

DHS's Countering Violent Extremism and Active Shooter (CVE-AS) Mission

THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) VISION

The vision of homeland security is to ensure a homeland that is safe, secure, and resilient against terrorism and other hazards. Three key concepts form the foundation of our national homeland security strategy designed to achieve this vision:

-  Security
-  Resilience
-  Customs and Exchange

DHS's VIOLENT EXTREMISM PREVENTION AND ACTIVE SHOOTER MISSION:

The threat posed by violent extremism is neither constrained by international borders nor limited to any single ideology. Additionally, the trends of Active Shooter individuals have grown more complex with numerous motivating factors. Groups and individuals inspired by a range of personal, religious, political, or other ideological beliefs have promoted and used violence. Accordingly, DHS has designed a Countering Violent Extremism and Active Shooter (CVE-AS) approach that applies to all forms of violent extremism, regardless of ideology; which focuses not on radical thought or speech, but instead on preventing violent attacks. Increasingly sophisticated use of the internet, mainstream and social media, and information technology by violent extremists and active shooters adds an additional layer of complexity.

To counter violent extremism and prevent active shooter incidents, the Department is working with a broad range of government and civilian partners to gain a better understanding of the behaviors, tactics, and other indicators that could point to potential violent and/or terrorist activity; and the best ways to mitigate or prevent that activity. Supporting communities and local law enforcement through collaboration, information sharing, and outreach efforts (e.g. 'See Something, Say Something'TM and 'Run, Hide, Fight') is imperative to bringing awareness to the public and accurate, appropriate, and relevant information to our federal, state and local partners. This approach supports our stakeholders to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from threats or incidents.

Our approach to CVE and AS emphasizes the strength of local communities. DHS aims to enhance incident preparedness through a "whole community" approach by providing training, products, and resources to a broad range of stakeholders on issues such as active shooter awareness and violent extremism. We begin with the premise that well-informed and -equipped families, communities, and local institutions represent the best defense against violent and terrorist ideologies. And while our primary purpose is to prevent an active shooter incident or a terrorist and violent extremist attack by an individual or group recruited by violent extremist organization or inspired by a violent extremist ideology, we also support strong and resilient communities as important ends themselves.

CVE-AS MISSION PRIORITIES:

The Department's efforts are categorized into three broad objectives, listed below:

- ✚ Understanding Violent Extremism - Support and coordinate efforts to better understand the phenomenon of individual and group violent extremism, including assessing the threat it poses to the nation as a whole within specific communities;
- ✚ Support Local Communities - Bolster efforts to catalyze, prepare, and support non-governmental, community-based programs, and strengthen relationships with communities that may experience an active shooter event or be targeted for recruitment by violent extremists; and
- ✚ Support Local Law Enforcement – Disrupt and deter recruitment or individual mobilization through support for local law enforcement programs, including information-driven, community-oriented policing efforts that for decades have proven effective in preventing violent crime.

HSIN CVE-AS Web Portal:

One of the venues utilized by DHS to promote information and intelligence sharing on a broad range of topics is the joint DHS and FBI Countering Violent Extremism and Active Shooter (CVE-AS) web portal on DHS's Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN). The new CVE-AS portal provides a more user-friendly environment to promote information sharing and collaboration between Federal, State, Local, Private, civilian, and International entities working to counter the threat of violent extremists and help prevent active shooter incidents.

The portal provides a well-organized listing of topics so users can quickly locate and access the information relevant to their interests. The Portal provides videos and training resources as well as a document library with intelligence, federal, academia, and other resources covering numerous CVE and AS topics. It provides a forum for the exchange of Unclassified For Official Use Only (FOUO), Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU) and Law Enforcement Sensitive (LES) information to sworn, full-time, Federal, State and Local law enforcement officers; federal employees affiliated with the criminal justice system or intelligence communities; military personnel and government agencies associated with infrastructure protection of the United States. The CVE-AS web portal also shares Unclassified FOUO and SBU information with private sector partners, civilian security personnel, corporate executives, educational institutions/academia, international federal and Law Enforcement partners, community leaders and other State and Local partners, as appropriate. In addition, the portal includes information on outreach initiatives, subject matter experts and forums to provide feedback, share products and ask questions.

To implement this approach, we are working closely with our federal and international partners, as well as our many partners at the community, state, local, and tribal level across the country. We are an important partner in supporting the *National Strategy on Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism* and the *Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) for Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States* which President Obama released in 2011 and the *Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007*.

For more information on the CVE-AS mission and who can obtain access to the portal, visit www.dhs.gov/cveas-portal.
