.

9) Genuine religious experience.

Prisoners who convert to a non-Judeo-Christian religion are primarily searching for meaning and identity. In most cases, the conversion experience makes a meaningful contribution to prisoner rehabilitation.

10) Other conversions while in prison are people who are involved with the Neo-Nazi movement, Moorish Science, Christian Identity, Wicca, and Odinism.

11) Tattoos indicative of several prison gangs and groups.

NOTE: The PowerPoint will have visuals of some of the tattoos found on a variety of people. The students can look up www.adl.org/hateid to research the meaning of some of these tattoos. The proliferation of hate groups throughout the U.S. are also illustrated on the site www.splcenter.org/get-informed/hate-map

5. Sovereign Citizens

Instructor Note: Show the 12m DVD / video from the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) entitled “Sovereign Citizens’ and Law Enforcement – Understanding the Threat.” This will introduce this section. If the instructor cannot find their DVD copy, this video can also be found on YouTube if logged into the training network. Search "West Memphis Arkansas SPLC" or "West Memphis Arkansas Sovereign Citizen" and ensure that you select the one posted by the SPLC. The video opens with former West Memphis Arkansas Police Chief Bob Paudert who lost his son Brandon Paudert when he and fellow officer Bill Evans were killed as they conducted a traffic stop on Jerry and Joe Kane, a father and son who held Sovereign beliefs. Jim Cavanaugh, retired ATF Agent, narrates the remainder of the video about the dangers of Sovereign Citizens and some of the indicators. The final section of the video shows the confrontation with police at a Walmart parking lot

- a. Sovereign citizens believe they are subject only to “the common law.” They claim that they have absolute mastery over all their property and they have freedom from taxes, regulations, ordinances, zoning restrictions.
- b. They claim they’re not citizens of the United States but are “nonresident aliens” with respect to that “illegal corporation (the United States).”
- c. They believe the only court which has jurisdiction to try them for any matter is a common law court and they can never be arrested or tried for a crime or matter in which there is no complaining victim, as well as various other notions.

Instructor Note: Show the identifiers and common tactics of Sovereign Citizens. Of note are the ways that Sovereign Citizens sign their names with punctuation marks (e.g. ROBERT-MICHAEL:SMITH) or end their names with TDC "threat, duress, or coercion" or with a copyright symbol or with a reference to the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC). Sovereigns also create their own licenses, vehicle registration, credentials/ID cards, passports, driver's licenses, and license plates. Sovereigns may also display badges and IDs. These items will be on the PowerPoint slides.

- d. Native American License Plates
 - 1) Note that approximately 18 states recognize Native American license plates for certain local tribes.
 - 2) Frequently these plates are issued by the Tribal Government. Check with your local DMV.
- 6. Documents Often Encountered When Dealing With Foreign Nationals.

NOTE: This section is a brief remainder of legitimate documents that students may encounter

- a. Federal law requires all aliens carry proof of their legal status in the U.S. at all times.

- b. In practice, subjects will often not have their documentation with them. In some instances, the documents provided will be fraudulent. When in doubt contact BICE-Law Enforcement Support Center (802) 872-6020.
 - c. Questions To ask when presented with a document include; What is your citizenship? Where were you born? Where did you obtain this document? Use your sense of touch on ID's.
- 7. Safety Measures when dealing with a Sovereign Citizen
 - a. Maintain focus on situational safety
 - b. Maintain professional bearing
 - c. Apply enforcement as appropriate
 - d. Make every effort to identify the subject
 - e. If a sovereign citizen is encountered, request back-up. They are less likely to employ violence if there is more force
 - f. Conduct searches and seizures falling within your legal authority.
 - g. Advise your supervisor of the contact
 - h. Prepare notes
 - i. Secure recordings and keep a witness list
- 8. Sovereigns vs. Militias
 - a. Sovereign citizens are often confused with extremists from the militia movement. But while sovereign citizens sometimes use or buy illegal weapons, guns are secondary to their anti-government, anti-tax beliefs.
 - b. On the other hand, guns and paramilitary training are paramount to militia groups.
- 9. Militias
 - a. Fears of impending gun control or weapons confiscations, either by the government or international agencies, also run rampant in antigovernment circles. As a result, many antigovernment activists believe that being well armed is a must. The militia movement engages in paramilitary training aimed at protecting citizens from this feared impending government crackdown.

- b. The publicity given to militia groups in the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, when the militia movement was erroneously linked to that tragedy, spurred growth and public interest. Their extreme anti-government ideology, along with their elaborate conspiracy theories and fascination with weaponry and paramilitary organization, lead many members of militia groups to act out in ways that justify the concerns. The movement has made a concerted effort to use the new social media of the Internet in order to recruit; One result has been the influx of a number of younger people into the movement. The original militia movement was primarily a middle-aged movement.
- c. Southern border militias
 - 1) Groups located in border states whose members feel the U.S. Government cannot or will not control the flow of illegal immigrants into the U.S.
 - 2) They advocate armed citizen patrols of private land to apprehend and detain illegal aliens.

10. Single Issue Groups

Instructor Note: The below section only applies to FWSR-LESB and LMPT. This section will cover single issue groups such as Earth First, ELF, and ALF.

- a. Earth First
 - 1) Environmental group founded in 1980.
 - 2) Believe the earth is in danger of being destroyed by technological advances.
 - 3) Fears that the advancement of civilization into wilderness areas threatens endangered species.
 - 4) "Earth First! is not an organization, but a movement. There are no "members" of Earth First!, only Earth Firsters. It is a belief in biocentrism, that life of the Earth comes first, and a practice of putting our beliefs into action."
 - 5) Earth First targets include the US Forest Service, Lumber Mills, Timber Companies, Loggers, and Surveyors.
- b. Earth Liberation Front and Animal Liberation Front (Earth Liberation Front)
 - 1) Earth Liberation Front

- a) Formed mid 90s offshoot from Earth First. Considered by the FBI to be one of the most active Domestic Terrorist groups. Associated with ALF & loose ties with the Anarchist movement. Estimated 100+ acts of economic sabotage. The damage in the hundreds of millions of dollars. They use criminal acts to further their agenda.
 - b) Targets are similar to those of ALF and include urban sprawl (luxury homes), lumber companies and headquarters, universities and corporations engaged in genetic studies, Old Navy, The Gap, and Banana Republic (companies owned by the Fisher family, who also owns Mendocino Redwood Co. which has been involved in clearcutting), encroachment into areas of endangered species, and car dealerships (SUV).
- 2) Animal Liberation Front
- a) ALF targets include research facilities and hospitals, medical/veterinary schools, retail fur stores, fast food restaurants, cosmetic companies, animal shelters, hunting preserves, and circuses
 - b) ALF Government targets include the National Institute of Health, Health and Human Services, Department of Agriculture, and the Food and Drug Administration.
 - c) The book "Arson-Around with Auntie ALF" is available on the ALF website and is literally a how to book on arson and incendiary devices.