

RELEASE IN PART B7(F),B6

From: SMART Core <svcSmartBtsEwsHPrec@state.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2016 6:26 PM

To:

Cc:

B6
B7(F)

Subject: CVE INSTITUTIONALIZATION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT

Attach: FINAL - Updated F Key Issue CVE Definition.doc; FINAL -- State and USAID Joint Strategy on Countering Violent Extremism .pdf

UNCLASSIFIED



REVIEW AUTHORITY: Clarke Ellis, Senior Reviewer

Info Office:

RAP_REG_ADV1, HSMA_TSI, FO_SPECIAL_ASST, HSMA_D_DIR,
RAP_REG_AFF_OFF, SPP_PROG_DIR, RAP_REG_AFF_OFF3, EX_DPTY_EX_DIR,
HSMA_D_FAO, SPP_SR_PLNER, RAP_CT_COORD, CT_REGIONAL_AFFAIRS,
RAP_ATA_PROG_MGR_AF, SPP_SR_ADV_CT_VE, HSMA_M_FAO,
SPP_CONGRSS_LIAIS, RAP_CVE_PRG_COORD, HSMA_HS_DIR,
SPP_CT_FIN_CHIEF, HSMA_HS_OMS, RAP_FIN_OFF, HSMA_HS_POL_ALYST,
TSI_TIP_PROJ_MGR, SPP_FRGN_AFF_OFF1, TSI_TIP_PROG_MGR, CT_OFF_EAP,
HSMA_HS_FAO_AV_SEC

MRN: 16 STATE 58992
Date/DTG: May 24, 2016 / 242153Z MAY 16
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Action: BUJUMBURA, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; MINSK, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; SOMALIA, USMISSION *ROUTINE*; ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE *ROUTINE*
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: PREL, PTER, EAID, PGOV, KPAO, KCRM, KJUS, KCOM, KCOR
Subject: CVE INSTITUTIONALIZATION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT

ACTION ADDRESSES: ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE ROUTINE

TAGS: PREL, KPAO, PTER, KRM, KJUS, PGOV, EAID, KCOM, KCOR

SUBJECT: CVE INSTITUTIONALIZATION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT

1. (U) Summary: Building on the February 18, 2015 White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) and subsequent process last year, Secretary Kerry has directed the Bureau of Counterterrorism (CT) to play the lead role in coordinating the Department's growing CVE engagement and assistance. To reflect this expanded role, the Department has renamed CT to the Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism. [Note: The bureau acronym will remain CT. End Note.] The bureau has established a new Deputy Coordinator position for CVE and a new Office of Countering Violent Extremism. Deputy Secretary Blinken delivered a speech on February 16 at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. to explain these changes as part of the Department's evolving approach to the terrorism landscape – an approach that will place greater emphasis on addressing the drivers of violent extremism both in the context of countering existing terrorist threats and preventing potentially emergent ones. The Department and USAID are today releasing the first-ever State and USAID Joint Strategy on CVE, which will guide our joint efforts, along with a CVE assistance fact sheet. If asked by host country government counterparts about the Department's institutionalization of CVE or other changes outlined in this cable, Posts may use or draw from the talking points in para 17. This cable also provides information for Posts on various ongoing initiatives and tools available for expanded CVE engagement. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) Over the past year, there has been growing international recognition about the importance of CVE as part of both our response to an increasingly diffuse and decentralized terrorism landscape, and our effort to develop a wider array of tools to prevent the expansion and emergence of future terrorist threats. This emphasis on prevention is reflected in the 2015 Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR). While we and our allies and partners must defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al-Qaida, and other terrorist groups on the battlefield, we must also counter the tactics these groups employ to attract new recruits and address the underlying conditions that give rise to violent extremism and activity and the support for it.

3. (U) A comprehensive approach to address the drivers of violent extremism is critical to advancing the United States' national security and overall foreign policy goals. Reflecting this realization, the 2015 QDDR states that the Department of State and USAID will work to enhance, refine, and elevate ongoing CVE efforts, particularly those focused on prevention. State and USAID have different tools, approaches, and expertise to contribute, and the effective uses of diplomacy and development are essential to our prevention efforts.

4. (U) In February 2015, President Obama hosted a summit of government and non-governmental leaders from over 60 countries to mobilize a global effort to counter and prevent the spread of violent extremism. The White House CVE Summit and the subsequent process, which included a series of regional CVE summits, generated a broad-based, multi-stakeholder CVE action agenda and new initiatives that were presented at the September 2015 Leaders' Summit to Counter ISIL and Violent Extremism. Subsequently, the Secretary General of the United Nations presented his Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism to the UN General Assembly in January 2016, which reaffirmed and expanded

upon the CVE Summit's agenda. On February 12, the UN General Assembly adopted by consensus a short resolution expressing general support for the Secretary-General's initiative but decided to further consider whether to endorse the Plan of Action as part of its 10-year review in June of the UN's Global Counterterrorism Strategy.

5. (U) As part of the wider Administration commitment to ensuring the U.S. Government is positioned to play a leadership role on CVE issues both at home and abroad, Secretary Kerry has committed to institutionalize and enhance the Department of State's CVE efforts, especially to carry forth the work of the White House CVE Summit. The Secretary has directed the Bureau of Counterterrorism to play the lead role in coordinating the Department's expanding CVE engagement and assistance efforts. In order to reflect the bureau's leadership role in this regard, the Department has changed the bureau's name to the Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism. [Note: The bureau acronym will remain CT. End Note.] Furthermore, Michael Ortiz has been named the new Deputy Coordinator for CVE. The bureau has also established a new Office of Countering Violent Extremism to serve as the hub for the Department's CVE policy planning, assistance coordination and innovation, and external engagement.

6. (U) CVE's institutionalization within the bureau will be an expansion of the bureau's ongoing work. The CT bureau will continue its current efforts on other essential counterterrorism issues – including aviation security, countering terrorist finance, countering foreign terrorist fighters, designations and sanctions, and building broader civilian counterterrorism capacity. The Department is providing the bureau with resources to hire additional staff for its new CVE office. In addition, a number of other departments and agencies have detailed staff to the CVE Office.

7. (U) In conjunction with these efforts, USAID is in the process of institutionalizing its Secretariat for Countering Violent Extremism, as outlined in the 2015 QDDR. The Secretariat will serve as the central coordinator within USAID for high level CVE engagement, knowledge management, and collaboration with other donor organizations.

8. (U) The U.S. Government is further revamping its countering violent extremist communications efforts through the Global Engagement Center (GEC), an interagency entity housed at the State Department. The GEC is responsible for coordinating, synchronizing and integrating government-wide messaging to foreign audiences abroad to counter disinformation espoused by violent extremist groups, including ISIL and al-Qaeda. Its focus is on enabling and empowering partners, government and non-governmental, in order to counter ISIL's messaging and promote positive alternatives—both online and offline. CT and GEC will work closely together. Michael Lumpkin has been appointed as the Director of the new Global Engagement Center.

9. (U) Finally, the U.S. Government has established a new CVE Task Force to coordinate domestic CVE efforts. The CVE Task Force will be a permanent interagency task force hosted by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with overall leadership provided by DHS and the Department of Justice, with additional staffing provided by representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Counterterrorism Center, and other supporting departments and agencies. The task force will be administratively housed at DHS. The State CT bureau will serve as the Department's liaison to this new domestic task force.

10. (U) To affirm the Department's commitment to elevating CVE as a line of effort across regions and actors, Deputy Secretary Blinken spoke on February 16, 2016 at the Brookings Institution. His remarks are available here: <http://www.state.gov/s/d/2016d/252547.htm>. Deputy Secretary Blinken also testified on the importance of the Department's CVE efforts in an April 12 hearing before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs. His testimony is available here: <http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/hearings/hearing-on-violent-extremism-and-the-role-of-foreign-assistance>.

11. (U) Under the leadership of the Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism, the Department will seek to expand and enhance CVE understanding, partnerships and programming around the world. The State Department has requested \$186.7 million for CVE programming as part of the President's FY 2017 budget request, which is 33 percent more than the President's FY 2015 request. With Congress' support, this funding will enable us to significantly ramp up our CVE efforts and assistance. The Department has also updated the "Key Issue Definition" for CVE to better track foreign assistance supporting CVE objectives. The updated definition is attached.

12. (U) State and USAID are also working together to enhance integrated analysis and design of CVE programming. With approximately \$19 million in Fiscal Year 2015 resources, State and USAID undertook a new initiative to design and implement CVE programming and diplomatic activities in East Africa through an integrated analysis and program design process. Grounded on initial analysis led by the Bureau of Conflict & Stabilization Operations (CSO), and working closely with embassies, a joint State and USAID team designed programs focused on the most at-risk communities and linked to the key drivers of radicalization to violence and support for VE in the region through carefully tailored, evidence-based approaches and field-based assessments. State and USAID hope to utilize lessons learned from this approach for other regions, including leveraging CVE elements of the FY 2016 Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund.

13. (U) State and USAID are working to develop a set of tools to assist embassies in assessing risk factors and drivers of violent extremism, engaging partner nations on CVE, and designing effective CVE programs. As the Department's resource for conflict analysis, CSO will increasingly support research, analysis, assessments, and monitoring and evaluation of CVE efforts. Working closely with CT and USAID, CSO has developed a framework for assessing drivers of violent extremism, a guide for monitoring and evaluation of CVE programs, and with the emerging RESOLVE network (see below), a body of research on global and country-specific drivers of extremism. CSO and CT are also working together to develop a playbook for embassies on CVE engagement and assistance opportunities.

14. (U) Today, the Department is publicly releasing the recently developed Department of State and USAID Joint Strategy on Countering Violent Extremism. This Strategy seeks to combine proactive, future-oriented efforts to counter violent extremism with specific approaches to counter radicalization and recruitment to violence associated with immediate threats. The strategy outlines five objectives for State and USAID's joint efforts:

- a) Expand international political will, partnerships, and expertise to better understand the drivers of violent extremism and mobilize effective interventions.
- b) Encourage and assist partner governments to adopt more effective policies and approaches to prevent and counter the spread of violent extremism, including changing unhelpful practices where necessary.
- c) Employ foreign assistance tools and approaches, including development, to reduce specific political or social and economic factors that contribute to community support for violent extremism in identifiable areas or put particular segments of a population at high risk of violent extremist radicalization and recruitment to violence.
- d) Empower and amplify locally credible voices that can change the perception of violent extremist groups among key demographic segments.
- e) Strengthen the capabilities of government and non-governmental actors to isolate, intervene with, and promote the rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals caught in the cycle of radicalization to violence.

15. (U) The new strategy (1) defines our CVE efforts and the dynamics of radicalization and recruitment to violence that those efforts seek to address; (2) elaborates these strategic objectives; and (3) details the ways and means to implement them. The full strategy is attached and may be shared with international partners. The strategy builds upon USAID's September 2011 internal policy entitled The Development Response to Violent Extremism (<https://www.usaid.gov/countering-violent-extremism>), as well as over a decade of programming.

The Strategy highlights a number of institutions and initiatives that the Department will continue to advance in support of the CVE Strategy. These include:

- Global Community Resilience & Engagement Fund - Established as a public-private partnership in November 2014, the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCRF) is the global fund for preventing violent extremism. It was created as the first multi-donor mechanism to support grassroots initiatives CVE in communities threatened by radicalization and recruitment to terrorism. Operating at the nexus of security and development, GCRF works in partnership and consultation with governments, civil society, and the private sector in beneficiary countries to support national strategies to address the local drivers of violent extremism. For more information, please see www.gcerf.org.
- Hedayah – Hedayah is the CVE center of excellence based in Abu Dhabi and conducts CVE research, holds practitioner-oriented dialogues and provides CVE training and capacity building. Hedayah works with both governments and civil society groups around the world on issues such as national CVE strategy development and

implementation, CVE communications, prevention of foreign terrorist fighters, community engagement and policing and education-based approaches to CVE. For more information, please see www.hedayah.ae.

- Researching Solutions to Violent Extremism (RESOLVE) Network – RESOLVE will connect researchers, practitioners, and policy makers to examine and build effective, sustainable responses to the drivers of violent extremism. Launched by CSO and USAID on the margins of UNGA 2015, the RESOLVE Secretariat is currently based at the United States Institute of Peace and is reaching out to research institutions and local researchers around the world. (Contact: resolve@usip.org | www.resolvenet.org)
- Strong Cities Network – The Strong Cities Network is an effort to assist mayors and sub-national authorities to share expertise and build capacity to develop localized CVE strategies. The Network already includes more than 50 cities from around the world and continues to grow. For more information, please see www.strongcitiesnetwork.org.
- UN's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism – The UN Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE) calls for a comprehensive approach to address the drivers of violent extremism. The Plan puts forward more than 70 recommendations in seven strategic areas to prevent the further spread of violent extremism. Most notably, the Plan calls for Member States to draft National PVE Action Plans, which would set national priorities to address the local drivers of violent extremism and complement national counterterrorism strategies where they already exist. The Plan's recommendations provide practical ways Member States can implement the UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy (GCTS) Pillar I (measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism) and Pillar IV (human rights and the rule of law as the basis for the fight against terrorism). As such, the Plan does not alter the GCTS and is not itself a new strategy. Many UN agencies are already undertaking work on PVE, including significant efforts to date from UNESCO and UNDP.

However, we would like the UN General Assembly's biennial review of the GCTS (currently expected to be debated June 30 to July 1) to adopt a resolution that recognizes the Plan as an annex or auxiliary document to the GCTS and provides a mandate to institutionalize PVE into the UN system so UN entities can help Member States to build capacities to meet the challenge of violent extremism and help the UN to provide global leadership on these issues.

16. (U) If asked by host country government counterparts about the Department's institutionalization of CVE or other changes outlined in this cable, Posts may use or draw from the talking points in para 17. Posts may also share a copy of the aforementioned State-USAID CVE strategy and fact sheet if determined appropriate.

17. (U) BEGIN VOLUNTARY TALKING POINTS:

- Last year's White House Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Summit process helped to elevate the importance of CVE and generate momentum for a range of new initiatives to prevent and counter the spread of violent extremism.
- We appreciate the efforts that your government has taken to help advance the broad-based, multi-stakeholder CVE agenda.
- To build on this momentum, the U.S. Department of State (State) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) are taking a number of steps to continue to elevate and expand our ongoing CVE efforts.
- First, we are making organizational changes to build on previous U.S. Government CVE efforts, and to carry forth the work of the CVE Summit, both in the context of countering the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and other critical terrorist threats, and preventing future ones from emerging.
- Specifically, the Department of State has renamed the Bureau of Counterterrorism to the Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism and expand its role in leading these efforts, in close coordination with our regional bureaus and other key stakeholders.
- Within the Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism, the Department has appointed Michael Ortiz, a former White House official, as the new Deputy Coordinator for CVE. He will serve as a senior leader for the Department's CVE engagement and assistance efforts. The Department has also established and increased staff for a new Office of Countering Violent Extremism.

- The U.S. Government is revamping its countering violent extremist communications efforts through the Global Engagement Center (GEC), an interagency entity housed at the State Department. The GEC is responsible for coordinating, synchronizing and integrating government-wide messaging to foreign audiences abroad to counter disinformation espoused by violent extremist groups, including ISIL and al-Qaeda. Its focus is on enabling and empowering partners, government and non-governmental, in order to counter ISIL's messaging and promote positive alternatives—both online and offline. Michael Lumpkin is the Center's Coordinator.
- As the Department's resource for conflict analysis, the Bureau of Conflict & Stabilization Operations will increasingly support research, analysis, assessments, and monitoring and evaluation of CVE efforts.
- Furthermore, USAID is institutionalizing its CVE Secretariat to provide a central point of contact for CVE coordination. The Secretariat complements the systems already operating through USAID Missions and regional bureaus.
- Second, we have developed a new Department of State and USAID Joint Strategy on Countering Violent Extremism, which supports our approach to address the full life cycle of radicalization to violence. This new strategy outlines five objectives for our overseas CVE assistance and engagement:
 - o Expand international political will, partnerships, and expertise to better understand the drivers of violent extremism and mobilize effective interventions.
 - o Encourage and assist partner governments to adopt more effective policies and approaches to prevent and counter the spread of violent extremism, including changing unhelpful practices where necessary.
 - o Employ foreign assistance tools and approaches, including development, to reduce specific political or social and economic factors that contribute to community support for violent extremism in identifiable areas or put particular segments of a population at high risk of violent extremist radicalization and recruitment to violence.
 - o Empower and amplify locally credible voices that can change the perception of violent extremist groups among key demographic segments.
 - o Strengthen the capabilities of government and non-governmental actors to isolate, intervene with, and promote the rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals caught in the cycle of radicalization to violence.
- This Strategy is intended to complement our domestic CVE strategy, Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States, which was released by the White House in August 2011. The Department of State will coordinate our international efforts with the newly-created domestic CVE Task Force currently housed at our Department of Homeland Security.
- Finally, we will continue to pursue a range of assistance programs to help our partners counter radicalization and recruitment to violence. Some examples of how the Department of State and USAID are assisting partners to counter violent extremism are included in a public fact sheet.
- We are committed to expanding our support for a range of multilateral and international initiatives to expand our CVE toolkit, including the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), Hedayah, Strong Cities Network, Researching Solutions to Violent Extremism (RESOLVE) Network, and various civil society networks. We encourage other international donors to also continue supporting these initiatives.
- In President Obama's FY 2017 budget request submitted to Congress this year, we have asked for \$186.7 million for future CVE programs, which is a substantial increase from prior year requests. These resources will enable us to expand integrated CVE programming in key regions around the world, building on the White House CVE Summit action agenda. We hope our Congress will support this request.
- We strongly support the UN Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. We view it as a framework to help implement the existing UN Global CT Strategy by emphasizing the value of proactive measures to address conditions that will prevent the next generation of recruits, organizations, and tools for terrorism, in turn

helping our current counterterrorism efforts to eradicate existing threats. Please instruct your UN Mission in New York to support the UN General Assembly's endorsement of the Plan during the biennial review in June of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. "Welcoming" the Plan as an annex to or auxiliary document of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in the General Assembly resolution would help institutionalize prevention into the UN system so it can help Member States to build capacities to meet future and current threats and to enable the UN to provide global leadership on countering and preventing violent extremism.

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END VOLUNTARY TALKING POINTS

18. (U) For more information on CVE's institutionalization or its public roll out, please contact CVE Office Director [redacted] in the Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism [redacted] or the bureau's CVE Office (CT_CVE-Team@state.gov). For further information on CSO's CVE efforts, please contact [redacted] For further information on GEC's efforts, please contact GEC's Network Engagement team, [redacted] and [redacted]. For further information on USAID's CVE efforts, please contact CVE Secretariat Executive Director [redacted] or the CVE Secretariat (cvesecretariat@usaid.gov).

MINIMIZE CONSIDERED

Signature: Kerry

Drafted By: CT/CVE : [redacted]
Cleared By: S/ES-O: [redacted]
CT/CVE - [redacted]
CT/MA - [redacted]
CT/SPI - [redacted]
CT/PA - [redacted]
J - [redacted]
CSO - [redacted]
DRL - [redacted]
INL - [redacted]
PRM/FO/CT - [redacted]
R - [redacted]
R/GEC - [redacted]
PA/FO - [redacted]
D - [redacted]
D-MR - [redacted]
P - [redacted]
S/P - [redacted] info by request
H - [redacted]
F - [redacted]
L - [redacted]
AF/SA - [redacted]
AF/ERA - [redacted]
AF/EX - [redacted]
EAP/RMA - [redacted]
EAP/EX - [redacted] EUR/ACE - [redacted]
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EUR/PGI - [redacted]
EUR-IO/EX - [redacted]
NEA/MAG - [redacted]
NEA/AC - [redacted]

NEA/RMA - [REDACTED]
NEA/PPD - [REDACTED]
NEA-SCA/EX - [REDACTED]
SCA/PPD - [REDACTED]
SCA/RA - [REDACTED]
CT/FO - [REDACTED]
IRM_OPS_MSO [REDACTED]

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Approved By:

Released By:

XMT:

Attachments:

SANAA, AMEMBASSY

FINAL - Updated F Key Issue CVE Definition.doc, FINAL -- State and USAID Joint Strategy on Countering Violent Extremism .pdf

Action Post:

NONE

Dissemination Rule:

DIS_RAP_REG_ADV1, DIS_HSMA_HS_TSI, DIS_CT_FO_SPECIAL_ASST,
DIS_HSMA_D_DIR, DIS_RAP_REG_AFF_OFF, DIS_SPP_PROG_DIR,
DIS_RAP_REG_AFF_OFF3, DIS_EX_DPTY_EX_DIR, DIS_HSMA_D_FAO,
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DIS_SPP_CT_FIN_CHIEF, DIS_HSMA_HS_OMS, DIS_RAP_FIN_OFF,
DIS_HSMA_HS_POL_ALYST, DIS_TSI_TIP_PROJ_MGR,
DIS_SPP_FRGN_AFF_OFF1, DIS_CT_EAP, DIS_HSMA_HS_FAO_AV_SEC

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From: [REDACTED]
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Info Office: RAP_REG_ADV1, HSMA_TSI, FO_SPECIAL_ASST, HSMA_D_DIR, RAP_REG_AFF_OFF, SPP_PROG_DIR, RAP_REG_AFF_OFF3, EX_DPTY_EX_DIR, HSMA_D_FAO, SPP_SR_PLNER, RAP_CT_COORD, CT_REGIONAL_AFFAIRS, RAP_ATA_PROG_MGR_AF, SPP_SR_ADV_CT_VE, HSMA_M_FAO, SPP_CONGRSS_LIAIS, RAP_CVE_PRG_COORD, HSMA_HS_DIR, SPP_CT_FIN_CHIEF, HSMA_HS_OMS, RAP_FIN_OFF, HSMA_HS_POL_ALYST, TSI_TIP_PROJ_MGR, SPP_FRGN_AFF_OFF1, TSI_TIP_PROG_MGR, CT_OFF_EAP, HSMA_HS_FAO_AV_SEC

MRN: 16 STATE 58992
Date/DTG: May 24, 2016 / 242153Z MAY 16
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7. (U) In conjunction with these efforts, USAID is in the process of institutionalizing its Secretariat for Countering Violent Extremism, as outlined in the 2015 QDDR. The Secretariat will serve as the central coordinator within USAID for high level CVE engagement, knowledge management, and collaboration with other donor organizations.

8. (U) The U.S. Government is further revamping its countering violent extremist communications efforts through the Global Engagement Center (GEC), an interagency entity housed at the State Department. The GEC is responsible for coordinating, synchronizing and integrating government-wide messaging to foreign audiences abroad to counter disinformation espoused by violent extremist groups, including ISIL and al-Qaeda. Its focus is on enabling and empowering partners, government and non-governmental, in order to counter ISIL's messaging and promote positive

alternatives—both online and offline. CT and GEC will work closely together. Michael Lumpkin has been appointed as the Director of the new Global Engagement Center.

9. (U) Finally, the U.S. Government has established a new CVE Task Force to coordinate domestic CVE efforts. The CVE Task Force will be a permanent interagency task force hosted by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with overall leadership provided by DHS and the Department of Justice, with additional staffing provided by representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Counterterrorism Center, and other supporting departments and agencies. The task force will be administratively housed at DHS. The State CT bureau will serve as the Department's liaison to this new domestic task force.

10. (U) To affirm the Department's commitment to elevating CVE as a line of effort across regions and actors, Deputy Secretary Blinken spoke on February 16, 2016 at the Brookings Institution. His remarks are available here:

<http://www.state.gov/s/d/2016d/252547.htm>. Deputy Secretary Blinken also testified on the importance of the Department's CVE efforts in an April 12 hearing before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs. His testimony is available here:

<http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/hearings/hearing-on-violent-extremism-and-the-role-of-foreign-assistance>.

11. (U) Under the leadership of the Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism, the Department will seek to expand and enhance CVE understanding, partnerships and programming around the world. The State Department has requested \$186.7 million for CVE programming as part of the President's FY 2017 budget request, which is 33 percent more than the President's FY 2015 request. With Congress' support, this funding will enable us to significantly ramp up our CVE efforts and assistance. The Department has also updated the "Key Issue Definition" for CVE to better track foreign assistance supporting CVE objectives. The updated definition is attached.

12. (U) State and USAID are also working together to enhance integrated analysis and design of CVE programming. With approximately \$19 million in Fiscal Year 2015 resources, State and USAID undertook a new initiative to design and implement CVE programming and diplomatic activities in East Africa through an integrated analysis and program design process. Grounded on initial analysis led by the Bureau of Conflict & Stabilization Operations (CSO), and working closely with embassies, a joint State and USAID team designed programs focused on the most at-risk communities and linked to the key drivers of radicalization to violence and support for VE in the region through carefully tailored, evidence-based approaches and field-based assessments. State and USAID hope to utilize lessons learned from this approach for other regions, including leveraging CVE elements of the FY 2016 Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund.

13. (U) State and USAID are working to develop a set of tools to assist embassies in assessing risk factors and drivers of violent extremism, engaging partner nations on CVE, and designing effective CVE programs. As the Department's resource for conflict analysis, CSO will increasingly support research, analysis, assessments, and monitoring and evaluation of CVE efforts. Working closely with CT and USAID, CSO has developed a framework for assessing drivers of violent extremism, a guide for monitoring and evaluation of CVE programs, and with the emerging RESOLVE network (see below), a body of research on global and country-specific drivers of extremism. CSO and CT are also working together to develop a playbook for embassies on CVE engagement and assistance opportunities.

14. (U) Today, the Department is publicly releasing the recently developed Department of State and USAID Joint Strategy on Countering Violent Extremism. This Strategy seeks to combine proactive, future-oriented efforts to counter violent extremism with specific approaches to counter radicalization and recruitment to violence associated with immediate threats. The strategy outlines five objectives for State and USAID's joint efforts:

- a) Expand international political will, partnerships, and expertise to better understand the drivers of violent extremism and mobilize effective interventions.
- b) Encourage and assist partner governments to adopt more effective policies and approaches to prevent and counter the spread of violent extremism, including changing unhelpful practices where necessary.
- c) Employ foreign assistance tools and approaches, including development, to reduce specific political or social and economic factors that contribute to community support for violent extremism in identifiable areas or put particular segments of a population at high risk of violent extremist radicalization and recruitment to violence.

- d) Empower and amplify locally credible voices that can change the perception of violent extremist groups among key demographic segments.
- e) Strengthen the capabilities of government and non-governmental actors to isolate, intervene with, and promote the rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals caught in the cycle of radicalization to violence.

15. (U) The new strategy (1) defines our CVE efforts and the dynamics of radicalization and recruitment to violence that those efforts seek to address; (2) elaborates these strategic objectives; and (3) details the ways and means to implement them. The full strategy is attached and may be shared with international partners. The strategy builds upon USAID's September 2011 internal policy entitled The Development Response to Violent Extremism (<https://www.usaid.gov/countering-violent-extremism>), as well as over a decade of programming.

The Strategy highlights a number of institutions and initiatives that the Department will continue to advance in support of the CVE Strategy. These include:

- Global Community Resilience & Engagement Fund - Established as a public-private partnership in November 2014, the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCRF) is the global fund for preventing violent extremism. It was created as the first multi-donor mechanism to support grassroots initiatives CVE in communities threatened by radicalization and recruitment to terrorism. Operating at the nexus of security and development, GCRF works in partnership and consultation with governments, civil society, and the private sector in beneficiary countries to support national strategies to address the local drivers of violent extremism. For more information, please see www.gcrf.org.
- Hedayah – Hedayah is the CVE center of excellence based in Abu Dhabi and conducts CVE research, holds practitioner-oriented dialogues and provides CVE training and capacity building. Hedayah works with both governments and civil society groups around the world on issues such as national CVE strategy development and implementation, CVE communications, prevention of foreign terrorist fighters, community engagement and policing and education-based approaches to CVE. For more information, please see www.hedayah.ae.
- Researching Solutions to Violent Extremism (RESOLVE) Network – RESOLVE will connect researchers, practitioners, and policy makers to examine and build effective, sustainable responses to the drivers of violent extremism. Launched by CSO and USAID on the margins of UNGA 2015, the RESOLVE Secretariat is currently based at the United States Institute of Peace and is reaching out to research institutions and local researchers around the world. (Contact: resolve@usip.org | www.resolvenet.org)
- Strong Cities Network – The Strong Cities Network is an effort to assist mayors and sub-national authorities to share expertise and build capacity to develop localized CVE strategies. The Network already includes more than 50 cities from around the world and continues to grow. For more information, please see www.strongcitiesnetwork.org.
- UN's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism – The UN Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE) calls for a comprehensive approach to address the drivers of violent extremism. The Plan puts forward more than 70 recommendations in seven strategic areas to prevent the further spread of violent extremism. Most notably, the Plan calls for Member States to draft National PVE Action Plans, which would set national priorities to address the local drivers of violent extremism and complement national counterterrorism strategies where they already exist. The Plan's recommendations provide practical ways Member States can implement the UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy (GCTS) Pillar I (measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism) and Pillar IV (human rights and the rule of law as the basis for the fight against terrorism). As such, the Plan does not alter the GCTS and is not itself a new strategy. Many UN agencies are already undertaking work on PVE, including significant efforts to date from UNESCO and UNDP.

However, we would like the UN General Assembly's biennial review of the GCTS (currently expected to be debated June 30 to July 1) to adopt a resolution that recognizes the Plan as an annex or auxiliary document to the GCTS and provides a mandate to institutionalize PVE into the UN system so UN entities can help Member States to build capacities to meet the challenge of violent extremism and help the UN to provide global leadership on these issues.

16. (U) If asked by host country government counterparts about the Department's institutionalization of CVE or other changes outlined in this cable, Posts may use or draw from the talking points in para 17. Posts may also share a copy of the aforementioned State-USAID CVE strategy and fact sheet if determined appropriate.

17. (U) BEGIN VOLUNTARY TALKING POINTS:

- Last year's White House Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Summit process helped to elevate the importance of CVE and generate momentum for a range of new initiatives to prevent and counter the spread of violent extremism.
- We appreciate the efforts that your government has taken to help advance the broad-based, multi-stakeholder CVE agenda.
- To build on this momentum, the U.S. Department of State (State) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) are taking a number of steps to continue to elevate and expand our ongoing CVE efforts.
- First, we are making organizational changes to build on previous U.S. Government CVE efforts, and to carry forth the work of the CVE Summit, both in the context of countering the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and other critical terrorist threats, and preventing future ones from emerging.
- Specifically, the Department of State has renamed the Bureau of Counterterrorism to the Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism and expand its role in leading these efforts, in close coordination with our regional bureaus and other key stakeholders.
- Within the Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism, the Department has appointed Michael Ortiz, a former White House official, as the new Deputy Coordinator for CVE. He will serve as a senior leader for the Department's CVE engagement and assistance efforts. The Department has also established and increased staff for a new Office of Countering Violent Extremism.
- The U.S. Government is revamping its countering violent extremist communications efforts through the Global Engagement Center (GEC), an interagency entity housed at the State Department. The GEC is responsible for coordinating, synchronizing and integrating government-wide messaging to foreign audiences abroad to counter disinformation espoused by violent extremist groups, including ISIL and al-Qaeda. Its focus is on enabling and empowering partners, government and non-governmental, in order to counter ISIL's messaging and promote positive alternatives—both online and offline. Michael Lumpkin is the Center's Coordinator.
- As the Department's resource for conflict analysis, the Bureau of Conflict & Stabilization Operations will increasingly support research, analysis, assessments, and monitoring and evaluation of CVE efforts.
- Furthermore, USAID is institutionalizing its CVE Secretariat to provide a central point of contact for CVE coordination. The Secretariat complements the systems already operating through USAID Missions and regional bureaus.
- Second, we have developed a new Department of State and USAID Joint Strategy on Countering Violent Extremism, which supports our approach to address the full life cycle of radicalization to violence. This new strategy outlines five objectives for our overseas CVE assistance and engagement:
 - o Expand international political will, partnerships, and expertise to better understand the drivers of violent extremism and mobilize effective interventions.
 - o Encourage and assist partner governments to adopt more effective policies and approaches to prevent and counter the spread of violent extremism, including changing unhelpful practices where necessary.
 - o Employ foreign assistance tools and approaches, including development, to reduce specific political or social and economic factors that contribute to community support for violent extremism in identifiable areas or put particular segments of a population at high risk of violent extremist radicalization and recruitment to violence.
 - o Empower and amplify locally credible voices that can change the perception of violent extremist groups among key demographic segments.
 - o Strengthen the capabilities of government and non-governmental actors to isolate, intervene with, and

promote the rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals caught in the cycle of radicalization to violence.

- This Strategy is intended to complement our domestic CVE strategy, Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States, which was released by the White House in August 2011. The Department of State will coordinate our international efforts with the newly-created domestic CVE Task Force currently housed at our Department of Homeland Security.
- Finally, we will continue to pursue a range of assistance programs to help our partners counter radicalization and recruitment to violence. Some examples of how the Department of State and USAID are assisting partners to counter violent extremism are included in a public fact sheet.
- We are committed to expanding our support for a range of multilateral and international initiatives to expand our CVE toolkit, including the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), Hedayah, Strong Cities Network, Researching Solutions to Violent Extremism (RESOLVE) Network, and various civil society networks. We encourage other international donors to also continue supporting these initiatives.
- In President Obama's FY 2017 budget request submitted to Congress this year, we have asked for \$186.7 million for future CVE programs, which is a substantial increase from prior year requests. These resources will enable us to expand integrated CVE programming in key regions around the world, building on the White House CVE Summit action agenda. We hope our Congress will support this request.
- We strongly support the UN Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. We view it as a framework to help implement the existing UN Global CT Strategy by emphasizing the value of proactive measures to address conditions that will prevent the next generation of recruits, organizations, and tools for terrorism, in turn helping our current counterterrorism efforts to eradicate existing threats. Please instruct your UN Mission in New York to support the UN General Assembly's endorsement of the Plan during the biennial review in June of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. "Welcoming" the Plan as an annex to or auxiliary document of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in the General Assembly resolution would help institutionalize prevention into the UN system so it can help Member States to build capacities to meet future and current threats and to enable the UN to provide global leadership on countering and preventing violent extremism.

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END VOLUNTARY TALKING POINTS

18. (U) For more information on CVE's institutionalization or its public roll out, please contact CVE Office Director [redacted] in the Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism [redacted] or the bureau's CVE Office (CT_CVE-Team@state.gov). For further information on CSO's CVE efforts, please contact [redacted] [redacted]. For further information on GEC's efforts, please contact GEC's Network Engagement team, [redacted] and [redacted]. For further information on USAID's CVE efforts, please contact CVE Secretariat Executive Director [redacted] or the CVE Secretariat (cvesecretariat@usaid.gov).

MINIMIZE CONSIDERED

Signature: Kerry

Drafted By:

Cleared By:

CT/CVE
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DRL - [redacted]
 INL - [redacted]
 PRM/FO/CT - [redacted] info
 R - [redacted]
 R/GEC - [redacted]
 PA/FO - [redacted]
 D - [redacted]
 D-MR - [redacted] ok
 P - [redacted] ok
 S/P - [redacted] info by request
 H - [redacted]
 F - [redacted]
 L - [redacted]
 AF/SA - [redacted]
 AF/ERA - [redacted]
 AF/EX - [redacted]
 EAP/RMA - [redacted] ok
 EAP/EX - [redacted] EUR/ACE - [redacted]
 EUR/PPD - [redacted]
 EUR/PGI - [redacted]
 EUR-IO/EX - [redacted]
 NEA/MAG - [redacted]
 NEA/AC - [redacted]
 NEA/RMA - [redacted]
 NEA/PPD - [redacted]
 NEA-SCA/EX - [redacted]
 SCA/PPD - [redacted]
 SCA/RA - [redacted]
 CT/FO - [redacted]

Approved By:

Released By:

XMT:

Attachments:

IRM_OPS_MSO: [redacted]
 SANAA, AMEMBASSY

FINAL - Updated F Key Issue CVE Definition.doc, FINAL -- State and USAID Joint Strategy on Countering Violent Extremism .pdf

Action Post:

NONE

Dissemination Rule:

DIS_RAP_REG_ADV1, DIS_HSMA_HS_TSI, DIS_CT_FO_SPECIAL_ASST,
 DIS_HSMA_D_DIR, DIS_RAP_REG_AFF_OFF, DIS_SPP_PROG_DIR,
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 DIS_SPP_SR_PLNER, DIS_RAP_CT_COORD, DIS_REGIONAL_AFFAIRS,
 DIS_RAP_ATA_PROG_MGR_AF, DIS_SPP_SR_ADV_CT_VE, DIS_HSMA_M_FAO,
 DIS_SPP_CONGRSS_LIAIS, DIS_RAP_CVE_PRG_COORD, DIS_HSMA_HS_DIR,
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