

The Role of Fusion Centers in Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

Overview

The threat posed by violent extremism is neither constrained by international borders nor limited to any single ideology. To counter violent extremism, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is working with a broad range of partners, including state and major urban area fusion centers. As analytic hubs, fusion centers are uniquely situated to empower frontline personnel to understand the local implications of national intelligence by providing tailored local context to national threat information; helping frontline personnel understand terrorist and criminal threats they could encounter in the field. For fusion centers to engage ineffective information sharing, they also protect the privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties by empowering frontline personnel to differentiate between behaviors and indicators that may be associated with violent extremism and constitutionally protected behavior. Fusion centers play a crucial role in CVE by providing grassroots intelligence, analytic, and information sharing capabilities within the state and local environment to help identify and mitigate threats.

Role of Fusion Centers

Fusion centers play an important role in CVE efforts through their normal day-to-day operations, including gathering, analyzing, and sharing threat information. The Department is continuing to support fusion centers as they share information to support their law enforcement, public safety, and private sector partners' efforts to counter violent extremism, including:

- Building grassroots intelligence and analytic capabilities within the state and local environment so state and local partners can understand the local implications of national intelligence and providing tailored local context to national threat information.
- Based upon these analytic efforts, providing state and local partners with timely, relevant, and accurate threat analysis, incorporating:
 - Trends or patterns in criminal and terrorist activities.
 - Identified vulnerabilities within a jurisdiction.
 - Indicators and warnings indicative of terrorism or violent crime.
 - How to report suspicious activities to the proper law enforcement authorities.
 - Recommendations for protective measures, preventive actions, or other threat mitigation activities.
- Sharing information with state and local decision makers to assist in the prioritization of resources to mitigate known threats.
- Sharing information with local partners to help inform frontline personnel in their community engagement efforts, including raising awareness of potential threats in their communities.
- Incorporating local law enforcement information in their analytic efforts, resulting in better-informed, relevant, and actionable products.
- Educating and informing state and local partners on behaviors and indicators of potential threats, while ensuring the protection of the privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties of individuals and constitutionally protected activities.
- Leveraging Fusion Liaison Officer (FLO) programs to facilitate the exchange of information between fusion centers and their stakeholders, as FLO programs represent a valuable approach to building partnerships between fusion centers and local community-policing efforts.

For More Information

For more information on fusion centers, please visit <http://www.dhs.gov/fusioncenters>, and for more information on DHS's approach to countering violent extremism, please visit <http://www.dhs.gov/cve>.

Background on CVE

DHS's efforts to counter violent extremism are threefold:

- **Better understand the phenomenon of violent extremism**, and assess the threat it poses to the nation as a whole and within specific communities.
- **Bolster efforts to address the dynamics of violent extremism** and strengthen relationships with communities as they play a vital role in countering violent extremism.
- **Expand support for information-driven, community-oriented policing efforts** that have proved effective in preventing violent crime across the nation.

Support for Locally Based Approaches

In accordance with the *Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States*, the U.S. government has increased its support for locally focused, community-based approaches to countering violent extremism across three broad areas:

- **Enhancing Engagement With and Support to Local Communities:** Our aims in engaging with communities to discuss violent extremism are to (1) share sound, meaningful, and timely information about the threat of radicalization to violence with a wide range of groups and organizations; (2) respond to concerns about government policies and actions; and (3) better understand how we can effectively support community-based solutions.
- **Building Government and Law Enforcement Expertise:** We must be vigilant in identifying, predicting, and preempting new threats of violent extremism. This necessitates ongoing research and analysis, as well as exchanges with individuals, communities, and government officials who work on the front lines to counter the threats we face. We are also building robust programs to train frontline personnel on the identification of behaviors that are potentially indicative of terrorist or other criminal activity, raise public awareness of indicators of terrorism and violent crime, and emphasize the importance of reporting suspicious activity to the proper law enforcement authorities. Furthermore, we must ensure that communities, the government, and law enforcement receive accurate, intelligence-based information about the dynamics of violent extremism. Misinformation about threats, coupled with poor training, can harm our security by providing our stakeholders with inaccurate information and creating tensions within communities.
- **Countering Violent Extremist Propaganda While Promoting Our Ideals:** We will aggressively counter violent extremist ideologies including on the Internet by educating and empowering communities and promoting our ideals.

Page 1 of 2

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 2 of 2

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 1 of 2

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

Page 2 of 2

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

The Role of Fusion Centers in Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

Overview

The threat posed by violent extremism is neither constrained by international borders nor limited to any single ideology. To counter violent extremism, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is working with a broad range of partners, including state and major urban area fusion centers. As analytic hubs, fusion centers are uniquely situated to empower frontline personnel to understand the local implications of national intelligence by providing tailored local context to national threat information; helping frontline personnel understand terrorist and criminal threats they could encounter in the field. For fusion centers to engage ineffective information sharing, they also protect the privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties by empowering frontline personnel to differentiate between behaviors and indicators that may be associated with violent extremism and constitutionally protected behavior. Fusion centers play a crucial role in CVE by providing grassroots intelligence, analytic, and information sharing capabilities within the state and local environment to help identify and mitigate threats.

Role of Fusion Centers

Fusion centers play an important role in CVE efforts through their normal day-to-day operations, including gathering, analyzing, and sharing threat information. The Department is continuing to support fusion centers as they share information to support their law enforcement, public safety, and private sector partners' efforts to counter violent extremism, including:

- Building grassroots intelligence and analytic capabilities within the state and local environment so state and local partners can understand the local implications of national intelligence and providing tailored local context to national threat information.
- Based upon these analytic efforts, providing state and local partners with timely, relevant, and accurate threat analysis, incorporating:
 - Trends or patterns in criminal and terrorist activities.
 - Identified vulnerabilities within a jurisdiction.
 - Indicators and warnings indicative of terrorism or violent crime.
 - How to report suspicious activities to the proper law enforcement authorities.
 - Recommendations for protective measures, preventive actions, or other threat mitigation activities.
- Sharing information with state and local decision makers to assist in the prioritization of resources to mitigate known threats.
- Sharing information with local partners to help inform frontline personnel in their community engagement efforts, including raising awareness of potential threats in their communities.
- Incorporating local law enforcement information in their analytic efforts, resulting in better-informed, relevant, and actionable products.
- Educating and informing state and local partners on behaviors and indicators of potential threats, while ensuring the protection of the privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties of individuals and constitutionally protected activities.
- Leveraging Fusion Liaison Officer (FLO) programs to facilitate the exchange of information between fusion centers and their stakeholders, as FLO programs represent a valuable approach to building partnerships between fusion centers and local community-policing efforts.

For More Information

For more information on fusion centers, please visit <http://www.dhs.gov/fusioncenters>, and for more information on DHS's approach to countering violent extremism, please visit <http://www.dhs.gov/cve>.

Background on CVE

DHS's efforts to counter violent extremism are threefold:

- **Better understand the phenomenon of violent extremism**, and assess the threat it poses to the nation as a whole and within specific communities.
- **Bolster efforts to address the dynamics of violent extremism** and strengthen relationships with communities as they play a vital role in countering violent extremism.
- **Expand support for information-driven, community-oriented policing efforts** that have proved effective in preventing violent crime across the nation.

Support for Locally Based Approaches

In accordance with the *Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States*, the U.S. government has increased its support for locally focused, community-based approaches to countering violent extremism across three broad areas:

- **Enhancing Engagement With and Support to Local Communities:** Our aims in engaging with communities to discuss violent extremism are to (1) share sound, meaningful, and timely information about the threat of radicalization to violence with a wide range of groups and organizations; (2) respond to concerns about government policies and actions; and (3) better understand how we can effectively support community-based solutions.
- **Building Government and Law Enforcement Expertise:** We must be vigilant in identifying, predicting, and preempting new threats of violent extremism. This necessitates ongoing research and analysis, as well as exchanges with individuals, communities, and government officials who work on the front lines to counter the threats we face. We are also building robust programs to train frontline personnel on the identification of behaviors that are potentially indicative of terrorist or other criminal activity, raise public awareness of indicators of terrorism and violent crime, and emphasize the importance of reporting suspicious activity to the proper law enforcement authorities. Furthermore, we must ensure that communities, the government, and law enforcement receive accurate, intelligence-based information about the dynamics of violent extremism. Misinformation about threats, coupled with poor training, can harm our security by providing our stakeholders with inaccurate information and creating tensions within communities.
- **Countering Violent Extremist Propaganda While Promoting Our Ideals:** We will aggressively counter violent extremist ideologies including on the Internet by educating and empowering communities and promoting our ideals.