

Community Awareness Briefing

This product contains U.S. person information that is subject to legal restrictions on its access, use, or disclosure. This information has been deemed necessary for the intended recipient to understand or assess the information provided. It has been highlighted in this document with the label USPER and should be handled in accordance with the recipient's intelligence oversight and /information handling procedures.

The presentation's goal is to inform the audience how violent extremists get their message out (including by the internet), and how government and communities can work together to prevent youth from being tricked by this recruitment.

Why are we here?

We want to talk about violent extremism, which takes many forms

We want to build awareness of how people become radicalized to violence

We want to ensure our communities are protected

And, most importantly, we need your help

In this slide, we talk about how we are here to raise awareness of how violent extremist groups ensnare vulnerable individuals to commit violent or illegal acts, thereby negatively impacting the lives of these individuals, their families and communities. The 2011 Domestic Countering Violent Extremism Strategy emphasizes that communities are invaluable partners in prevention, and government's role is to empower and catalyze communities to take action. We have seen there is often a time period, before law enforcement gets involved, in which parents, friends, community/religious leaders, and teachers see signs of someone being radicalized to violence, creating a window of opportunity for them to act to protect their communities.

Violent Extremism

A wide range of threats...

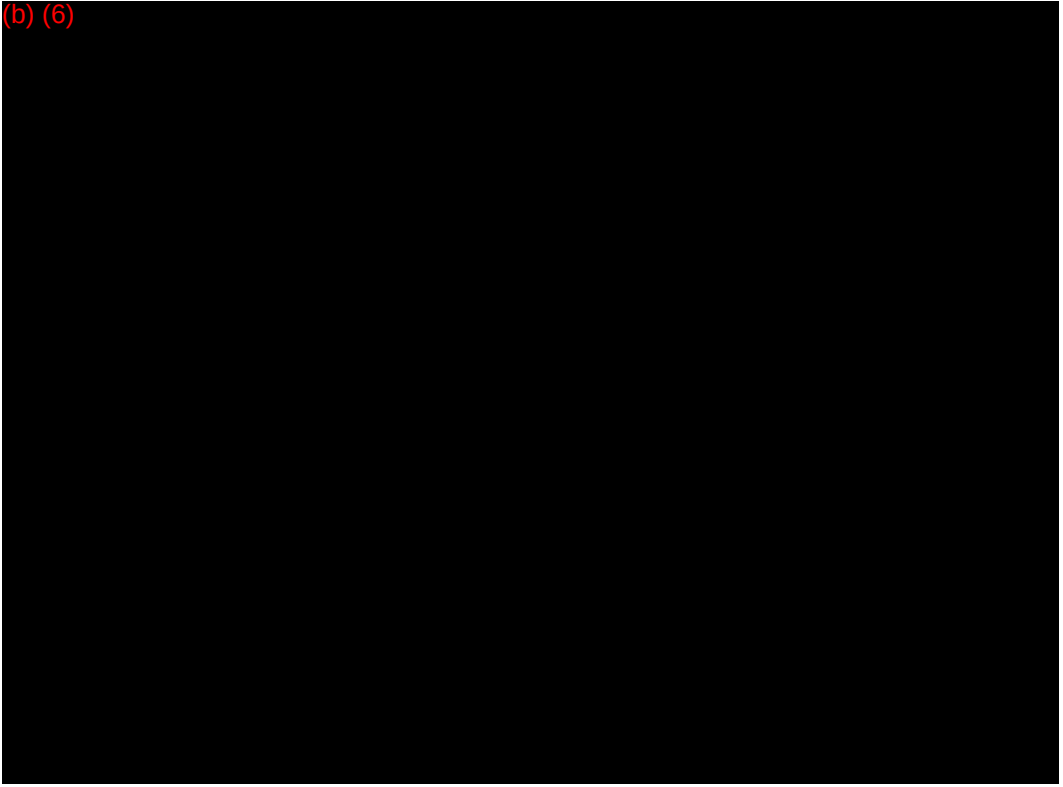
- White Supremacists
- Eco-terrorists
- Neo-Nazis
- Al-Qa'ida or ISIL-inspired groups



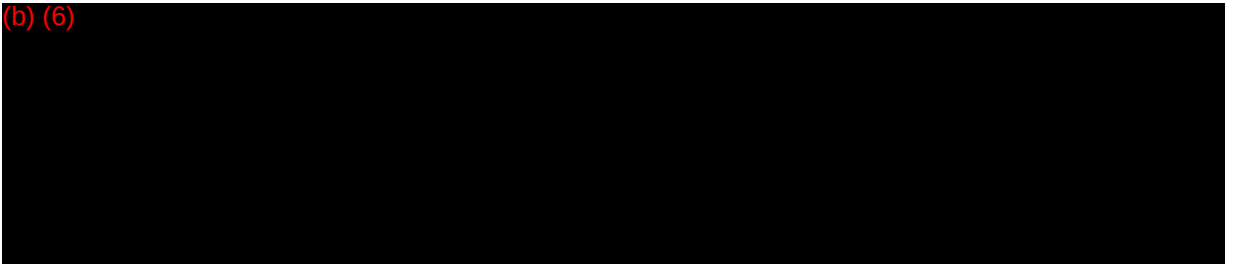
In this slide, we provide background on violent extremism, which comes in all forms, whether it is neo-Nazis, sovereign citizens, or al-Qa'ida. We demonstrate to the audience that the government understands there is a range of threat and ensure them that our government's concern is not solely on al-Qaeda or ISIL-inspired terrorism, to prevent stigmatization of Muslim communities.

LEGAL: The intent of this slide is to identify the range of threats the USG is facing—it supports the principle of equality, by describing threats in an equal way without unnecessarily focusing on one particular threat. Based upon UK lessons learned, this approach was deemed important for community engagement to avoid the appearance of unnecessarily focusing on a particular group. Note that this slide was developed at the request of DHS and is intended to provide context. Although NCTC typically does not report on domestic terrorism, the purpose of providing context and demonstrating similar tactics as international terrorist groups allows NCTC to include the slide. For these reasons, Legal clears with its inclusion.

(b) (6)



(b) (6)



Legal: This individual was convicted of violent crimes targeting Muslim communities. In this case the FBI relied on informants and used the same tactics that communities feel are being unfairly used against them. This demonstrates the principle of equality in how the USG addresses a range of threats. In addition, tactics, techniques and procedures used in this case are similar to AQ-inspired tactics. Although NCTC typically does not report on purely domestic terrorism, one exception is where the TTP are similar to those used by international terrorists and in this case this slide was developed at the request of DHS.

Sources:

<http://www.fbi.gov/houston/press-releases/2014/katy-man-charged-with-multiple-crimes-including-possession-of-explosive-materials>

<http://www.splcenter.org/get-informed/intelligence-report/browse-all-issues/2012/spring/the-year-in-hate-and-extremism>

<http://www.splcenter.org/blog/2014/03/28/fbi-smashes-alleged-radical-right-terror->

[plot-in-texas/](#)

<http://www.splcenter.org/get-informed/intelligence-report/browse-all-issues/2014/fall/Man-Arrested-After-Allegedly-Recruiting>

http://blogs.houstonpress.com/news/2014/10/american_insurgent_movement_leader_pleads_guilty_to_plot_to_overthrow_government_rob_banks_and_blow.php



This slide is meant to convey how easy it is to find material online for any type of violent extremist messages, including white pride, a term used by white supremacist groups.

Legal: This slide was modified to remove USPER PII. The purpose of this slide is to demonstrate that the tactics are the same for online recruitment. Additionally, shows that online recruitment is readily available to the public and communities should be aware of the ease with which individuals can gain access to recruitment efforts. This was also per the request of DHS for domestic terrorism parallel examples of TTP.

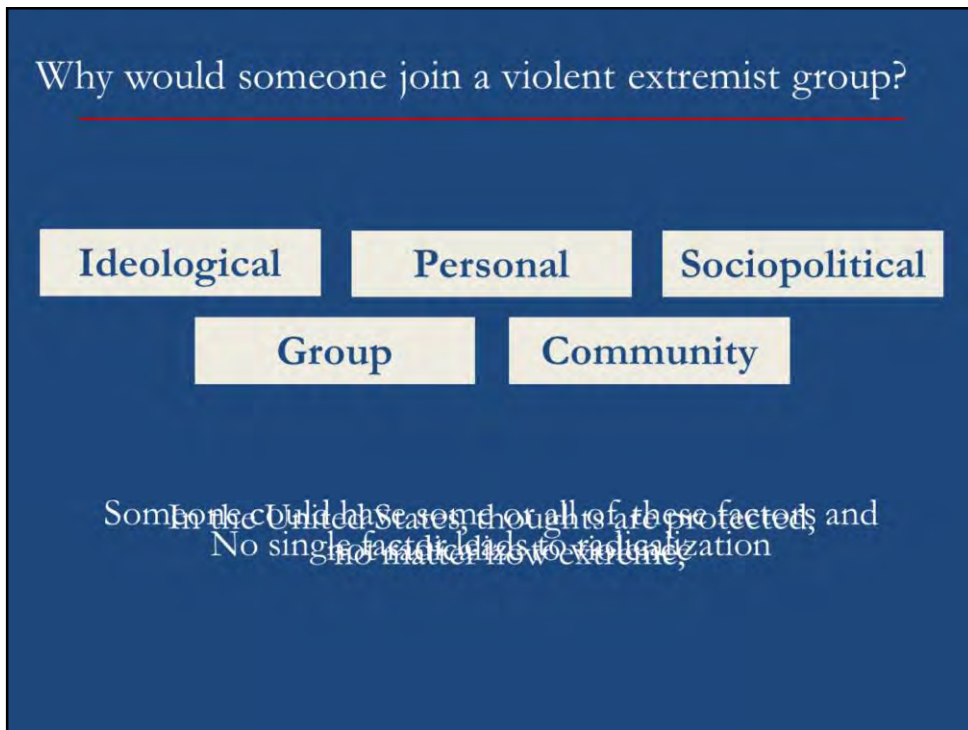
Source:

Open Source Search, "White Pride", YouTube

All Violent Extremist Groups

- Look for vulnerabilities
- Focus on grievances
- Provide a community of interest (in-person or online)
- Promote violent action as solution
- Hold a black and white narrative

This slide is meant to continue the theme about how all forms of violent extremism are similar, but focusing specifically on their tactics of recruitment and how they entice individuals to join their cause.



This slide is meant to inform the audience of the radicalization to violence process.

Source:

NCTC Product, "Radicalization Dynamics: A Primer," June 2012 (UNCLASSIFIED)

Forming the Black and White Narrative

<u>Element</u>	<u>Generic Message</u>	<u>Al-Qa'ida's Version</u>
Decline	My world has gone wrong...	Islam has been brought to ruin and Muslims exploited and oppressed...
Two Camps	... because of the actions of a villain.	... by a global conspiracy against us
Crisis Point	Now is the time...	Now is the time...
Method	... when using violence will prevent total catastrophe for us.	... only violence will work to end their war on against us.
Danger of Contamination	If we let no one dissuade us...	If we do not let anyone dissuade us from our righteous course...
Reward	... we will prevail.	... we will liberate our followers and reestablish a pious society.

This slide outlines the six elements of any violent extremist narrative, and highlights how they apply to Al-Qa'ida's narrative. Also highlighted are ways to weaken the narrative by deconstructing one or more of its elements.

Source:

NCTC Product, "The Structure of Violent Extremist Ideologies" Feb 2012
(UNCLASSIFIED)

Example of the Narrative

For this slide, we show a video to illustrate Al-Qaeda's black and white narrative and how it calls for violent action. The goal is to reinforce the points made in the previous slide by showing an actual example of the narrative and then discussing its key elements. The video is the promotional video for a new English language magazine called "Resurgence" created by Al-Qa'ida, released in March 2014.

Sources:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/al-qaeda/10687163/Al-Qaeda-unveils-new-magazine-aimed-at-Western-jihadis.html>

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/mar/10/al-qaeda-launch-english-language-web-magazine-resu/>

Foreign Fighters: Then

- US citizens or residents traveling to foreign countries to fight, such as Somalia
- Between September 2007 and October 2009, approximately 20 young men left the Minneapolis area to fight for al-Shabaab, an al-Qa'ida affiliated group in Somalia.

In this slide, we introduce the fact that the foreign fighter threat is not something new to the US, but in fact this has happened before – specifically with regards to recruiting for Al-Shabaab in Minnesota. We use storytelling to explore some key case studies to humanize the boys who were tricked into joining Al-Shabaab.

Legal: The purpose of this slide is to demonstrate how these specific individuals have traveled to conflict zones presumable to engage in terror-related activities. In all cases the individuals are either dead or indicted of terror-related charges. This communicates the ramifications of traveling to conflict zones to the audience. DSOP judges that these identities are necessary to understand the information provided. Legal concurs.

Sources:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/al-qaeda/10687163/Al-Qaeda-unveils-new-magazine-aimed-at-Western-jihadis.html>

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/mar/10/al-qaeda-launch-english-language-web-magazine-resu/>

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/mar/10/al-qaeda-launch-english-language-web-magazine-resu/>

DOJ Press Release, Terror Charges Unsealed in Minnesota Against Eight Defendants, Justice Department Announces, November 23, 2009

<http://www.fbi.gov/minneapolis/press-releases/2009/mp112309.htm>

DOJ Press Release, 14 Indicted for Supporting Al-Shabaab, August 5, 2010

<http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2010/august/al-shabaab>

NYtimes, "A Call to Jihad, Answered in America", July 11, 2009 -

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/12/us/12somalis.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

CNN, Family Learned over Internet that Son Killed, July 24, 2010

<http://edition.cnn.com/2009/CRIME/07/24/somalia.americans/>

Foreign Fighters: Then



(b) (6)





In this slide, we talk about foreign fighters now. We bring up the issue of teenagers (under 18) around the world who have left their homes and travelled to Iraq and Syria to join terrorism organizations. We talk about their stories and the realities of what happened once they get there, including how some regret their decisions but are unable to go back home.

Sources:

<http://nypost.com/2014/09/10/gun-wielding-austrian-teens-tried-to-join-ISIL-recruit-others/>

<http://m.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2014/10/the-teenage-fans-of-ISIL/381736/>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/522671/Islamic-State-Samra-Kesinovic-Sabina-Selimovic>

<http://www.ryot.org/photos-samra-kesinovic-sabina-selimovic-ISIL-poster-girls-runaways/807773>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2749939/The-British-jihadi-bride-hell-bent-murder-whining-lost-cat-Terror-twin-tweets-fears-missing-kitten-posting-pictures-holding-AK47.html#ixzz3HSlvpAug>

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/in-depth/terror/australian-teen-abdullah-elmir-is-new-public-face-of-islamic-state/story-fnpdbcmu-1227097275395?nk=cde078974f2bfa3e39a77714d946e1b0>

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/sydney-teen-jihadist-abdullah-elmir-in-second-is-video->

[as-school-parents-share-concerns-20141028-11cpsg.html#ixzz3HS5jpgna](#)
[http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/islamic-state/11179934/Australian-teenager-in-Isil-video-an-idiot-says-family.html](#)
[http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/bankstown-butcher-now-a-killer-in-waiting-jihadist-abdullah-elmir-worked-at-a-butcher-in-bankstown/story-fni0cx12-1227100409185?nk=e7bd28a0c9ad18313a529f3957daedf2](#)
[http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-10-22/abdullah-elmir-friends-defend-sydney-teens-decision-to-join-is/5834172](#)
[http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/bankstown-butcher-now-a-killer-in-waiting-jihadist-abdullah-elmir-worked-at-a-butcher-in-bankstown/story-fni0cx12-1227100409185?nk=e7bd28a0c9ad18313a529f3957daedf2](#)

Example of the ISIL Narrative

In this slide, we present an ISIL propaganda video that has gone viral and that features the Australian teenager from the previous slide, Abdullah Elmir. The intention is to show how ISIL is exploiting Westerners, including youth, for propaganda because they recognize how they will draw media attention.

Source:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-10-21/australian-is-fighter-threatens-tony-abbott-in-video/5830040>

Attempted Travel to Syria/Iraq

- Over 100 US citizens or residents attempted to or traveled to Syria and Iraq
- They come from a range of backgrounds and go for many reasons
- Arrested while attempting to leave the US

In this slide, we shift to focus exclusively on ISIL and how it has become the newest foreign fighter problem. Using case studies of Americans who have or attempted to have traveled abroad, we highlight the similarities and differences between the aforementioned Minneapolis example, and now.

LEGAL: These individuals all traveled to conflict zones and were stopped at the airport. The intent of this slide is to open the aperture of the audience to demonstrate that there is no single profile for an individual who attempts to become a foreign fighter. All of these individuals have been charged with material support to terrorism. Legal requested that the assertion that these individuals are foreign fighters be removed, pending the adjudication of their criminal charges. DSOP agreed, and this slide reflects that agreement. These identities have been deemed necessary to understand the information. For these reasons, Legal clears.

Sources:

NCTC Director Matt Olsen testimony to Congress, FBI Comey public statements, DOJ released material support numbers

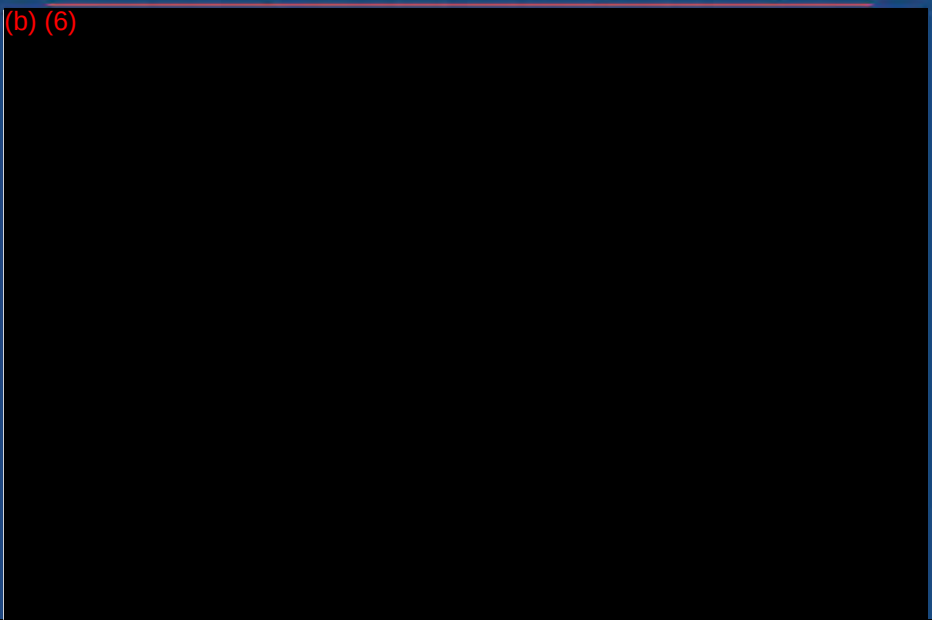
FBI, "FBI Arrests Suburban Chicago Man on Charge of Supporting Terrorism Overseas" <http://www.fbi.gov/chicago/press-releases/2013/fbi-arrests-suburban-chicago-man-on-charge-of-supporting-terrorism-overseas>

FBI, "Individual Charged with Attempt to Provide Material Support to a Foreign Terrorist Organization" <http://www.fbi.gov/charlotte/press-releases/2013/individual->

[charged-with-attempt-to-provide-material-support-to-a-foreign-terrorist-organization](#)
<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/local-news/19-year-old-colorado-woman-shannon-maureen-conley-charged-with-aiding-terrorist-group-fbi-says07022014>,
<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/colo-teen-attempted-syria-jihad-fbi-article-1.1852873#ixzz37fc53Per>
<http://www.myfoxdetroit.com/story/24999980/detroit-area-man-accused-of-supporting-hezbollah>
http://www.justice.gov/usao/cae/news/docs/2014/2014_03/03-17-14Teausant.html
http://www.justice.gov/usao/cae/news/docs/2014/2014_03/Teausant%20Complaint%20.pdf
<http://ftpcontent5.worldnow.com/wncn/pdf/raid.pdf>

Attempted Travel to Syria/Iraq

(b) (6)





In this slide, we focus on why individuals are enticed to travel to Syria/Iraq to fight. We start with the compelling humanitarian crisis in Syria and how it mobilized huge swathes of individuals who wanted to take action to help the aggrieved Syrian population.

Sources:

Devastation of barrel-bombing Aleppo [Reuters]

Zaatari, now Jordan's 4th largest city with approximately 145,000 people, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UN]

Refugees from the Yarmouk Camp, in Syria, waiting in a line to receive essentials [Reuters]

<http://apps.washingtonpost.com/g/page/world/timeline-unrest-in-syria/207/>

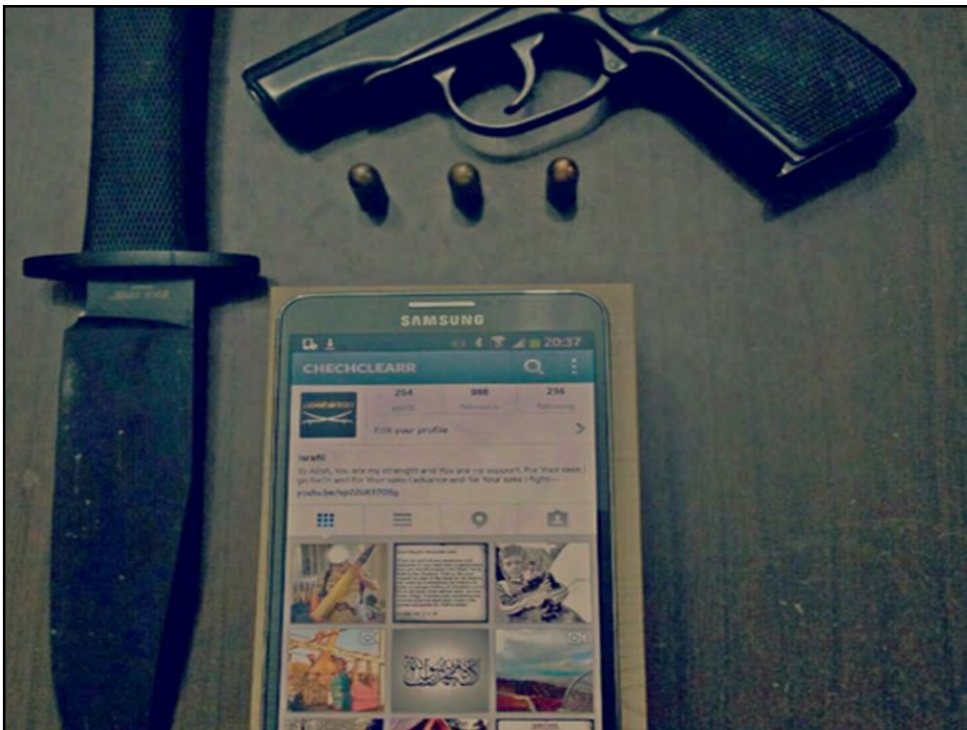
<http://www.cnn.com/2014/01/20/world/syria-torture-photos-amanpour/index.html?sr=tw012014syria2p>



In this slide, we focus on thrill seeking as another main motivation for individuals who go abroad to fight in Syria/Iraq. We show how this is being pushed out through social media, especially through the phenomenon of “selfies” that promote the message of adventure, action, and thrills in Syria/Iraq.

Source:

http://www.vice.com/en_uk/read/syrian-jihadist-selfies-tell-us-a-lot-about-their-war



This slide and the picture it shows are meant to reinforce that terrorist organizations, like ISIL see media as important as actual weapons. During the next couple slides we explore this theme extensively, focusing on the ubiquitous nature of extremist propaganda and information online. We talk about sophisticated strategy and techniques used by these groups to rapidly expand the reach of their messages through common social media sites, messaging groups, common hashtags and other specific techniques of dissemination—taking advantage of young people’s reliance on the Internet for information and socialization. We also discuss how groups use the same means of communication to distribute advice and guidance for travel, bomb recipes, and other operational and tactical details. This demonstrates that the online environment goes beyond rhetoric and into actual facilitation and operational activities. The most important part of this section is to demonstrate how easy it is, through simple searches and common internet practices, to be drawn in to the world of the extremist narrative.

Source:

<http://checkclear.tumblr.com/>

n this slide, we focus on ISIL's specific message and messaging. We highlight the main similarities and differences between the AQ and ISIL narratives/worldviews and use of media. We want to convey why ISIL's specific message and use of social media is more compelling to an even wider breadth of audiences than even Al-Qa'ida was.

Sources:

“What are ISIL's Narratives and how do they diverge from al-Qaeda?” Monitor 360, November 12, 2014. <http://monitor-360.com/blog/what-are-isils-narratives-and-how-do-they-diverge-from-al-qaeda/>
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/defence/11208796/How-social-media-is-helping-Islamic-State-to-spread-its-poison.html>

ISIL's Use of Social Media



- Tailored messaging to Americans in English
- Sophisticated use of Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Kik, Ask.fm, WhatsApp, Tumblr, Flickr, Snapchat



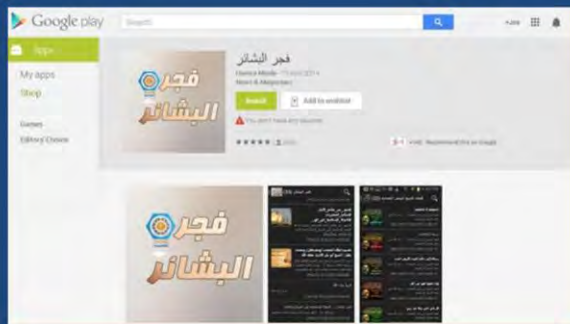


This slide is meant to provide an overview of how ISIL uses social media to propagate their message.

Legal: The intent of this slide is to demonstrate how readily available social media outlets are being used for terrorist purposes. DSOP has deemed these USPERs necessary to understand the information. NCTC Legal concurs.

“Dawn of Glad Tidings” App

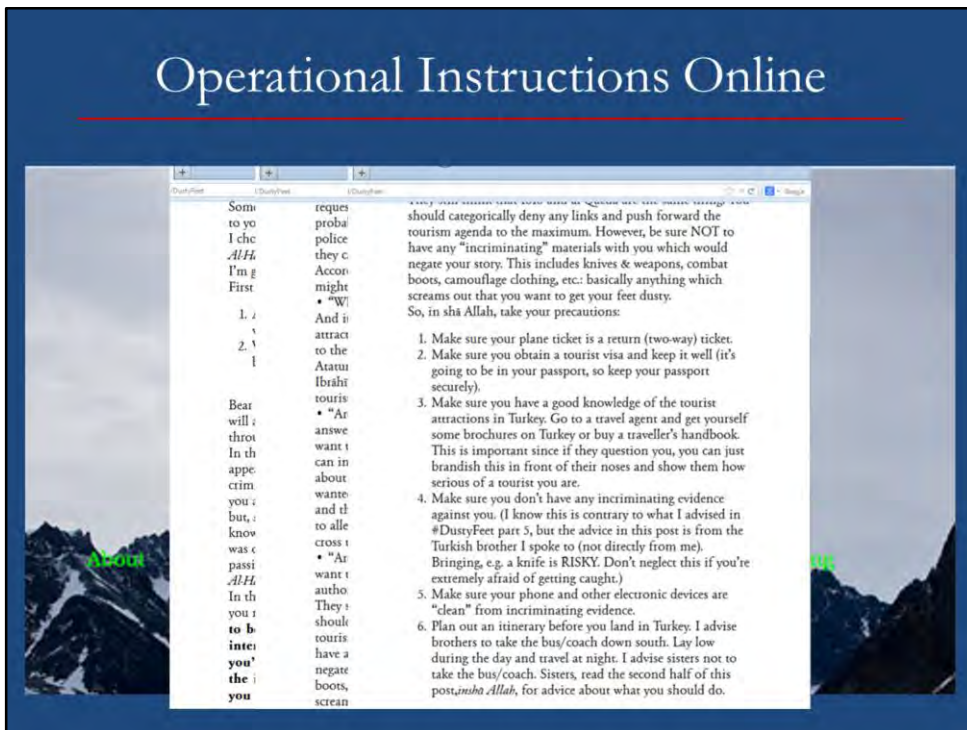
- App allowed ISIL to tweet on others accounts
- 40,000 tweets per day by ISIL
- 72 retweets of every tweet
- 10,000 uses of ISIL hashtag per day by others



This slide is meant to emphasize the innovative way ISIL is using social media to create hype online and build up its image.

Source:

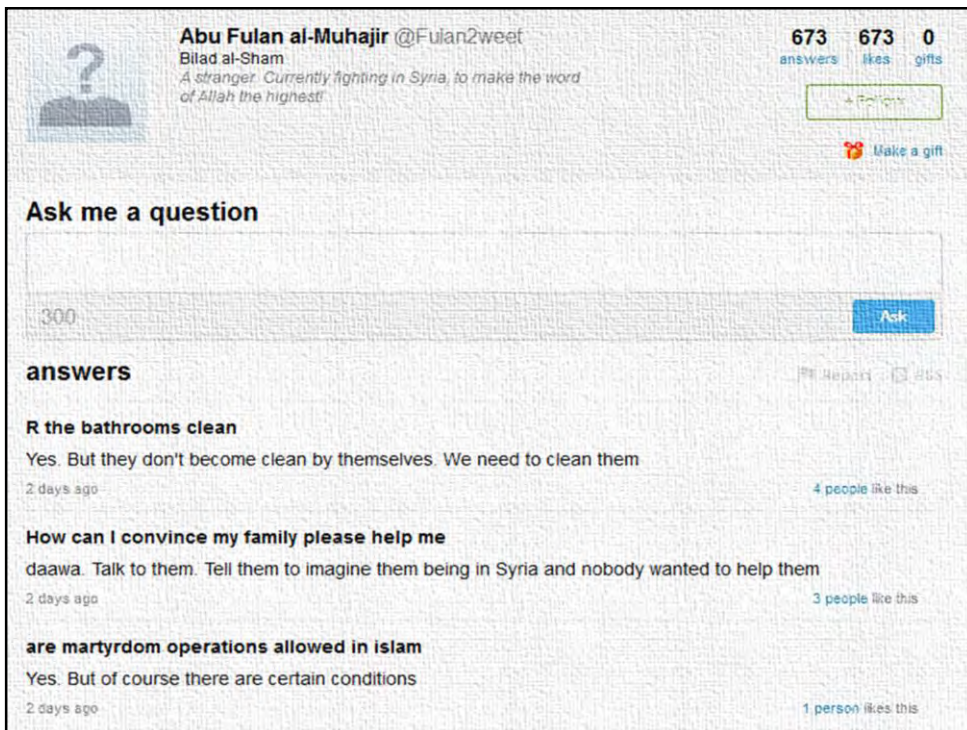
<http://techcrunch.com/2014/10/15/isis-tactics-illustrate-social-medias-new-place-in-modern-war/>



This slide is meant to highlight the ease of getting travel/operational info on how to get to Iraq and Syria. Operational instructions are available online and in English.

Sources:

Soufan Group, <http://soufangroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/TSG-Foreign-Fighters-in-Syria.pdf>
<http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/FBI-Terror-plot-suspect-planned-mosque-attack-to-5367722.php>



this slide is meant to show ease of talking to someone on ground, show ease of getting travel/operational info, from sites such as Ask.fm.

Sources:

"The Facebook jihadis seeking action in Syria," by Ewen MacAskill and Leila Haddou The Guardian, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/apr/15/facebook-jihadis-action-syria-terror>

Guardian article links to the ask.fm site. <http://ask.fm/Fulan2weet>

Moner Mohammad Abusalha

- Grew up in a gated community in Florida
 - *“He was a nice kid ... Everyone got along with him.”*
- Outgoing and funny, loved basketball
 - *“He’d play basketball with any hoop anywhere he could find one.”*



In this slide we discuss Moner Mohammad Abusalha (USPER) who at 22, became the first American to be a suicide bomber in Syria. We discuss the progression from adolescent angst, identity issues, and loss of his previous social network to his exposure to extremist propaganda, talk about Syria, and eventual travel and death as a suicide bomber.

Legal: This USPER is deceased. No objection to including.

Sources:

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/04/us/friends-of-moner-mohammad-abusalha-saw-no-indications.html?_r=0

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/01/us/Moner-Mohammad-Abusalha-Vero-Beach-Florida-Syria.html>

Moner's Last Words

In this slide we show clips from Moner's video to highlight, using his own words, why he went to Syria to join ISIL. The intention is to emphasize how normal he seems – he talks about his time back in Florida and living in the suburbs and his love for his mom – to humanize him.

Source:

<http://www.nytimes.com/video/world/middleeast/100000003029549/video-of-us-bomber-moner-mohammad-abusalha-in-syria.html>

How does this happen?



We explore Moner's case even further by focusing on three main points: (1) first, that Moner's situation and development as a young person made him exploitable by unscrupulous recruiters; (2) second, we emphasize that there were several points along his path from confused teen to suicide bomber where he could have been diverted from the process; (3) lastly, we point out how ISIL exploited him and used his short life and death as a propaganda tool to recruit more youth.

Source:

<http://www.nytimes.com/video/world/middleeast/100000003029549/video-of-us-bomber-moner-mohammad-abusalha-in-syria.html>

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/04/us/friends-of-moner-mohammad-abusalha-saw-no-indications.html?_r=0 <http://www.businessinsider.com/an-american-suicide-bomber-describes-his-journey-to-syria-2014-8>

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/american-suicide-bomber-in-syria-raises-fears-for-us/2014/06/02/30a6ab8a-ea82-11e3-93d2-edd4be1f5d9e_story.html

<http://www.businessinsider.com/heres-what-made-4-americans-become-jihadists-2014-9>

Community Responses

Minnesota's Somali community acts to counter ISIL recruiters

Program developed with Justice Department aims to encourage vulnerable teens to stay in school and reject extremism

December 3, 2014 11:45AM ET | Updated 8:06PM ET

by [Hilary Brueck](#) - [@Hilarx](#)

Somali community leaders in Minneapolis are working with U.S. authorities to develop a program inspired by gang-prevention methods to steer disaffected youths away from extremist groups overseas.

The program — a mix of mentorship, psychological care and after-school programs — has been developed to give more opportunities to mostly young Somali-American men in Minnesota, home to the largest population of Somalis in the United States.

This slide highlights how certain communities around the country are mobilizing to create community-based intervention programs. This example of Minnesota is meant to encourage and inspire the audience to start thinking about how they could do something similar in their own neighborhood.

What can you do?

- **Stay safe online**
 - Know who your kids are talking to online and what sites they are visiting
- **Have open communication**
 - Talk with your kids about what is happening in the world
- **Look for behavior changes**
 - Have a conversation with your loved ones; find out what might be triggering their changes

To conclude our presentation, we remind the group that they have an important role to play in prevention. We list some recommendations, and also try to get the audience to offer potential solutions or discuss their thought on how to address the problem.