




# Homeland Security

## DECISION

### MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNDER SECRETARY

JUN 25 2015

THROUGH: Caitlin Durkovich  
Assistant Secretary 

FROM: Bob Kolasky  
Deputy Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: **Options for Enhanced Faith Based Security Following Incident in Charleston, SC**

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**Purpose:** The purpose of this memo is to provide options for enhancing IP's efforts to counter the threat of violent extremism and promote security and resilience of faith-based organizations following the shooting at the AME church in Charleston, SC on June 17<sup>th</sup> and to get a decision as to whether IP should commence campaign planning to address faith-based organization concerns following the incident.

**Background:** In partnership with other organizations across the Department and interagency, the National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD), Office of Infrastructure Protection (IP) engages faith-based communities as part of our continued effort to mitigate risk and build resilience in communities across the nation.

Building on one of DHS's central themes, "homeland security begins with hometown security," IP has a long history of strengthening the Department's relationships with state and local law enforcement, government officials, community groups, academic institutions, philanthropists, and the private sector to mitigate risks to the homeland and critical infrastructure emanating from violent extremist groups, especially those targeting faith-based institutions.

#### *Audience for Engagement*

IP's strategic engagement related to violent extremism is intended for two specific audiences:

- 1) Organizations that are targets of violent extremists, which includes faith-based organizations (FBO) that may be targeted because of their beliefs and creeds. This is accomplished both by working with non-governmental organizations that represent different FBO stakeholder groups, as well as directly with community- and grassroots-level partners to provide security and planning support.
- 2) Communities where some members may be at-risk of being radicalized to violence by targeted extremist recruitment efforts. This is accomplished by strategic government support to community-led efforts related to amplifying credible counter-messages and promoting whole-of-society alternatives to violence. These efforts are largely focused in communities where there is a risk of global-terrorist groups inspiring violent extremism, while still taking into account of other sources of extremism such as anti-government ideology. The strategic engagement model was specifically developed to allow for tailoring to meet the needs of communities at risk of violent extremism no matter the source.

**Discussion:** IP capitalizes on the strength of our current strategic engagement model, the skills of our subject matter experts, and the authorities provided in the National Infrastructure Protection Plan to meet the homeland security challenge of countering extremist violence against faith-based communities.

The recent, tragic event of violent extremism in Charleston, SC reminds communities that although progress has been made, there remains work to be done. Provided is a summary of capabilities and activities IP could bring to faith-based communities and the facilities they serve to protect.

- Convener
  - Engage DHS partners and applicable sector councils/national organizations to identify key stakeholders that could assist with engaging communities where the risk of extremist violence against faith-based organizations and minority groups is high.
  - Formulate option for workshops targeted at dissuading young people from joining white supremacy groups.
- Training and Exercises
  - Leverage the Sector-Specific Tabletop Exercise Program to conduct a multi-faith exercise with national- and local-level religious organizations. This would be via identifying location(s), and using Protective Security Advisers and other points of contact in the community(s) to determine the needs and desires of the

stakeholders, and what support we can provide. We would then collaboratively determine exercise scope, goals, objectives and scenario.

- Protective Security
  - Prioritize conducting security assessments on a more diverse set of faith-based facilities from which to update and tailor the Infrastructure Protection Report Series for Religious Facilities with more specific threat analysis, common vulnerabilities, and protective measures.
  - Produce a widely-available 2015 Religions Facilities Protective Measures Analysis Report.
- Information Sharing
  - Develop webinar security training, and leverage interagency partners to communicate availability and access.
  - Complement webinar with regional threat, security and resilience briefs, and expand to include specific Federal, state, and local non-governmental organizations (NGO) resource and grant information sharing opportunities and training.

**Funding:** IP contemplates using existing, IP-managed funds to support these proposed efforts. Use of any external funding streams (e.g., NCTC funds) will require further coordination.

**Decision:** For a period of 90 days, IP should redirect existing assessment, partnership and capacity building resources to focus on increased engagement with the faith-based community. The effort should be targeted toward different “at risk” communities, including those with similar attributes to the events of Charleston.

Yes/date Anyana E. Isaac 7/20/15 No/date \_\_\_\_\_  
Modify/date \_\_\_\_\_ Needs discussion/date \_\_\_\_\_

Attachment – Current IP Efforts in Strategic Engagement with Faith-Based Organizations and to Counter Violent Extremism



## **Current IP Efforts in Strategic Engagement with Faith-Based Organizations and to Counter Violent Extremism**

Prevention strategies that share the mission of building resilient communities is a key objective of IP's Strategic Engagement program. Provided are examples of IP program initiatives, driven by local communities, made possible by government partnership, and tailored to address specific community needs.

- Training and Exercises
  - Develop and implement cross-sector and regionally-focused exercises with stakeholders across the homeland security enterprise
  - Conduct Community Resilience Exercises (CREX) across faith-based organizations
  - Provide and/or conduct a range of training resources to communities by the U.S. Government and State and local communities for faith-based organizations
- Convener
  - Partner with state and local law enforcement and public officials to host town halls at faith-based organizations/NGOs on issues of concern to communities
  - Assist faith-based organizations in convening meetings which would otherwise prove to be challenging with stakeholders including local law enforcement, government officials, private sector, foundations, etc.
  - Ensure youth, young adults, and future faith leaders remain engaged and aware of the Department mission and resources by coordinating and participating in career fairs, youth roundtables, and other outreach in support of this shared effort
  - Engage with media and social media companies to discuss how to amplify credible voices against violent extremism and mitigate the impact of extremist voices online and in the press
- Protective Security
  - Conduct threat-based outreach and security seminars for faith-based organizations to ensure awareness and understanding of assistance available
  - Perform Security and Resilience Assessment, Rapid Survey Tool (RST) collection and protective measures support to help reduce vulnerabilities to houses of worship and religious facilities
  - Publish and disseminate faith-based protective measures, planning and guidance documents based on current trends and analysis, as well as common vulnerability and potential indicator information collected during security assessments
- Information Sharing
  - Presentations and guest lectures at faith-based schools and seminaries to ensure institutions are aware of Department mission and resources
  - Conduct Community Awareness Briefings an established capability across the U.S. Government for raising awareness and offering solutions on building resilience against the threat of violent extremism
  - Work with Federal, State, and local partners, including FEMA, to conduct NGO grant educational workshops and provide information on applying for NGO-based grants and 501(c)(3) status