

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

April 22, 2016

Note to S2: (b)(5)

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Background Points:

CVE Interagency Task Force and the DHS Office for Community Partnerships

- The U.S. Government is improving efforts to counter violent extremism.
- DHS hosts the CVE Interagency Task Force, bringing together resources and personnel from across the Government to ensure we are well coordinated and using one voice.
 - The Task Force builds upon ongoing efforts at the DHS, including the recent creation of the Office for Community Partnerships (OCP).
 - OCP has already begun to engage with a range of key technology industry innovators to empower credible voices in vulnerable communities against violent extremism.

Private Sector Engagement

- CVE ultimately relies on partners outside the Government to help address online recruitment, radicalization to violence, and mobilization.
- OCP staff engaged with social media industry representatives during the White House's *Madison-Valley* meeting on February 24, 2016.
- Senior level government officials are also engaging with 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.
- Moving forward OCP will be the Departmental hub for engaging the private sector on countering violent extremism.
- 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.
 - P2P engages university students around the globe, while earning academic credit, to create and activate their own social media campaigns to challenge violent extremists online.
 - DHS will continue to support the P2P competition the third time around. DHS does this with the Department of State, the National Counterterrorism Center, other U.S. agencies, and the implementing partner, EdVenture Partners.

- There are currently 50 teams competing in the Spring 2016 program, about half in the U.S.
- For Fall 2016, Facebook has offered to financially support an additional 100 international teams. The Department of State will work with Facebook to manage this expansion.

Social Media Task Force

- Collecting social media information to counter terrorism is not new to the DHS or to our law enforcement and intelligence community colleagues.
- DHS continues to ensure that social media usage is consistent with current law and protects civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy.
- In December 2015, Under Secretary Frank Taylor stood up a Task Force that looks at how social media is used across DHS and what would further enhance our ability to use social media.
- The Science and Technology Directorate and USCIS initiated a pilot that combines commercial state-of-the-art social media analytics with experienced USCIS immigration officers to enhance screening for K-1 applications and refugee screening.
- The pilot is an example of the DHS Unity of Effort, relying on significant and dedicated collaboration between headquarters, components, oversight, legal, and industry representatives.
- Secretary Johnson also directed the stand-up of a DHS Social Media Center of Excellence to optimize use of social media across DHS while ensuring privacy, civil rights and civil liberties protections.

Discussion Points:

- As Secretary Johnson has said on many occasions, “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.
- At DHS, we are working to catalyze and support community-based programs and strengthen relationships with communities that may be targeted for recruitment by violent extremist groups.
- CVE ultimately relies on partners outside the government to help address online recruitment, radicalization, and mobilization to violence.
- 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 overall tangible 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.

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- 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.