

COMMUNITY AWARENESS BRIEFING (CAB) TALKING POINTS

The Community Awareness Briefing (CAB) is a one hour presentation designed to help communities and law enforcement members develop an understanding of violent extremist recruitment tactics and explore ways to collectively prevent and address such public safety threats at the local level.

- The CAB uses a series of case studies covering the spectrum of violent extremist groups to illustrate the radicalization and recruitment process, but more importantly to identify vulnerabilities and points of intervention.
- In this way, the CAB helps audience members begin to think about possible actions that could create “off ramps” in a person’s pathway to radicalization before the line of criminal activity is crossed.
- The CAB is presented to a variety of audiences, with the number of attendees ranging from 35 to over 250.

The goal of the CAB is to help recipients understand the phenomenon of radicalization and mobilization, and how government and communities can work together to prevent youth from being manipulated by this phenomenon.

- One of the main goals of the briefing is to raise awareness of how violent extremist groups recruit individuals to commit violent or illegal acts, thereby negatively impacting the lives of these individuals, their families, and communities.
- The 2011 White House strategy *Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States* emphasizes that communities are invaluable partners in prevention, and government’s role is to empower and catalyze communities to take action.
- We have seen there is often a time period, before law enforcement gets involved, in which parents, friends, community/religious leaders, and teachers see signs of someone being radicalized to violence, thereby creating a window of opportunity for them to act to protect their communities.
 - In one study, we found that bystanders or third parties, were present in 80% of cases where individuals radicalized to violence, but less than half reported their observations. Empowering communities to intervene is thus key to protecting our youth.

The USG can only go so far to address the threat from violent extremism, and government efforts can only address a limited portion of the violent extremism spectrum of activity.

- Often government representatives only get involved after things have gone wrong, when something illegal has occurred. This might include after the individual is recruited and radicalized and then takes action, at which point they have crossed the line into criminal activity.
- Communities, however, have the ability to get involved at a much earlier state during which there is a window of opportunity to prevent an individual from progressing down the path towards committing illegal acts.
- In this prevention phase, it is communities who are the most important actors, not the government. If communities are successful in this space, then there will no longer be a need for the government to become involved.
- The CAB is meant to provide communities with a better understanding of what they can do to act in this window of opportunity.