

DOJ CVE Leadership Forum

Monday, May 5, 2014, 8:00am – 5:30pm EST
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW DC

LOGISTICS:

YOU will attend the third meeting of the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Leadership Forum. While the previous two were held by NCTC, this forum will be held by the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of the Deputy Attorney General in coordination with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ).

BACKGROUND:

Event Description:

According to DOJ, this forum will “focus on the development of a comprehensive community-level model for preventing violent extremism.” Along these lines, the event will consist of two separate yet related lines of discussion. The morning will showcase exemplar community-level programs (including building effective CVE interventions) in an attempt to define a CVE model, including both community-level CVE efforts in the United States and also foreign examples and potentially analogous models such as anti-violence and anti-gang initiatives. The afternoon session will then shift to a more focused discussion of what a comprehensive CVE model might entail. The discussion will include the development of goals for the model and what program metrics are required to measure progress towards these goals.

Summary of Previous Leadership Forum

In January 2014, NCTC hosted their second CVE Leadership Forum. Subject matter experts from DHS, DOJ, NCTC, FBI, HHS, DOE, NSS, communities, and faith-leaders attended the discussion. The participation was limited, and the meeting focused on the issue of counter narratives and what USG could do to support community based efforts. The main presentation focused on changing perceptions on how communities are viewed with the use of optimized terminology and narratives (CRCL hosted the same presentation last year). From there participants discussed the importance of having the proper messengers, the importance of community based and driven efforts, and how USG could best support local efforts by using its power to convene, connect, and amplify. The question was asked if more research was needed to examine how to develop counter narratives and how best to deliver them. The initial conclusion was that USG needs to be clear on how they frame the issue when engaging (i.e. how CVE and preventing complex mass casualty attack efforts share commonalities and how that should be communicated and integrated), and that communities have the ability and best “on the ground” knowledge to develop their own prevention and intervention approaches. There may be follow up on approach foundations again, exploring funding opportunities that can be made available to communities and law enforcement, and learning further from successful models such as the one that has been developed in Montgomery County, MD.

Issues to Consider:

This leadership forum is strategically framed around recent IPC efforts and deliverables. As you know, the interagency is now determining how it can best support locally based CVE efforts in Boston, Minneapolis/St. Paul, and Los Angeles; the goal is to facilitate the establishment and support of locally owned and driven prevention and intervention frameworks in these areas among federal, state, and local partners. DOJ is utilizing this forum as a mechanism to further these broader IPC efforts in the three cities and determine the efficacy of previous intervention efforts and models and their respective applicability for the three cities.

Discussion Points:

- Following Kansas, Fort Hood, Boston, Newtown, Aurora and Navy Yard, DHS has learned that preventing an attack - whether it is ideologically motivated or not - depends on strong partnerships at the local level between law enforcement and the communities they serve.
- DHS and its interagency partners must work together to be better able to identify potential threats, assess the risk posed by that threat - then apply the correct intervention strategy to mitigate the threat.
- That mitigation or intervention strategy may be a law enforcement action or it may be actions taken by a mental health professional, a faith or community leader, an educator, or even a family member.
- DHS provides training and other support to encourage these vital community partnerships so that they are better able to address violent extremism within the broader context of community efforts to prevent violence within those communities. These activities include:
 - Direct engagement with national and local religious and community leaders on countering violent extremism and preventing mass casualty attacks;
 - 2,037 community engagement events led by DHS and the FBI over the last year addressing mass-casualty attack prevention and response, including 96 school district security outreach briefings;
 - Community Resilience Exercises (CREX) by DHS-CRCL and NCTC in Washington, DC, Chicago, Raleigh and Seattle to develop trust between communities and law enforcement in order to prevent violent extremism. (Further exercises are planned for Boston and Columbus);
 - FEMA-sponsorship for countering violent extremism training focused on community oriented policing practices and community partnerships with law enforcement; and
 - Research and analysis to improve state and local law enforcement officials' threat detection activities, including DHS-I&A products analyzing mass casualty attacks, S&T-sponsored research on lone wolf attacks, recent research on third-party reporting, and additional resources posted to the joint DHS-FBI CVE Training Resources and Active Shooter Webportal.

Additional Principals Confirmed to Attend:

Amy Pope

Deputy Attorney General Cole

ATTACHMENTS:

- I. CVE Leadership Forum Agenda
- II. CVE Leadership Forum Objectives and Details
- III. CVE Leadership Forum Attendee List

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**Domestic Radicalization Research Program Status Update
NIJ Office of Justice Programs - 810 Seventh Street NW
June 2nd, 2014 (9:30AM-10:30AM)**

Overview:

- On June 2nd, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) will host a program status meeting for research on domestic radicalization to violent extremism. The program status meeting brings together the 14 research teams that comprise NIJ's program to present interim findings and discuss next steps. The audience will include not just the research teams but practitioners and community partners from the U.S. and abroad. All told, some 100 people are expected to attend the meeting.
- After brief opening remarks, you will participate in an hour long panel discussion (titled "Discussion of Federal Efforts to Counter Violent Extremism") highlighting the close interagency coordination that is driving the formation of CVE programs in the United States since the December 2011 release of the *Strategic Implementation Plan*.
- The other panelists include Greg Ehrie (FBI), Austin Branch (NCTC), and Brette Steele (DOJ); the panel will be moderated by John Picarelli (NIJ).
- The moderator will open by giving each panelist a few minutes to introduce themselves and their background on CVE. He will then plan to move into questions listed below (and will give 2 minute responses to the questions), and will ask panelist to lead off on one of the questions.

Proposed Questions

- How do you view your agency's role in countering violent extremism today, and how has it evolved since we issued the national strategy in the Fall of 2011?
 - We have come to understand that communities are better able to address violent extremism within the broader context of community efforts to prevent violence. These efforts are also being leveraged to work with communities to mitigate the threat of individuals traveling to fight in Syria.
 - While policy based discussions on CVE need to continue, the conversation has matured to one that is operationally focused. Much of the progress that has been made on CVE has been due to working directly with practitioners in the field at an operational level - whether it is with law enforcement, analysts, community practitioners, faith-leaders, researchers or others who are active at the local level with hands-on experience.
- On that note, can you discuss not just some of the successes your agency has experienced in the past two and a half years, but also what challenges you have faced during that time as well?
 - Much progress has been made on CVE, including training development and workshops for law enforcement, joint case study development with international law enforcement organizations such as EUROPOL, the development of the joint DHS-FBI CVE Training Resources and Active Shooter Webportal, domestic and international analytic exchanges on violent extremism, research efforts and the development of open source reports and databases, and enhanced engagement efforts with communities. However, a consistent challenge remains integrating these efforts at the local level.

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- What role does research and evaluation play in the development of programs and policy at your agency? And can you speak to how research and other analysis are integrated across your agencies?
 - Research informs policy and programs throughout DHS, including those related to CVE.
 - Stevan Weine's research on Building Resilience to Violent Extremism among Somali-Americans in Minneapolis-St. Paul documented the numerous protective resources available within communities related to countering violent extremism and helped to identify what we can do to help strengthen these resources.
 - Focus groups conducted with law enforcement and fusion center personnel throughout the United States highlighted their CVE training and information needs and informed the development of our ongoing efforts to ensure that these needs are met.
 - At DHS both research and analysis are viewed as essential and complementary in understanding the threat posed by violent extremism. For example, while intelligence analysis provides a real-time operating picture, research can provide historical understanding and may reveal trends or other relationships among data. The evidence of the complementary nature of these functions can be found in the close relationship between the DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis, the DHS Science & Technology Directorate, and the researchers at the START Center, led by Gary LaFree.
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- Last, what milestones do you see at your agency in the coming year, and how might research help you reach these goals?
 - We view research as key component of our efforts to counter violent extremism and will continue to draw on the findings from the many projects conducted by the START Center, as well as John Horgan's groundbreaking research on disengagement from terrorism.
 - In addition, several of the researchers in this room have been involved in creating databases such as the Global Terrorism Database, the American Terrorism Study, and the new Terrorism and Extremist Violence in the U.S. (TEVUS) Database, which will be completed in the coming year. These resources form a solid foundation for future CVE research and practice.
 - We look forward to these projects and to benefiting from the rest of the important research projects funded by NIJ as they continue to advance our knowledge about the threat we face and how to counter it.

Discussion Points:

- Following the attacks in Kansas, Fort Hood, Boston, Newtown, Aurora and Navy Yard, DHS has learned that preventing an attack - whether it is ideologically motivated or not - depends on strong partnerships at the local level between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

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- With the maturation of our efforts and continued dialogue, it has become evident that the efforts and best practices that we have applied to CVE may also be applicable to preventing complex mass casualty attacks.
- DHS and its partners must work together to be better able to identify potential threats, assess the risks posed by these threats - then apply the correct intervention strategy to mitigate these threats.
- Mitigation or intervention strategies may involve law enforcement actions or actions taken by mental health professionals, faith or community leaders, an educators, or even family members.
- DHS, the FBI, and others have conducted analysis, outreach and training for communities and law enforcement related to countering violent extremism.
- DHS CVE efforts continue to be critical as we address the emerging issue of foreign fighters who travel to foreign conflict zones, such as in Somalia, and Syria.
- DHS works with a broad range of partners to gain a better understanding of the behaviors, tactics, and other indicators that could point to violent extremism, and ways to mitigate or prevent that activity.
- Local law enforcement authorities and community members are best able to identify individuals or groups exhibiting suspicious or dangerous behaviors – and intervene – before they commit an act of violence.
- The Department builds on community-based activities to strengthen resilience in communities targeted by violent extremist recruitment.

DHS Recent Efforts:

- DHS provides training and other support so that communities are better able to address violent extremism within the broader context of their efforts to prevent violence more generally. These activities include:
 - Direct engagement with national and local religious and community leaders on countering violent extremism and preventing mass casualty attacks;
 - Over 2,000 community engagement events led by DHS and the FBI over the last year addressing mass-casualty attack prevention and response, including 96 school district security outreach briefings;
 - Community Resilience Exercises (CREX) by DHS-CRCL and NCTC in Washington, DC, Chicago, Raleigh and Seattle to develop trust between communities and law enforcement in order to prevent violent extremism. (Further exercises are planned for Boston, Columbus, New York, and Los Angeles on August 16th);
 - CRCL training on the religious and cultural practices within Sikh, Arab, and Muslim cultures as well as understanding constitutionally protected activity for fusion center personnel;
 - CRCL has held more than 70 community engagement events over the past few years, and has trained over 5,000 State and Local Law Enforcement and fusion center personnel on cultural awareness and how to best engage with communities through over 75 training events and national law enforcement conferences.
 - CRCL is conducting enhanced engagement events throughout the U.S. focusing on non-traditional partners, grassroots community leaders, and faith leaders to ensure that under-represented communities play a role in empowering communities to counter violent extremism.

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- CRCL's enhanced engagement initiative with key leaders and officials of Syrian-American organizations around the country who have become strong partners.
 - DHS's Syrian outreach plan was created and implemented to identify concrete short-term and long-term initiatives aimed at expanding Syria-specific engagement with communities demonstrating, or likely to have, strong equities in a variety of topics surrounding the conflict in Syria, or the region writ large.
- FEMA-sponsorship for countering violent extremism training focused on community oriented policing practices and community partnerships with law enforcement (in the form of a recent \$700K FEMA grant awarded to the International Association of Chiefs of Police to develop CVE training for executive and front line law enforcement officers); and
- Research and analysis to improve state and local law enforcement officials' threat assessment and prevention activities, including DHS I&A products analyzing mass casualty attacks, recent S&T-sponsored research including studies on lone-actor attacks and the U.S. public's attitudes toward terrorism and counterterrorism activities, and additional resources posted to the joint DHS-FBI CVE Training Resources and Active Shooter Webportal.
- FLETC, in coordination with DOJ's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services and the University of Maryland, has begun the planning phase to conduct a national summit in late FY 2014 focused on intervention approaches to countering violent extremism.