

Background

The White House strategy on countering violent extremism entitled, *Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States*, outlines the commitment of the Federal Government to support and help empower American communities and their local partners in their grassroots efforts to prevent violent extremism by:

- Improving support to communities, including sharing more information about the threat of radicalization;
- Strengthening cooperation with local law enforcement, who work with these communities every day; and
- Helping communities to better understand and protect themselves against violent extremist propaganda, especially online

DHS also released its approach to Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) which includes working with a broad range of partners to gain a better understanding of the behaviors, tactics, and other indicators that could point to potential terrorist activity within the United States, and the best ways to mitigate or prevent that activity. The DHS approach to CVE outlines three main objectives:

- Support and coordinate effort to better understand the phenomenon of violent extremism, including assessing the threat it poses to the Nation as a whole and within specific communities;
- 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
- Disrupt and deter recruited or individual 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.

In support of this strategy, DHS in partnership with the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), hosted a *National CVE Workshop* designed to provide fusion center personnel and major city police department intelligence unit commanders with a better understanding of violent extremism and ongoing efforts to address the issue.

In addition, DHS partnered with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the National Consortium for Advanced Policing (NCAP) to pilot a 24 hour CVE curriculum for law enforcement executives and frontline officers. The pilot took place in San Diego, CA from January 25-27 and included students from LAPD, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, San Diego Police Department, San Diego Harbor Police, and surrounding jurisdictions. Community engagement practices, case studies on CVE, suspicious activity reporting (SAR), online violent extremist threats (including cyber), and enhancing community policing strategies were covered in the lesson plan.

Lastly, it is becoming more apparent that violent extremists are occupying and using online spaces and the virtual environment to execute criminal activity. DHS is looking to increase public awareness on these threats, as well as the associated tactics, techniques, and procedures associated with violent extremist threats. Further awareness training for state, local, territorial,

and tribal (SLTT) law enforcement and community stakeholders is needed to address these issues.

Scope

The following approach represents an integrated strategic awareness training program on violent extremists. Throughout this program, DHS will enhance SLTT law enforcement's ability to leverage actionable information such as, but not limited to: training on behaviors and indicators of terrorist threats, SAR processes and the NSI, HVE briefings/case studies (to include cyber), community policing, and public engagement tactics to increase stakeholder awareness of efforts to identify and counter violent extremism and terrorist/cyber threats.

Objectives/Deliverables

This effort includes the provision of awareness training and briefings on efforts to CVE, SAR, community policing, public engagement, cyber security/online violent extremist threats, cultural demystification, and HVE case studies.

The main objectives of these efforts include but are not limited to:

- Increase the awareness and understanding of cyber/online and violent extremist threats
- Ensure that stakeholders have the appropriate understanding and knowledge of behaviors and indicators of terrorist threats , as well as associated processes to report suspicious activities
- Increase the usage of public engagement and community policing methods and efforts
- Ensure that actionable information and training is consistent with DHS and White House policy, accurate, and accountable; and that it will inform future efforts
- Support the sharing of information between fusion centers and SLTT law enforcement
- Ensure that privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties are protected throughout these efforts
- Educate stakeholders that they have a role in building secure and resilient communities

Specifics

Delivery method(s) of the objectives may take the form through a combination of informational and interactive workshops and/or briefings. Regardless of method of application, information concerning the objectives will have to be tailored and applied on a regional basis. At a minimum, funding will be leveraged to support three (3) 24 hour CVE awareness training pilots in locations to be determined, and conducted in FY12. Each pilot should include approximately 45-50 local enforcement participants in locations selected by DHS. Additional regional efforts would be similar to the *National CVE Workshop* and potentially have training/briefing components—they would also need to be tailored to fit local needs and demands. Three (3) regional workshops would have to be completed in FY12.