

From: [DHS.IGA](#)
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Subject: CABINET IN YOUR COMMUNITY: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Date: Thursday, January 14, 2016 10:31:13 AM
Attachments: [DHS+Fact+Sheet.pdf](#)



Press Office

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Press Release

Jan. 13, 2016

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STATE OF THE UNION: CABINET IN YOUR COMMUNITY DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

In the days immediately following the State of the Union, Cabinet officials are embarking on the “State of the Union: Cabinet In Your Community” road tour to engage Americans in small towns, big cities and Indian country about the advancements the Administration has made on the most important issues facing the American people, as well as the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. The President made clear in his State of the Union address that the true test is not the challenges we face, but how we approach those challenges. That’s why he and his Cabinet will not let up in this final stretch and continue driving toward solutions that will move this country forward for generations to come, while highlighting the progress that has been made over the past seven years.

Over the last decade, we have become a stronger, safer, and more secure nation. The Department of Homeland Security continues to make our nation and communities more resilient, not only to terrorist and violent extremist attacks, but also to threats and disasters of all kinds, while safeguarding the fundamental rights of all Americans.

On Wednesday, January 13, Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh C. Johnson traveled to Michigan to emphasize the Department’s ongoing commitment to engaging with local communities to keep our nation safe and secure. In Detroit, Secretary Johnson hosted a roundtable meeting with Iraqi and Syrian refugees who have been recently resettled in the Detroit metropolitan area, as well as locally based community organizations that are assisting these and other refugees to resettle and integrate into our communities. In Dearborn, Secretary Johnson hosted a roundtable meeting with interfaith student groups to encourage them to help

the Department counter violent extremism and delivered remarks to students at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

- The new phase of the global terrorist threat dictates a new approach to counterterrorism and homeland security, which must include outreach to communities across the United States. In the wake of recent events, now more than ever is the time to work together, to protect and defend our communities, our families, and our homeland.
- The Department's approach to countering violent extremism emphasizes the strength of local communities. We begin with the premise that well-informed and -equipped families, communities, and local institutions represent the best defense against terrorist ideologies. And while our primary purpose is to prevent an attack by an individual or group recruited by a violent extremist organization, or inspired by an extremist ideology, we also support strong and resilient communities as important ends themselves.
- In September 2015, Secretary Johnson established the Office of Community Partnerships to build upon the Department's existing work to counter violent extremism. Since its inception, it has been working to build relationships and promote trust with communities across the country, and to find innovative ways to support those who seek to discourage violent extremism and undercut terrorist narratives.
- We continue to engage local communities and local law enforcement in order to counter violent extremism. Secretary Johnson is personally committed to this, and over the past year has traveled to Boston, Chicago, Columbus, Houston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New York City, northern Virginia and suburban Maryland to meet with community leaders as part of the Department's efforts to engage with local communities, hear many strongly-held views, generate conversations, and build bridges.
- The Department's Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties is integral in our efforts, as civil rights and civil liberties are invariably part of the discussion when this Department engages communities. Our Community Engagement Section responds to community concerns and provides information on Department programs, activities, and issues. Working in coordinating with the Office of Community Partnership, the Department's Civil Rights and Civil Liberties office holds Community Engagement Roundtables, Town Hall Meetings, and Youth Forums across the country to communicate reliable information, obtain feedback and community concerns, and to deepen communication channels between communities and the government in order to facilitate the solution of problems.

Overall, this work builds on the Department's achievements under the leadership of President Obama. See more on those achievements:

- [DHS Fact Sheet.pdf](#)

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FACT SHEET

Over the last decade, we have become a stronger, safer, and more secure nation. The Department of Homeland Security continues to make the United States more resilient, not only to terrorist and violent extremist attacks, but also to threats and disasters of all kinds, while safeguarding the fundamental rights of all Americans.

Below are some of the Department's significant achievements under the leadership of President Obama:

Counterterrorism

- *NTAS improvements*
 - In order to enable DHS to more effectively and quickly communicate information to the public and other partners regarding threats to the homeland in the evolving threat environment, and following discussions with homeland security stakeholders, on December 16, 2015, Secretary Jeh Johnson directed an update to the National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) to add a new form of advisory – the NTAS “Bulletin” – to the existing NTAS “Alerts.”
- *Strengthen the Visa Waiver Program*
 - In 2014, Secretary Johnson took steps to enhance the security of the Visa Waiver Program (VWP), by requiring additional personal information for the ESTA application. In 2015, Secretary Johnson announced additional security measures. Under the VWP, we are now seeking from participating countries the implementation of information sharing agreements, mandatory use of E-Passports, and a request for use of more Federal Air Marshals.
 - This year, we are implementing the Visa Waiver Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015, which was signed into law by President Obama on December 18, 2015 as part of the Omnibus bill. This bill places new restrictions on eligibility for travel under the Visa Waiver Program.

Aviation Security

- *Trusted traveler programs, including TSA Pre✓[®] and Global Entry*
 - The TSA Pre✓[®] application program has enrolled over 2 million travelers since its inception in December 2013, including more than 1 million in 2015 alone. In addition to these enrollments, CBP trusted travelers — those enrolled in other trusted traveler programs such as Global Entry, NEXUS and SENTRI — are also automatically eligible for TSA Pre✓[®].
- *Preclearance*

- Preclearance allows CBP to screen passengers bound for the U.S. before they arrive on U.S. soil. So far, we've established preclearance capability at 15 airports worldwide, and it has proven very effective. In 2015, Secretary Johnson announced 10 additional preclearance candidate airports in nine countries, and DHS's goal is to expand to several of them by the end of the Administration.
- *Enhanced security at foreign airports with flights directed to the U.S.*
 - In 2014, TSA directed additional security measures at airports overseas with direct flights to the United States. Those enhancements have been adopted as their own by many of the countries in which these airports exist. In response to the crash of Metrojet Flight 9268 on the Sinai Peninsula, and to enhance aviation security, TSA instituted a series of additional, precautionary security enhancements with respect to commercial passenger and cargo flights bound for the United States from foreign airports in the region.

Cybersecurity

- *Tangible Improvements to Cybersecurity*
 - DHS provides a common baseline of cybersecurity across the civilian Federal Government primarily through two programs. The first of these programs, called EINSTEIN, detects and blocks known cybersecurity threats attempting to compromise federal agencies. Deployment of the EINSTEIN phase that actively blocks cyber attacks, known as EINSTEIN 3A, increased by over 30% across the civilian Federal Government in 2015. EINSTEIN 3A now protects nearly half of the federal workforce. In the recent omnibus, Congress included the Cybersecurity Act of 2015, which requires all civilian agencies to participate in EINSTEIN 3A by the end of FY16. The second program, Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation (CDM), detects cybersecurity risks inside agency networks. The first phase of CDM, which detects vulnerabilities on agency computers, is available to 97 percent of the civilian Federal Government.
 - Under the Cybersecurity Act of 2015, DHS will now operate the Federal Government's portal for information sharing with the private sector. This means DHS will receive cyber threat indicators on a voluntary basis directly from the private sector and will share those indicators, as appropriate, with federal agencies and private sector participants to improve our collective resilience. The bill provides liability protections to the private sector when sharing this information with DHS, as well as requires DHS to implement extensive and robust privacy and civil liberties protections for the American people and to safeguard sensitive information.

Immigration

- *DACA*
 - In 2012, DHS implemented the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy, which has provided an opportunity for undocumented immigrants who came here as children and are not enforcement priorities to seek temporary relief on a case-by-case basis. Since then, more than 700,000 people have received this

relief under the DACA policy.

- *Executive Actions on Immigration*
 - On November 20, 2014, DHS announced a series of executive actions to address as much of our broken immigration system as the agency could. These actions prioritize for apprehension, detention and removal threats to national security, public safety, and border security, and streamline legal immigration and promote citizenship for high-skilled immigrants, entrepreneurs, and families. The Administration continues to fight to implement policies that would enable up to 4 million parents of American citizens and lawful permanent residents, as well as additional DACA recipients, to be held accountable, work on the books, and pay their fair share of taxes.
 - The President created the White House Task Force for New Americans, which is co-chaired by the Domestic Policy Council and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The Task Force has launched the Building Welcoming Communities Campaign to help local communities strengthen integration efforts and the Stand Stronger Citizenship Awareness Campaign to spread awareness about the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship.
- *Prioritized the removals of national security and public safety threats and recent border crossers*
 - DHS, through the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, has refined its priorities to improve the quality of its removals by focusing on the most serious threats to national security, public safety, and border security.
- *Priority Enforcement Program*
 - DHS continues to make significant strides in building partnerships with local law enforcement and community leaders through the Priority Enforcement Program. This outreach is part of a nation-wide effort to promote collaboration with local law enforcement in order to implement the Priority Enforcement Program's common-sense approach that focuses enforcement resources on convicted criminals and individuals who threaten national security or public safety, while ensuring that law enforcement agencies maintain community trust. Of note, 15 of the top 25 jurisdictions with the largest number of previously declined detainees are now participating in PEP, representing 47 percent of previously declined detainees. Most law enforcement agencies are now cooperating via PEP.
- *Increased U.S. capacity to accept refugees*
 - DHS, along with the State Department, supports a diverse, worldwide refugee admissions program, representing the United States' proud heritage of offering a safe haven, freedom, and opportunity to those fleeing persecution. Each year, following rigorous background and security checks, thousands are admitted to this country as part of the overseas refugee program, and under this Administration we are increasing our capacity to accept refugees while ensuring national security.

Border Security

- *Decrease in attempted unlawful migration*
 - DHS has dedicated historical levels of resources to securing the Southern border. The number of apprehensions, an indicator of total attempts to cross the Southern

border, has dramatically declined. In Fiscal Year 2014, total apprehensions along the Southern border were 479,000. For FY2015, apprehensions along the Southern border were down to 331,333—only one time since 1972 has that number been lower.

- *Established a Southern Border and Approaches Campaign*
 - On November 20, 2014, DHS initiated the creation of the Southern Border and Approaches Campaign, a unified approach to improve how the Department protects the homeland across our borders. The campaign more effectively coordinates the assets and personnel of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), and other resources of the Department. The Plan achieved full operational capability in 2015.

Management

- *Unity of Effort*
 - In April 2014, DHS began implementation of the Unity of Effort initiative to build, sustain, and unify the Department's efforts to address the diverse challenges we face in ensuring the safety and security of the United States. This has brought about a more centralized process for making decisions concerning budget requests, acquisition, strategy, and other Departmental functions.
 - Since then, DHS has achieved efficiencies in acquisition management, and fostered greater collaboration and transparency with the private sector to strengthen program execution. Specifically, DHS instituted the Joint Requirements Council to provide an informed connection between its strategic guidance and the budget and acquisition process.

Community Engagement and Countering Violent Extremism

- *Meeting with communities to hear their concerns*
 - Since the White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) last February, the United States Government has focused on strengthening our effort to prevent extremists from radicalizing and mobilizing recruits, especially here at home.
 - DHS senior officials have conducted over 200 meetings with community leaders as part of the U.S. government's countering violent extremism efforts.
- *Established Office of Community Partnerships*
 - In September, DHS announced the creation of the Office for Community Partnerships. This Office will lead the inter-agency CVE effort.
 - Just last Friday, the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice announced the Countering Violent Extremism Task Force. The interagency CVE Task Force will be hosted by the Department of Homeland Security and will bring together the best resources and personnel from across the executive branch to ensure that we face the challenge of violent extremism in the White House in a unified and coordinated way.

U.S. Secret Service

- *2015 Papal Visit and 70th Anniversary United Nations General Assembly*
 - In September, 2015 the U.S. Secret Service and other components of DHS successfully protected over 160 world leaders at the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, and coordinated security preparations for the Pope's visit to Washington, DC, New York, and Philadelphia, PA.

U.S. Coast Guard

- *Major drug interdictions*
 - Between May and August of 2015, the USCG STRATTON seized more than 66,500 pounds of cocaine worth more than \$1 billion. This included seizures of cocaine from two drug-running submarines – one of which amounted to 12,000 pounds of cocaine worth about \$181 million.
 - Between August and November of 2015, the BERTHOLF seized nearly 29,000 pounds of cocaine worth over \$432 million during 11 different interdictions. The BERTHOLF also took possession of an additional 20,000 pounds seized by Coast Guard and Canadian forces over a four-month period in the Eastern Pacific. BERTHOLF's total offload of more than 49,000 pounds of cocaine worth \$748 million represents a significant portion of the remarkable interagency and partner nation interdiction efforts for FY 2015, which totaled more than 110 interdictions, 700 suspected smugglers taken into custody, and the seizure of nearly 709,888 pounds of cocaine worth roughly \$9.4 billion.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

- *Disaster Resilience and Response*
 - The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has enhanced its disaster response capabilities, including through the creation of FEMA Corps and the DHS Surge Capacity Force and prepositioning resources before disasters hit.
 - FEMA has effectively led the response to major national disasters, including superstorm Sandy in 2012.

Academic Research

- *Stimulating Research and Development and Academic Engagement*
 - DHS has established Research and Development teams in the areas of border security, aviation, biological threats, cyber security, and counter-terrorism to ensure that future investments are directly linked to strategic priorities and operational needs.
 - DHS has strengthened its outreach efforts to academic institutions through the establishment of the Office of Academic Engagement, which supports the Department's mission by building and improving relationships with the academic community.
 - DHS also created the Homeland Security Academic Advisory Council, comprised of leadership from more than twenty universities and colleges around the country,

to provide recommendations on matters related to homeland security, including student and recent graduate recruitment, international students, academic research and faculty exchanges, campus resilience, homeland security academic programs, and cybersecurity.

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From: DHS.IGA

Sent: Friday, January 08, 2016 3:00 PM

To: DHS.IGA

Subject: FACT SHEET: COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM TASK FORCE



DOJ Office of Public Affairs

202.514.2007

Fact Sheet

Jan. 8, 2016



DHS Office of Public Affairs

202.282.8010

COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM TASK FORCE

Since the White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) last February, the United States Government has focused on strengthening our effort to prevent extremists from radicalizing and mobilizing recruits, especially here at home. Advancing this effort means working as effectively as possible across the U.S. Government, which is why we are forming the CVE Task Force.

“Countering violent extremism has become a homeland security imperative, and it is a mission to which I am personally committed,” said Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson. “At the Department of Homeland Security, our Office of Community Partnerships – which I established last year to take the Department’s CVE efforts to the next level – has been working to build relationships and promote trust with communities across the country, and to find innovative ways to support those who seek to discourage violent extremism and undercut terrorist narratives. The interagency CVE Task Force that we are announcing today, and which will be hosted by the Department of Homeland Security, will bring together the best resources and personnel from across the executive branch to ensure that we face the challenge of violent extremism in a unified and coordinated way.”

“The federal government’s top priority is protecting the American people from all forms of violent extremism,” said Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch. “By bringing together agencies from across the Executive Branch, this innovative task force will allow us to more efficiently and effectively support local efforts to counter violent extremism. The

Department of Justice looks forward to joining DHS in leading this new initiative, which represents an important step in our ongoing work to keep our communities safe and our country strong.”

Since the *Strategy to Empower Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States* was issued in 2011, many federal, state, local, and tribal governments have contributed meaningfully to the CVE effort. However, the efforts of ISIL and other groups to radicalize American citizens has required the U.S. Government to update the efforts that began five years ago. Beginning in the summer of 2015, representatives from 11 departments and agencies reviewed our current structure, strategy, and programs and made concrete recommendations for improvement. The review validated the objectives of the 2011 strategy but identified gaps in its implementation. The new task force will coordinate government efforts and partnerships to prevent violent extremism in the United States.

The review team identified four key needs:

- An infrastructure to coordinate and prioritize CVE activities;
- Clear responsibility, accountability, and communication across government and with the public;
- Participation of relevant departments and agencies outside of national security lanes; and
- A process to assess, prioritize, and allocate resources to maximize impact.

The CVE Task Force will be a permanent interagency task force hosted by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with overall leadership provided by DHS and the Department of Justice, with additional staffing provided by representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Counterterrorism Center, and other supporting departments and agencies. The task force will be administratively housed at DHS. The CVE Task Force will address the gaps identified in the review by (1) synchronizing and integrating whole-of-government CVE programs and activities; (2) leveraging new CVE efforts, for example those of the DHS Office for Community Partnerships; (3) conducting ongoing strategic planning; and (4) assessing and evaluating CVE programs and activities.

The CVE Task Force will organize federal efforts into several areas, including:

- **Research and Analysis.** The Task Force will coordinate federal support for ongoing and future CVE research and establish feedback mechanisms for CVE findings, thus cultivating CVE programming that incorporates sound results.

- **Engagements and Technical Assistance.** The Task Force will synchronize Federal Government outreach to and engagement with CVE stakeholders and will coordinate technical assistance to CVE practitioners.
- **Communications.** The Task Force will manage CVE communications, including media inquiries, and leverage digital technologies to engage, empower, and connect CVE stakeholders.
- **Interventions.** The Task Force will work with CVE stakeholders to develop multidisciplinary intervention programs.

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