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[Return to NATSEC Portal](#)**NATSEC NEWS****(U) Building Community Partnerships to Counter Violent Extremism**

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(U) This morning, National Security Branch Executive Assistant Director (EAD) John Giacalone delivered opening remarks at a summit focused on developing community-based strategies to prevent targeted violence and mass casualty attacks. The FBI's Countering Violent Extremism Office (CVEO), which develops and coordinates CVE activities for the FBI, is co-sponsoring the event with Rutgers University, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Bipartisan Policy Center.

(U) In his remarks, EAD Giacalone emphasized how the FBI is building community partnerships to counter violent extremism. Extremists use the internet and social media to promote their violent propaganda, reach a wider audience, and radicalize people. This strategy means that law enforcement, communities, and families are the nation's first line of defense against extremist organizations promoting violence. "To succeed in countering violent extremism, it is essential that we partner with one another and share information," EAD Giacalone said.



(U) The extremist threat presents unique challenges, because extremists do not share a typical profile, and may be self-radicalized and self-trained. A willingness to act alone makes them difficult to identify, and stop. EAD Giacalone told participants that to address this challenge, the FBI's CVE mission is built on four pillars: partnerships, engagement, prevention, and intervention. This approach seeks to identify threats by those who are planning, or engaged in, efforts to carry out attacks on the nation. In this manner, the FBI disseminates information, intelligence, and awareness on emerging threats via engagement with community partners.

(U) Approximately 150 participants representing law enforcement, academia, and CVE practitioners are attending the conference, which ends tomorrow. For additional information about specific topics and presenters, please refer to the [summit agenda](#).

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