



Homeland
Security

COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Violent Extremism, both domestic and international, is defined by the Department as: *Individuals or groups supporting or committing ideologically-motivated violence to further political goals; and/or using or supporting illegal force or violence to attain economic, religious, or social goals through fear, coercion, or intimidation.*

CURRENT THREAT

- We remain concerned about the consistent level of homegrown violent extremism (HVE) activity, as well as the potential for conflict areas such as Syria to inspire and mobilize US- and Europe–based homegrown violent extremists to participate in or support acts of violence.
- The threat posed by violent extremism is neither constrained by international borders nor limited to any single ideology. Groups and individuals inspired by a range of religious, political, or other ideological beliefs have promoted and used violence against the United States. Increasingly sophisticated use of the internet, mainstream and social media, and information technology by violent extremists add an additional layer of complexity.

DHS APPROACH TO COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

- To counter violent extremism (CVE), the Department is 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 or against U.S. interests abroad, and the best ways to mitigate or prevent that activity.
- Our approach to countering violent extremism emphasizes the strength of local communities. We begin with the premise that well-informed and well-equipped families, communities, and local institutions represent the best defense against terrorist ideologies.
- While our primary purpose is to prevent a terrorist and violent extremist attack by an individual or group recruited by a violent extremist organization, or inspired by a violent extremist ideology, we also support strong and resilient communities as important ends themselves.

CURRENT TOP CVE PRIORITIES

- Applying our CVE tools to help solve the foreign fighter and ISIL Inspired Lone-Offender problems.
- Building our capacity to coordinate and support our CVE work and integrate it into other CT activities.
- Enhancing information sharing on evolving threats with key stakeholders including state and local law enforcement, communities, and local officials.
- Expanding and Supplementing Grant Funding Opportunities for Law Enforcement and Communities.

DHS CVE COORDINATION

The Department's CVE efforts are comprehensive and fall into four function areas:

Policy Formulation and
Coordination

Strategic CVE Activities
(Those explicitly conducted for
the purpose of CVE)



DHS CVE COORDINATION (CONTINUED)

CVE Support Activities

(Those that aid the department and its partners in conducting their CVE missions)



CVE-Relevant Activities

(The regular activities of DHS components shaped to improve CVE or lessen the negative impact on CVE. For instance, training of screeners, better redress procedures, and proper messaging of policies that could impact communities where VE occurs)

CBP, ICE, TSA, USCIS & USSS

DHS RECENT EFFORTS

Community Resilience Exercises (CREX): The CREX was developed by DHS and NCTC to increase trust between communities and law enforcement officials. The CREX is a half-day table-top exercise designed to improve communication between law enforcement and communities and to share ideas on how best to build community resilience against violent extremism.

Community Awareness Briefing (CAB) by DHS and NCTC, designed to share unclassified information with communities regarding the threat of violent extremism. The CAB has been conducted in 15 U.S. cities over the past few years. It is designed to help communities and law enforcement develop the necessary understanding of al-Qa'ida recruitment tactics and explore ways to collectively and holistically address these threats before they become a challenge at the local level.

DHS RESPONSE TO THE THREAT FROM TERRORIST FOREIGN FIGHTERS

- Over the last year, DHS, along with the rest of the Interagency and U.S. allies, has mounted a sustained, vigorous campaign to address threats posed by foreign fighter travel to and from Syria.
- DHS engagement has included consultations, initiatives, and assistance to our allies to raise overall security standards and practices in light of this threat.
- Over the past year, the USG has conducted additional enhanced engagement with key leaders and officials of Syrian-American organizations around the country – CABS & CREXs.



- Secretary Jeh Johnson has travelled to many cities to engage directly with community leaders on the subject of foreign fighters and what communities can do to respond to this phenomenon.

RECENT DHS CVE ACTIONS TO INCREASE COMMUNITY VIGILANCE TO LONE-OFFENDER THREATS

- Given the recent attacks in Canada and Europe, DHS determined that it needs to have a whole-of-Department proactive plan and rapid operational CVE response to increase vigilance among community members who may be in a better position to notice the threat of ISIL-inspired lone-offender attacks.
- The Department is in the process of developing a new sustainable DHS CVE strategy.



- START** 
- National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism
- ## 5. Organizations, Propaganda & Foreign Fighters are Part of a Mobilization Economy (2 of 2)
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- | Ideological | Ideological | Attack | Cyber | Leadership and Mission | Fine Legitimacy |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| ISIS | ISIS | ISIS | ISIS | ISIS | ISIS |
| ISIL | ISIL | ISIL | ISIL | ISIL | ISIL |
| ISGM | ISGM | ISGM | ISGM | ISGM | ISGM |
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- Organization is Extremely High/Low on This Attribute
- Organization is Extremely High/Low on This Attribute

DHS CVE Strategy

The new DHS CVE Strategy aims to improve the Department's ability to:

- engage with local community partners;
- partner with the interagency and international community;
- provide best-in-class online innovation and analysis; and
- support CVE practitioners with research, training and threat information.

Under this strategy, DHS Offices and Components will prioritize CVE Activities within their mission areas.

DHS CVE Strategy

Some Objectives of the New Strategy:

- We plan to help cities and regions build and utilize local CVE frameworks for all forms of violent extremism threatening the homeland, and to encourage communities to develop their own intervention efforts to counter violent extremism.
- Within the limitations of appropriate government action, we will address the evolving nature of online recruitment and radicalization to violence - particularly violent extremist use of social media - by encouraging credible voices to challenge and counter violent extremism.
- Ultimately, our strategy aims to Increase awareness among community members who may be in a better position to counter violent extremism.
- With increased training, analysis and information sharing between the Department and state and local law enforcement, fusion centers, and first responders, we will increase the law enforcement understanding of violent extremism and how we can best mitigate threats.

QUESTIONS?

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