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CVE BRIEFING FOR HOUSE AND SENATE MAJORITY & MINORITY STAFF

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

1:00-2:00 PM, CHOB 311 - House Committee on Homeland Security

2:00-3:00 PM, Dirksen 342 - Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs

OBJECTIVES:

- Provide the House and Senate (minority and majority) staff with an overview of the Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) and DHS and the interagency's strategy for implementing the priorities in the SIP.
- Inform the Hill that DHS worked closely with the White House, NCTC, DOJ, and the FBI to develop the SIP, and will continue to work closely with these entities in implementing the priorities in the SIP.
 - DHS, NCTC, DOJ, and the FBI have formed a small working group to meet on a weekly basis to ensure the priorities in the SIP are implemented in a timely manner.
 - The interagency also coordinated the development of the SIP through the multiple Deputies Breakfast meetings, and will continue to advance the priorities in the SIP through these meetings.
- Update the Hill that the SIP was distributed to all DHS stakeholders on December 8, 2011, including Homeland Security Advisors, State and Local Law Enforcement, Private Sector partners, and local government leaders.
- Notify the Hill that DHS, DOJ, and the NSS conducted two conference calls with: 1) community stakeholders and 2) local law enforcement leaders. The purpose of these calls was to announce the release of the SIP and engage with stakeholders on carrying out the priorities in the SIP.
- Update the Hill on the following SIP deliverables that have been completed and/or are close to completion:
 - DHS CVE Webpage was launched on December 14, 2011 and sent to DHS stakeholders;
 - CRCL completed 72 roundtables in 2011 and so far 9 are planned for January, 2012;
 - DHS exchanges of best practices with international partners – DHS has had several discussions and meetings with Europol in the past two weeks and has committed to sharing case studies and best practices;
 - October 2011 – the Major Cities Chiefs Association passed a motion to adopt and implement the DHS CVE curriculum, which will be piloted with state and local law enforcement in San Diego in the next month;
 - FLETC has completed its curriculum development for federal law enforcement and plans to pilot this new training in Glynco, GA in January, 2012.
 - DHS is working to establish an internal vetting committee to review all of DHS' internal and external CVE-related trainings and DHS will keep the Hill apprised of the formation and development of this vetting committee.

SIP TALKING POINTS:

- As you know, the White House CVE strategy was released in August, 2011.
- On December 8, 2011, after 5 months of planning and consultation with interagency partners, the White House released the Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Administration's CVE Strategy.
- The SIP lists the current and future actions the USG will take in support of a locally-focused, community-based approach, in three broad areas:

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- **Enhancing Engagement with and support to local communities:** Our aims in engaging with communities to discuss violent extremism are to (1) share sound, meaningful, and timely information about the threat of radicalization to violence with a wide range of groups and organizations; (2) respond to concerns about government policies and actions; and (3) better understand how we can effectively support community-based solutions.
- **Building Government and Law Enforcement Expertise:** We are building robust training programs to ensure that communities, government, and law enforcement receive accurate, intelligence-based information about the dynamics of violent extremism. Misinformation about the threat and poor training harms our security by sending stakeholders in the wrong direction and creating tensions with communities.
- **Countering Violent Extremist Propaganda while Promoting our Ideals:** We will aggressively counter violent extremist ideologies – including on the Internet – by educating and empowering communities and promoting our ideals. In the case of our current priority, we will, through our words and deeds, rebut al-Qa’ida’s lie that the United States is somehow at war with Islam.
- The SIP Approach underscores the strength of community-based problem solving, local partnerships, and community-oriented policing. We are building our efforts from existing structures, while creating capacity to fill gaps as we implement programs.

As the activities described in the SIP are executed, there will be major and long-lasting impacts:

- There will be platforms throughout the country for including communities that may be targeted by violent extremists for recruitment and radicalization into ongoing Federal, State and local engagement efforts;
- The Federal Government will support that engagement through a task force of senior officials from across the government;
- Community-led efforts to build resilience to violent extremism will be supported;
- Analysis and production will increase in depth and relevance, and will be shared with those assessed to need it, including Governor-appointed Homeland Security Advisors, Major Cities Mayors’ Offices, and local partners;
- Training for Federal, State, tribal, and local government and law enforcement officials on community resilience, countering violent extremism, and cultural competence will improve, and that training will meet rigorous professional standards; and
- Local partners, including government officials and community leaders, will better understand the threat of violent extremism and how they can work together to prevent it.

IF ASKED:

- **How is DHS working to implement the priorities in the SIP?**
 - DHS’ Internal CVE Working Group meets weekly to ensure the priorities of the SIP are being implemented and is tracking the progress of each individual priority. DHS, NCTC, DOJ, and the FBI have committed to forming a small working group to meet on a weekly basis to ensure the priorities in the SIP are implemented in a timely manner. The interagency also coordinated the development of the SIP through the multiple Deputies Breakfast meetings, and will continue to advance the priorities in the SIP through these meetings.

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- **How is DHS ensuring that its training and curriculum development is coordinated with the interagency and meets the mutual standards agreed upon by the interagency? (Note: Bennie Thompson asked about this in his letter to the Secretary on December 2, 2011)**
 - DHS created a CVE Curriculum Working Group on September 17, 2010, chaired by LAPD Deputy Chief Michael Downing, as a result of the HSAC recommendations that were issued in August, 2010, and this Curriculum Working Group was comprised of representatives from the federal government and state and local law enforcement entities. This working group met multiple times to discuss best practices for community policing and ultimately created a new curriculum guidance based on mutually agreed upon standards and definitions.
 - DHS is currently establishing an internal training review process that will look at all DHS provided and funded CVE trainings; it will ensure that all DHS trainings are in line with Department and Administration approach on CVE.
 - FEMA issued training guidance with an informational bulletin to all grantees, state and local partners, and law enforcement outlining how training and trainers should accurate, intelligence driven, legally following civil rights and civil liberties protections, and operationally sound.
 - The guidance is based off the work of the Interagency Law Enforcement Training Working Group that is lead by DHS and continues to meet.
- **What is the status and anticipated timeline for the development of CVE curriculum? (Note: Bennie Thompson asked about this in his letter to the Secretary on December 2, 2011)**
 - DHS is currently in the process of developing a comprehensive CVE curriculum for federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement focused on a community oriented policing approach to combat violent crime and counter violent extremism.
 - DHS along with state and local partners (LAPD/National Consortium for Advance Policing) is developing a CVE curriculum that will be introduced into law enforcement academies as well as a 16 hour continuing education curriculum that will be focused on executive and front line officers. The curriculum will be POST certified and rolled out regionally with a network of approved local CVE trainers.
 - S&T and LAPD/NCAP is actively working with S&T to leverage reports and products for the curriculum development.
 - The Major Cities Chief Association recently passed a motion to adopt and implement the curriculum; San Diego PD will pilot the curriculum.
 - FLETC finished the development of a CVE curriculum that will be integrated into existing training programs for federal law enforcement that will focus on cultural awareness, engagement practices, and how best to work with local law enforcement and communities to keep local partnerships intact. FLETC aims to pilot this curriculum in January, 2012 in Glynco, GA.
 - DHS also completed a portal on its Hometown Security page to provide CVE resources to the general public.
 - DHS is also working with NCTC to help develop their CVE online resource site that is dedicated to collecting trainings and engagement best practices as well as being a resource for CVE practitioners.

PARTICIPANTS AND SPEAKING ORDER:

DHS

(b)(6) (5-6 minutes)

DOJ

(b)(6) (5-6 minutes)

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FBI

(b)(6) (5-6 minutes)

NCTC

(b)(6) (2-3 minutes)

Education (1-2 minutes)

State Department (1-2 minutes)

HHS (1-2 minutes)

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Letter from Bennie Thompson to Secretary Napolitano
- B. CVE Tracker and dashboard
- C. The Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP)