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To: (b) (6)
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From: (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 05:17 PM
To: HVEB.Analysts
Subject: CVE talking points

Team,

For anyone that engages with external partners on CVE-related initiatives, here are some talking points that you might want to weave into your presentations/briefs/dialogues.

Regards,

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Key Points on DHS Approach to Countering Violent Extremism

- We face a threat environment where violent extremism is neither constrained by international borders, nor limited to any single ideology.
- We know that foreign terrorist groups affiliated with al-Qa‘ida, and individual terrorist leaders, are actively seeking to recruit and/or inspire individuals living in communities within the U.S. to carry out attacks against U.S. targets.
- However, this is not a phenomenon restricted solely to any one particular community and our efforts to counter violent extremism (CVE) are applicable to all ideologically motivated violence.
- DHS is a risk-based organization and we prioritize the utilization of resources based on what intelligence and analysis tells us presents the greatest threat to the Homeland.
- At DHS, we believe that local authorities and community members are best able to identify those individuals or groups residing within their communities exhibiting dangerous behaviors—and intervene—before they commit an act of violence.
- Everyone has a role to play in the safety and security of our nation, and time and again we see the advantage of public vigilance and cooperation, from information-sharing, community-oriented policing, and citizen awareness.
- Countering violent extremism is a shared responsibility, and DHS continues to work with a broad range of partners to gain a better understanding of the behaviors, tactics, and other indicators that could point to terrorist activity, and the best ways to mitigate or prevent that activity.
- The Department’s efforts to counter violent extremism (CVE) are three-fold:
 - **Better understand the phenomenon of violent extremism**, and assess the threat it poses to the Nation as a whole, and within specific communities;
 - **Bolster efforts to address the dynamics of violent extremism** and strengthen relationships with those communities targeted for recruitment by violent extremists; and
 - **Expand support for information-driven, community-oriented policing efforts** that have proven effective in preventing violent crime across the Nation for decades.

Key Points on the Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP)

- 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:
 - **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 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.

IF ASKED:

What has DHS done to work across the homeland security enterprise to counter violent extremism and other threats?

- The Department has worked with state, local and tribal governments across the nation to incorporate homeland security and terrorism prevention efforts into day-to-day efforts to protect our communities from violent crime. These efforts include:
 - Establishing robust information sharing capabilities to provide state, local, and private sector authorities credible and specific, CLASSIFIED and UNCLASSIFIED, threat-related information;
 - Building analytic capacity at the grass-roots level by supporting regional fusion centers so that national intelligence can be viewed within the context of local conditions thereby allowing state, local and tribal authorities to better assess the risk to their communities;
 - Providing frontline personnel with Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative (NSI) training as to the behaviors and indicators associated with specific threats and terrorism-related crime so that our 800,000 state, local and tribal officers can better recognize terrorism-related suspicious activities; and
 - Raising public awareness to the behaviors and indicators of terrorism and violent crime, and to emphasize the importance of reporting suspicious activity to the proper state and local law enforcement authorities., for example the Department’s nationwide launch of the “If You See Something, Say Something™” campaign.

How has the Department's CVE strategy aided in recent terrorist plots?

- If something is wrong, somebody locally will probably become aware. Our challenge is connecting those individuals with an appropriate response.
- A study from 2010 found that, between 1999 and 2009, more than 80 percent of foiled terrorist plots in the United States were thwarted because of observations from law enforcement or the general public.
- An examination of 86 terrorist cases in the U.S. from 1999 to 2009 by the Institute for Homeland Security Solutions shows that nearly half of those cases were related to al-Qaeda or al-Qaeda-inspired ideology, with the remainder due to a number of other violent extremist motivations
- By promoting public vigilance and community-policing efforts we are expanding our information sharing capabilities beyond local law enforcement, and by reporting suspicious behaviors we are able to intervene before there is an act of violence.

What is DHS doing to combat violent extremism?

- DHS CVE efforts include law enforcement training, community engagement, grievance resolution and enhanced efforts to understand the issue of violent extremism through S&T research and I&A analysis. These efforts are coordinated with the inter-agency and the NSS.
- DHS is expanding its support for local, information-driven community-oriented efforts to prevent violent crime and build safe, secure and resilient communities.
- Local community/government partnerships represent the best opportunity to identify and mitigate violence that may be ideologically motivated.

How is the federal government engaging frontline officers and community partners on countering violent extremism?

- Through our Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL), DHS continues to educate tribal, state and local law enforcement on cultural awareness and how best to engage with communities.
- To date, CRCL has already trained more than 2,100 police officers on ways to counter violent extremism in their own communities.
- DHS and the Department of Justice have also trained over 198,690 frontline officers through the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative and hope to reach all of America's officers on the frontlines.
- In addition to these training initiatives, DOJ and DHS, under the Building Communities of Trust Guidance, have coordinated engage our state and local law enforcement and community partners to share best practices on forming working partnerships and community based solutions in meetings across the country.
- DHS is working with state, local, tribal and federal partners to develop a CVE Curriculum for state, local, tribal, and federal law enforcement as well for use at academies.