

Question#:	5
Topic:	programs
Hearing:	Understanding the Homeland Threat Landscape
Primary:	The Honorable Peter T. King
Committee:	HOMELAND SECURITY (HOUSE)

Question: Please update us on DHS’ countering violent extremism programs.

Response: The Department has responsibility for implementing a range of CVE initiatives outlined in the Administration’s national CVE *Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) for Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States*. This role includes leveraging the Department’s analytic, research, and information capabilities, engaging state and local authorities and communities to bolster pre-existing local partnerships, and supporting state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement and communities through training, community policing practices, and grants. DHS works closely to coordinate and collaborate on these efforts with the National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC), the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and other interagency and community partners.

The Department is working with its Federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial partners to fully integrate CVE awareness into the daily activities of law enforcement and local communities nationwide. Specifically, DHS has made substantial progress in CVE in three key areas:

1. Better understanding the phenomenon of violent extremism through extensive analysis and research on the behaviors and indicators of violent extremism;
2. Enhancing operational partnerships with local communities, State and Local law enforcement, and international partners; and
3. Supporting community policing efforts through curriculum development, training and grant prioritization.

Better Understanding the Phenomenon of Violent Extremism

DHS has conducted extensive analysis and research to better understand the threat of violent extremism. This includes over 75 case studies and assessments produced by the DHS Office for Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) since 2009 on homegrown violent extremist activities and potential material support activities in the U.S. on behalf of violent extremist groups or causes, including an in-depth study that looks at the common behaviors associated with 62 cases of Al-Qa’ida-inspired violent extremists. DHS has also produced numerous unclassified homeland security reference aids analyzing domestic violent extremist groups.

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Enhancing Operational Partnerships and Best Practices with Local Communities, State and Local law Enforcement, and International Partners

DHS has made significant advancements in operational CVE exchanges with international partners. We have international CVE partnerships with Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, and the UK, as well as partnerships with international law enforcement organizations such as Europol. For the past year, DHS, Europol, and E.U. partners have exchanged information on U.S. and E.U. based fusion center best practices, CVE training standards, and research and case studies, including a joint case study on the 2011 Norway attacks. These exchanges help us support State and Local law enforcement by equipping them with up to date analysis on the behaviors and indicators of violent extremism, so they can prevent potential future violent extremist incidents from occurring in their communities. In addition, DHS has coordinated with the Department of State to train field-based US Government officials, both domestically and internationally, on how to engage and partner with local communities to build community resilience against terrorist recruitment and radicalization to violence.

The Department has also significantly expanded outreach to communities that may be targeted for recruitment by violent extremists and promote a greater awareness of Federal resources, programs, and security measures available to communities. For example, the DHS Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) has held over 72 roundtable events nationwide since 2011, which have helped to address grievances, increase awareness of CVE resources, and build partnerships between state and local law enforcement, local government, and community stakeholders.

Supporting Community Policing Efforts through Curriculum Development, Training and Grant Prioritization

Over the past year, DHS has worked closely with the State and Provincial Police Academy Directors, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major City Chiefs Association, the Major City Sheriff's Association, NCTC, DOJ, and the FBI to develop CVE training for Federal, State, Local, and Correctional Facility law enforcement. DHS has hosted seven workshops to receive feedback from front line officers on the training materials, including workshops in Columbus, OH, San Diego, CA, Washington, DC, and Minneapolis, MN and the recent "Train-the-Trainer" CVE Workshop in San Diego, CA during the last week of September 2012. Two workshops were also conducted for correctional facility officers in Sykesville, MD and in Orange County, CA.

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DHS launched a new CVE Webportal through the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) for CVE law enforcement training practitioners nationwide on September 28, 2012. This Webportal serves as an efficient and easy resource to access CVE training materials, which can be incorporated into existing training programs and contains over 160 CVE training resources.

DIIS expanded FY2012 grant guidance to include funding for training and local CVE efforts, including participating in CVE training workshops, developing CVE training curriculum, participating in the new CVE Webportal, and incorporating CVE training resources into existing training programs.