

**ASPEN SECURITY FORUM: GLOBAL EVENT
BACKGROUND DISCUSSION POINTS**

April 22, 2016

Note to S2: No prepared remarks/speeches or power points are allowed. Your moderator is Frank Gardener, BBC's Security Correspondent. Mr. Gardner will contact you beforehand to provide further guidance on the substantive content.

Background:

- Your session is tentatively entitled "Homeland INsecurity."
- ASF: Global, provided the following description of your session: "In the age of terrorism and Twitter, the 'homeland' is inherently unsafe. In free societies, there are unlimited targets, and limited means of foiling plots before it's too late. Making bad matters still worse, the 'viral' nature of social media and the anonymity of the Internet make recruiting terrorists all too easy, and stopping them much, much harder. What, then, are those whose job it is to protect the 'homeland' to do?"

CVE Interagency Task Force and the DHS Office for Community Partnerships

- The U.S. Government is improving efforts to counter violent extremism. Domestically, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) hosts the CVE Interagency Task Force (CVE-IATF), bringing together the best resources and personnel from across the Government to ensure we are well coordinated and face this challenge as one voice.
 - This Task Force builds upon efforts at DHS, including the recent creation of the Office for Community Partnerships (OCP) to find innovative ways to support communities that seek to discourage violent extremism and undercut terrorist narratives.
 - CVE ultimately relies on partners outside the Government to help address online recruitment, radicalization to violence, and mobilization.
 - OCP is engaging the technology sector to empower credible voices in vulnerable communities against violent extremism.

Private Sector Engagement

- Senior level government officials have engaged with a range of key technology companies to seek their help countering ISIL and other groups online. Secretary Johnson met with technology leaders in New York in November 2015, and with social media executives in San Francisco in January 2016. The Department of Justice (DOJ) has held conversations with Google and YouTube.

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- OCP staff also engaged with social media industry representatives during the White House's *Madison-Valley* meeting on February 24, 2016.
- While some private sector partners have begun to take a greater interest in addressing terrorists' use of the internet, these efforts have not yielded sufficient action.
- Moving forward OCP will be the Departmental hub for engaging the private sector on countering violent extremism.
 - OCP will develop and implement a full-range of partnerships to support and enhance efforts by key stakeholders to prevent radicalization to violence and recruitment by terrorist organizations.
 - OCP will also leverage the resources and relationships of DHS and empower the public and private sectors to spur societal change to counter violent extremism.

The Peer to Peer Challenging Extremism Project

- The Peer to Peer Challenging Extremism Project (P2P) is a public private sector partnership between Facebook, DHS, the Department of State, and the Department of Defense.
- The objective of P2P is to engage university students around the globe, while earning academic credit, to create and activate their own social media campaigns to challenge violent extremist ideology and recruitment messaging propagated by ISIL and other violent extremist groups.
- DHS collaborates with the Department of State, the National Counterterrorism Center, other U.S. agencies, and the implementing partner, EdVenture Partners.
- P2P is an example of a program supported by OCP, and represents one way we are seeking innovative, technology-driven solutions to counter violent extremism.
- There are currently 50 teams competing in the Spring 2016 program, about half in the U.S.
- For Fall 2016, Facebook will financially support an additional 100 international teams. The Department of State will work with Facebook to manage this expansion.
- DHS is also working with interagency partners, including the National Security Council, to scale up the domestic programs, which will require additional funding, as well as support from government and private sector partners to transition viable projects to market.

Discussion Points:

- Quoting Secretary Johnson, "We are in a new phase of the global terrorist threat." In this new phase, we must utilize all our resources to prevent radicalization to violence.
- Extremists are actively seeking to pull young people and others towards radicalization and violence.
- DHS is working to catalyze and support community-based programs and strengthen relationships with communities that may be targeted for recruitment by violent extremist groups.

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- CVE ultimately relies on partners outside the government to help address online recruitment, radicalization, and mobilization to violence.
- Advertising executives have expressed interest in helping to develop and amplify compelling counter-ISIL content, and work with credible non-government voices to address this shared challenge.
- We hope the new CVE Interagency Task Force can be complemented by enhanced technological solutions driven by the private sector, and durable partnerships between the private sector and civil society.
- The goal is to ensure that the technology sector is a key player in CVE networks, a strong participant in CVE dialogues, and an effective partner in implementing solutions.
- The Government is well positioned to convene and catalyze critical actors from both community-based organizations and the technology sector. In parallel with the Government's efforts, we invite the private sector to consider ways to address the dearth of alternative online content.