

EPO #6: Define the term Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) and Identify the Methods Which Terrorist Groups Utilize to Recruit Potential Operatives

DHS defines CVE as the Department's efforts to support and coordinate efforts to better understand the phenomenon of violent extremism, including assessing the threat it poses to the Nation as a whole and within specific communities; bolster efforts to catalyze and support non-governmental, community-based programs, and strengthen relationships with communities that may be targeted for recruitment by violent extremists; and 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.*

*This is a working definition based on the DHS Fact Sheet and current CVE approach.

The DHS Approach to Countering Violent Extremism

Appendix C:

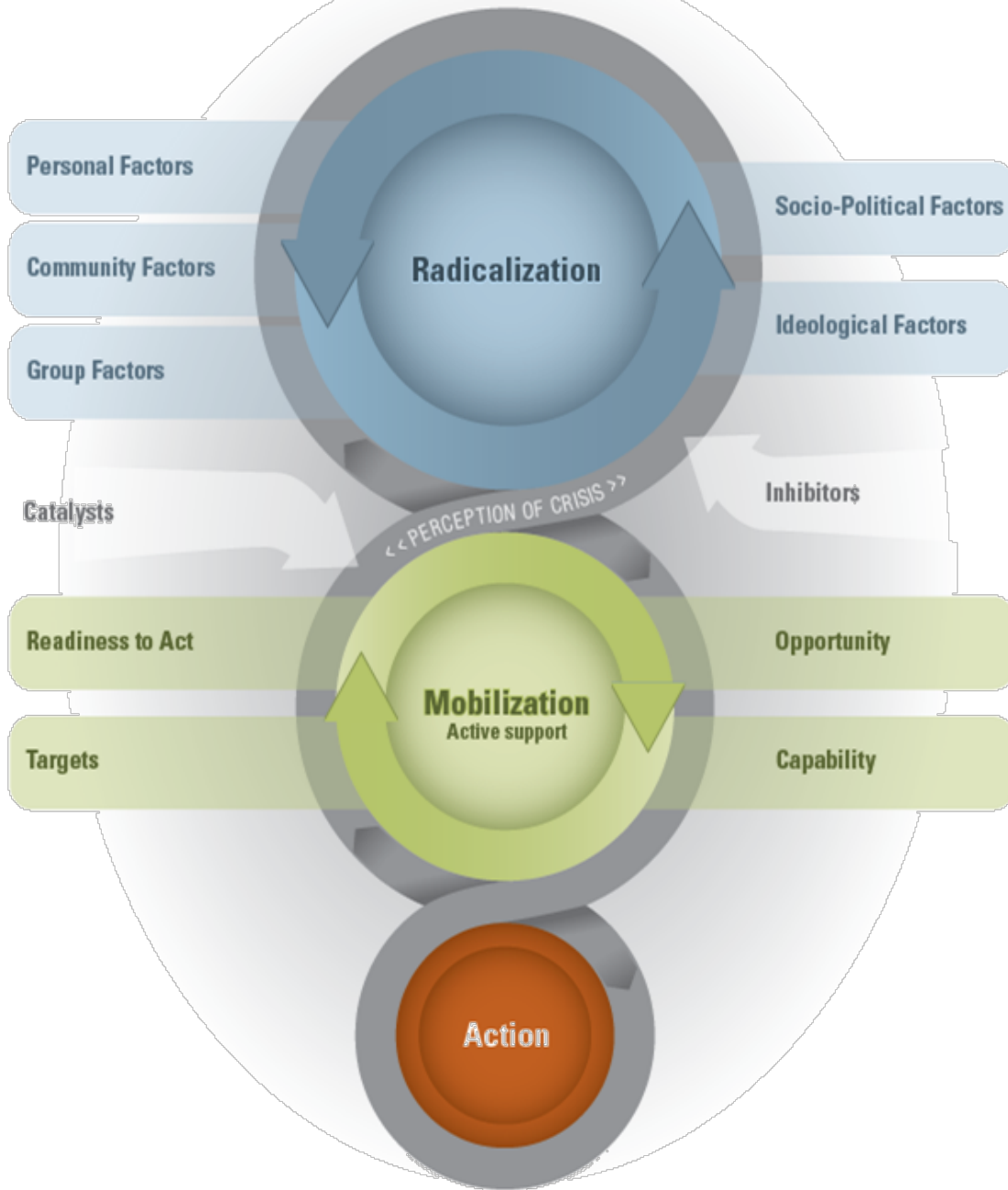
<http://www.dhs.gov/files/fact-sheet-approach-to-countering-violent-extremism.pdf>

Key Objectives

1. Support and coordinate efforts to better understand the phenomenon of violent extremism, including assessing the threat it poses to the Nation as a whole and within specific communities.
2. Bolster efforts to catalyze and support non-governmental, community-based programs, and strengthen relationships with communities that may be targeted for recruitment by violent extremists.
3. 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.

Radicalization Definition (as defined by the National Counterterrorism Center NCTC): The process by which individuals come to believe that their engagement in or facilitation of non-state violence to achieve social and political change is necessary and justified.

This framework represents how individuals radicalize, mobilize and, in some cases, commit violence. Radicalization is a dynamic and multi-layered process involving several factors that interact with one another to influence an individual. There is no single factor that explains radicalization and mobilization.



National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) graphic depicts the three stages of Radicalization

- Radicalization – First Phase
- Mobilization – Second Phase
- Action – Third and Final Phase

Radicalization – First Phase

- Personal Factors
 - Personal Needs and Personal Context
 - Psychological factors – Anxiety, Frustration
 - Demographic Backgrounds – Developmental and Life History
 - Personal Backgrounds – Traumatic experiences, Life Events
- Community Factors
 - Insularity, Alienation, Perceived Religious Discrimination, Marginality
 - Diaspora Relationships (reside in another country but maintain relationships with home country)
- Group Factors
 - Collective Identity and Peer Network
 - Social Networks, including family and peer groups
 - Group Dynamics
- Sociopolitical Factors
 - Grievances (collective)
 - Global Incidents (foreign policy and external events)
- Ideological Factors
 - Influential Ideologues – Charismatic ideologues such as Anwar al-Awlaki and Osama bin Laden.
 - Claim to exclusive authority

Catalysts to Radicalization – Upon Perception of Crisis

- Social Media – Internet provides venue for on-line relationships and more extremist ideologues
- Encouragement by Family and Friends
 - Extremist social networks provide access to training and indoctrination through established relationships with family members or others who can vouch for the credibility of the individual in question

Inhibitors to Radicalization – Upon Perception of Crisis

- Strong family support, community outreach and law enforcement
- Positive Family Engagement
- Credible Voices – Familiar figures in local communities and others such as Muslim popular musicians or actors who have mass appeal

Mobilization – Second Phase – Active Support

- Readiness to Act
 - Motivation and Intent- Individual motivation and intent that keeps the person engaged and moving toward his or her intended goal
 - Driven by separate factors such as access to training, capability building and individual competence
- Targets
 - Symbols of Western Dominance
 - Military, Civilian
 - Military bases
 - Shopping malls
- Opportunity
 - Access to Training
 - Can be target practice at local ranges or training overseas
 - Resources –
- Capability
 - Acquired Training that allows the person to carry out their intention
 - Personal Experience - his or her educational training and skill set acquired through life experiences

Action – Third and Final Phase

- Final Stage in Radicalization process
- Radicalized Individual is ready to carry out attack

Other ways to Radicalize:

1. The Internet:
 - Mainstream
 - Open Extremist
 - Password Protected Internet Forums

Neo-Nazi groups “were among the first to seize upon the benefits of cyberspace,” establishing websites, bulletin boards, newsgroups, mailing lists, and chat rooms

- The anonymity of the Internet, current regulations governing its surveillance and the sheer speed of communications across it makes it an easy tool for recruitment
- Radicalization is usually backed up by face-to-face encounters

Even Today militant and terrorist groups are using the Internet to streamline their terrorist recruiting, radicalization, and training.

2. Prison:

- Prisoners — especially those in gangs — have long recruited other inmates to act as their collaborators upon release. A new phenomenon that has occurred involves gang members radicalizing inmates into joining a prison gang with a terrorist agenda
- Radicalization in prisons is linked to prison gangs
- Inmate leadership is the most important factor in prisoner radicalization
- Prison radicalization appears to be internal in nature rather than by outside influence
- Charismatic leadership appears to have the overwhelming influence in radicalization in prisons
- According to studies of why prisoners convert, some prisoners converted because of;
 - Personal crisis and searching (serial converters,
 - Influential free-world leaders
 - Security from gangs / peer pressure
 - Manipulative purposes
 - Genuine religious experience

Sovereign Citizens

- Sovereign citizens believe they are subject only to “the common law.”
- They claim that they have absolute mastery over all their property and they have freedom from taxes, regulations, ordinances, zoning restrictions.
- They claim they’re not citizens of the United States but are “nonresident aliens” with respect to that “illegal corporation (the United States).”
- They believe the only court which has jurisdiction to try them for any matter is a common law court.
- They can never be arrested or tried for a crime or matter in which there is no complaining victim, as well as various other notions.

Safety measures

- Maintain focus on situational safety
- Maintain professional bearing
- Apply enforcement as appropriate
- Make every effort to identify the subject
- If a sovereign citizen is encountered, request back-up. They are less likely to employ violence if there is more force.

Sovereigns vs. Militias

- Sovereign citizens are often confused with extremists from the militia movement. But while sovereign citizens sometimes use or buy illegal weapons, guns are secondary to their anti-government, anti-tax beliefs.
- On the other hand, guns and paramilitary training are paramount to militia groups

Militias

- Fears of impending gun control or weapons confiscations, either by the government or international agencies, also run rampant in antigovernment circles. As a result, many antigovernment activists believe that being well armed is a must. The militia movement engages in paramilitary training aimed at protecting citizens from this feared impending government crackdown.
- The publicity given to militia groups in the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, when the militia movement was erroneously linked to that tragedy, spurred growth and public interest
- Their extreme anti-government ideology, along with their elaborate conspiracy theories and fascination with weaponry and paramilitary organization, lead many members of militia groups to act out in ways that justify the concerns

Southern Border Militias

- Groups located in Border States whose members feel the U.S. Government cannot or will not control the flow of illegal immigrants into the U.S.
- Advocate armed citizen patrols of private land to apprehend and detain illegal aliens.

The below section (single issue groups) only applies to FWSR-LESB and LMPT.

Single Issue Groups

- Earth First
 - Believe the earth is in danger of being destroyed by technological advances
 - Fears that the advancement of civilization into wilderness areas threatens endangered species
 - “Earth First! is not an organization, but a movement. There are no "members" of Earth First!, only Earth Firsters. It is a belief in biocentrism, that life of the Earth comes first, and a practice of putting our beliefs into action.”

- ELF (Earth Liberation Front)
 - Considered by the FBI to be one of the most active Domestic Terrorist groups
 - Associated with ALF & loose ties with the Anarchist movement
 - Estimated 100+ acts of economic sabotage
 - Damage in the hundreds of millions of dollars
 - Uses criminal acts to further their agenda
 - Targets
 - Similar to those of ALF
 - Urban Sprawl (luxury homes)*
 - Lumber Companies & Headquarters
 - Universities & Corporations engaged in Genetic Studies
 - Old Navy, The Gap, & Banana Republic (owners, the Fisher family, owns Mendicino Redwood Co. involved in clearcutting)
 - Encroachment into areas of Endangered Species
 - Car dealerships (SUV)

- ALF (Animal Liberation Front)
 - Targets
 - Research Facilities & Hospitals
 - Medical/Veterinary Schools
 - Retail Fur Stores
 - Fast Food Restaurants
 - Cosmetic Companies
 - Animal Shelters
 - Hunting Preserves
 - Circuses

- Government Targets
 - National Institute of Health
 - Health and Human Services
 - Department of Agriculture
 - Food and Drug Administration

NOTE: The following is in EPO #7: Identify Methods of Collection, Reporting, and Information Sharing Utilizing the SAR Initiative. It describes what to look for with suspicious activity.

Suspicious Activity

- Focus on Behavior
- Suspicion should be based upon:
 - Where someone is
 - When he or she is there
 - What he or she is doing
- Suspicion is NOT to be based upon:
 - Color
 - Ethnicity
 - Nationality
 - or Religion