

COUNTERTERRORISM DIVISION

NATIONAL JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCE



CVEO BULLETIN



February 2014

(U) This bulletin highlights the significant developments within the Countering Violent Extremism Office (CVEO) in recent weeks, encompassing CVE-related initiatives, activities, outreach, and open source items of interest. It provides investigative and analytical insight, highlights FBI efforts to mitigate the impact of violent extremism, documents the community's efforts to aid our law enforcement partners in addressing this emerging issue, and provides tools to foster effective outreach within the community.

(U//~~FOUO~~) CVEO INITIATIVES

CVEO Releases 2014 Strategic Plan

(U) In 2013, CVEO achieved significant success in building capacity, enhancing engagement, conducting outreach, and establishing research portals to aid the FBI's Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) efforts. The 2014 strategic plan builds on last year's success, promotes expansion, and advances our understanding of the catalysts to violent extremism. Key components of our 2014 strategy are as follows:

- (U//~~FOUO~~) CVEO developed resource portals on FBINET, LEO/LEEP, and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] CVEO will continue to add content to these portals, which provide intelligence-driven research, demonstrate community efforts to counter violent extremism, and communicate grassroots initiatives that aid law enforcement efforts. CVEO is coordinating efforts with various FBI entities, including the Active Shooter programs in CIRG and SIOC.
- (U) The *CVEO Bulletin* highlights the significant developments within the program, and consists of CVE-related initiatives, activities, outreach, and open-source items of interest. It provides investigative and analytical insight, highlights FBI efforts to mitigate the impact of violent extremism, documents the community's efforts to aid our law enforcement partners in addressing this emerging issue, and provides tools to foster effective outreach within the community. The CVEO will continue to produce the monthly bulletin and highlight items of significance to ensure the field divisions and other FBI entities are informed of the advances in the program.
- (U) CVEO will continue its liaison efforts that socialize CVEO's mission, responsibilities, and efforts to ensure cross-programmatic efforts and equities are met across the FBI and the CVE network. Efforts will include participation in city visits; involvement in tabletop exercises; engaging community leaders, faith-based organizations, and academia; and identifying grassroots initiatives that aid in understanding the components to violent extremism and ways communities are empowered to combat them.

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- (U) CVEO's notoriety throughout the FBI and relationships with headquarters and field divisions necessitated the need for a standardized CVE training curriculum. A uniform CVE curriculum can be easily disseminated to division heads for use in training events as well as briefings within their area of responsibility. A standardized curriculum will ensure a universal CVE message is set forth by the FBI and mirrors the common CVE core mission embraced by our federal partners, especially the Group of Four—DHS, FBI, National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

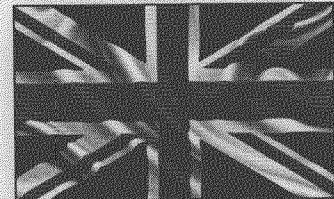
NCTC Hosts CVE Leadership Forum



(U) On January 14, NCTC hosted a CVE Leadership Forum attended by community leaders, academia, law enforcement, and representatives from the Group of Four. The forum consisted of a community workshop and an executive panel discussion. The workshop brought together community representatives, government staff, and communications experts, to discuss relevant communications strategies that leaders can apply to counter al-Qa'ida extremist narratives. The second segment consisted of an executive discussion on how government and communities can partner to counter the extremist narrative, while promoting community-driven solutions.

NSS Hosts CVE Workshop with UK

(U) On February 6, The White House's National Security Staff (NSS) hosted our United Kingdom (UK) counterparts to review CVE efforts in both countries. UK representatives discussed the nuances of their PREVENT initiative, which is a community policing and engagement program that aims to prevent individuals from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorists and is considered a major component of their overall counter extremism strategy. U.S. representatives discussed CVE initiatives coordinated by the Group of Four and other efforts made to enhance community engagement and awareness. Common areas of concern include youth radicalization through the Internet and the flood of foreign fighters into Syria. Leaders discussed how local communities could play a significant role in identifying at-risk youth, who use the Internet to advance their beliefs or travel to Syria to fight against the current Syrian government. Both nations' leaders agreed that a joint counter narrative campaign and options to aid Syrian citizens should be areas to consider for development. The two countries plan to continue collaborative efforts to improve their respective CVE programs.



Group of Four Convenes Quarterly Breakfast

(U) On February 12, the Group of Four held its quarterly breakfast to discuss 2013 accomplishments and set a strategic focus for 2014. The discussions centered on G4 collective accomplishments, including DHS hosting more than 70 community engagement events, U.S. Attorney Office outreach to Arab- and Muslim-American communities, success of the National CVE Conference, and enhanced resource portals to share advances in CVE efforts across the network. The 2014 strategic focus will

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(U//~~FOUO~~) CVE COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**MPAC Releases Muslim-American Community CVE Toolkit**

(U) The Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) developed a toolkit for Muslim-American leaders to aid in the prevention of violent extremism within their communities. As Muslim and Sikh communities experienced hate crimes, communities sought tools, guidance, and viable alternatives. The need for the toolkit became much more evident in recent years. MPAC released the P.I.E. framework, consisting of Prevention, Intervention, and Ejection:

PREVENTION (*Misguided Ideas*):

- Focus is community level
- Community-relevant programming
- Management of Community organizations
- Building networks
- Creating a climate of trust and communication

**INTERVENTION** (*Individual at the Edge*):

- Dealing with specific individual
- Creating safe environments
- Set up Crisis Inquiry Teams
 - Focus on intervention assistance vs. notifying law enforcement

EJECTION (*Embraces Violence*):

- Identifying an individual committed to violence
- **Only** considered after prevention or intervention prove unsuccessful
- Individual removed from community and law enforcement notified of desire for violence

(U) Successful implementation of the P.I.E. model might aid in slowing, halting, or reversing the movement to extremism and violence to affect change. It also provides options for different types of involvement by individuals moving toward acceptance of extremism and violence. The fundamental approach is to have overlapping mechanisms that address the behavioral continuum that occurs during the progression from prevention through possible ejection.

(U) MPAC will be socializing this toolkit with Muslim leaders throughout the country, and CVEO will facilitate FBI field office visits as part of this process. MPAC identified Boston; Washington, DC; Miami; Houston; Los Angeles; Chicago; Seattle; and Minneapolis, as target locations for the 2014 rollout of its toolkit.

(U//~~FOUO~~) OPEN SOURCE ROUNDUP**LA Times Op-Ed: Building Bridges to Communities**

(U) A recent *Los Angeles Times* OP/ED focused on the question, What turns people into terrorists? A former California State Representative, Jane Harman, cited the moving from radical beliefs to the willingness to engage in violence, involved common "triggers," and the need to articulate a narrative, as a first task in addressing this issue. Harman lauded the U.S. State Departments' use of real-time social media as a successful tool to counter the message of extremism and articulated the need for communities and local police to identify individuals when

they drift toward illegal forms of behavior. Harman views communities as a form of human intervention and endorses outreach with local police to build relationships and bridge cultural differences.

(U) In response, Salam Al-Marayati, President of the Muslim Public Affairs Council, argued that Muslim-American leaders cannot be an extension of law enforcement and that communities have proved effective in pushing back against al-Qa'ida rhetoric and shunting radicals out of mosques. To counter radicalization without creating lone wolves, Al-Marayati outlined five issues:

1. Who should preach nonviolence; the U.S. government should seek Muslim leaders who oppose U.S. policies and demand change through nonviolence.
2. The Muslim community; use of prevention and intervention through religious and peer counseling as an effective counter-radicalization strategy, with mosques and gatherings as safe harbors, free from government surveillance.
3. The lack of a presidential summit using interfaith relations to prevent extremism.
4. The division of roles; law enforcement and community roles need to be strictly divided with Muslims responsible for developing counter-narratives independently without interference from law enforcement.
5. Mental health, pointing out that those sold on extremism often display signs of psychosis and should be connected to proper mental healthcare.

**Los
Angeles
Times**

(U) These are pertinent issues within the CVE environment, in defining roles for both communities and law enforcement and upholding the rule of law. These issues should be addressed when formulating effective community CVE programs and establishing proper engagement protocols with law enforcement.

Source: *Los Angeles Times* Internet website, January 2014, Op-Ed, "Future terrorists we need to build bridges to those most vulnerable to radicalization," "Blowback 5 better ways to enlist U.S. Muslims in the fight against terrorism," accessed via the Internet on January 6 and 7, 2014.

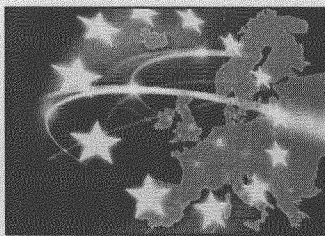
Lack of Funding Hampers CVE Efforts?

(U) In January, Hedieh Mirahmadi, a visiting fellow at the Washington Institute of Near East Policy, highlighted the lack of financial support from the federal government on intervening with radicalized individuals. Citing the strong governmental efforts in combating terrorism abroad, Ms. Mirahmadi suggested the U.S. Government must establish an equally effective campaign to solve the phenomenon of radicalization domestically—calling for visible financial support that provides the ability to combat or defeat radical Islamist recruiters. The U.S. Government provided an exorbitant amount of money to counterterrorism efforts, but Mirahmadi opines that Washington lacks an effective strategy to prevent the radicalization of Americans. The White House's *Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) for Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the U.S.* was filled with many ideas to counter violent extremism within communities, yet a lack of budgetary resources have derailed its progression. While the SIP outlines the role communities have in collaborating with law enforcement agencies, it does not include ways to establish those relationships or create benchmarks for those partnerships. In addition,

there is no mechanism in place for law enforcement agencies to refer radicalized individuals for intervention. There are several community models and programs that attempt to refer or “de-radicalize” individuals. For example, the former U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota, B. Todd Jones’ outreach efforts, Los Angeles Police Department’s community engagement program, and Maryland’s Montgomery County Faith Community Working Group, have been successful models to build upon. Federal, state, and local governments must intensify and expand local partnerships across the United States to empower grass-roots organizations and bolster the relationships between law enforcement and the faith community. These enhanced partnerships will produce dividends in countering violent extremism.

Source: The Washington Institute for Near East Policy Internet website, January 2014, “Addressing the Homegrown Terrorism Threat,” accessed via the Internet on January 10, 2014.

European Union Formalizes Response to Extremism



(U) In January, the European Commission adopted a communication that outlined 10 areas of concern, which Member States and the European Union (EU) must adapt and incorporate into their respective actions to prevent extremism that leads to violence. The proposed measures include creation of a European knowledge hub, developing training for CVE practitioners, providing financial support for CVE projects, and establishing programs for members of extremist groups to abandon violence and the underlying ideology. The areas address radicalization and protect citizens with 10 goals:

1. Comprehensive strategies that develop effective frameworks to prevent violent extremism and terrorism.
2. Establish a knowledge hub that disseminates best practices and shapes pertinent research.
3. Build upon the Radicalization Awareness Network (RAN) to provide guidance to Member States.
4. Develop training for frontline practitioners working with at-risk individuals or groups to understand the process of radicalization.
5. Develop exit strategies for members of extremist groups to assist in disengagement and de-radicalization.
6. Develop cooperative solutions with civil society and the private sector to address online challenges.
7. Empower victims and victims support groups to ensure their voices are heard to aid prevention and de-radicalization.
8. Encourage critical thinking on extremist messages and allow discourse to expose the flaws of propaganda.
9. Increase research into trends on radicalization, including ideology, Internet-based recruitment, and identifying role models.
10. Work closely with partner countries, as radicalization does not stop at EU borders, and encourage development of cooperation tools and instruments.

Source: European Commission Press Release, January 2014, “Strengthening the EU’s Response to Radicalization and Violent Extremism,” accessed via the Internet on January 15, 2014.

(U//~~FOUO~~) RESOURCES**TEVUS Portal Provides Insight into Terrorist Attacks**

(U) DHS's Resilient Systems Division, Science and Technology Directorate collaborated with the University of Arkansas, University of Maryland's START program, Michigan State University, and John Jay College of Criminal Justice, to develop the Terrorism and Extremist Violence in the U.S. (TEVUS) Analysis Portal. The portal integrates four distinct open-source databases, consisting of 113,000 domestic and international terrorism, extremism, and



criminal violence incidents from 1970 to 2012. This combined database infuses open source reporting, criminal complaints, and incident attributes to develop profiles of perpetrators and groups. This analytical tool aids in understanding

the catalysts to extremism, radicalization mechanisms, attack methodology, and targets of preference. TEVUS resulted in START authoring a research highlight in January 2014 that captured terrorist trends and patterns since 1970. TEVUS is a valuable resource for analytical and operational insight and provides background information that can aid our understanding of the catalysts to extremism that result in terrorist attacks. Visit TEVUS at <http://www.start.umd.edu/research-projects/terrorism-and-extremist-violence-us-tevus-database>.