

COUNTERTERRORISM DIVISION

NATIONAL JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCE



CVEO BULLETIN

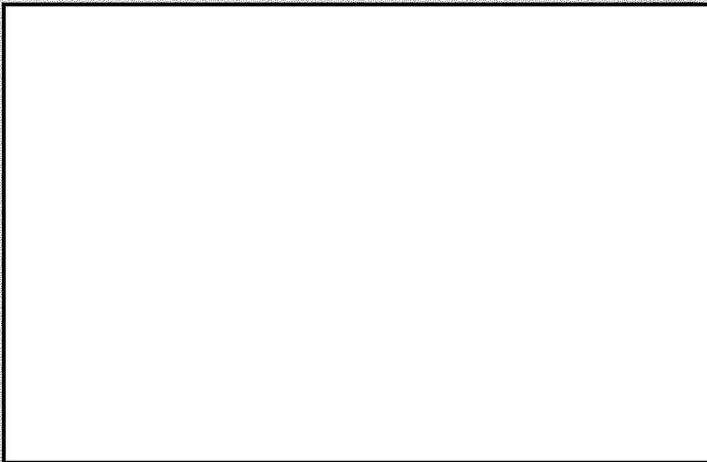


November 2013

(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**(U) FBI Navigates Complex Violent Extremism Landscape**

(U//~~FOUO~~) As the graphic (below) depicts, the FBI's success in countering violent extremism is dependent upon our understanding of the myriad forms of extremism, identifying the catalysts to these beliefs, and developing an



effective strategy to counter these beliefs before a violent act. CVEO leverages FBI subject matter experts, other members of the intelligence community, academia, and various public sector groups to assist in implementing an effective strategy to counter violent extremism and reduce the threat to our communities. Although the FBI has been involved in countering violent extremism for many years through investigations, community outreach, engagement, and behavioral analysis, this new office will ensure those efforts are fully coordinated. The FBI's primary threat priority is to protect the United States from attack and to mitigate the threat using available intelligence-

gathering and investigative means. Numerous international and domestic terrorist organizations, lone wolf offenders, and homegrown violent extremists targeted American communities in the past several years. There was also a significant increase in the number of active-shooter and mass-killing incidents.

(U) Group of Four Sponsors Columbus, OH, Outreach

(U) In August, the Group of Four (FBI, DHS, DOJ, and NCTC) sponsored a three-day outreach and engagement initiative in Columbus, Ohio, as part of the "two-city" initiative. This initiative identified best practices in community engagement, community oriented policing, and effective mechanisms to counter violent extremism. The group attended meetings with federal, state, and local law enforcement officers; intelligence analysts; county, city, and school officials; and community and civic partners. Columbus is considered a model city for community engagement, as law enforcement, civic leaders, and the community fostered a partnership to address issues and concerns as they have worked to make improvements within the city. While past Columbus-area CVE-

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related outreach efforts focused on Somali-Americans, the U.S. Attorney's Office plans to include additional communities with a newly established Columbus Community Engagement Council. Some highlights from the Columbus outreach included the following:

- The Columbus Police Department hosted a meeting with community liaison officers, JTTF members, and the Columbus Strategic Response Bureau, to identify both formal avenues of police-community outreach and the informal interactions that forge relationships and trust.
- The Columbus Global Academy hosted a meeting with about 30 community leaders from various organizations that interact with the local Somali and Ethiopian communities.
- DHS Fusion Center hosted an intelligence brief with state and local partners, DHS analysts, and local law enforcement, to characterize Homegrown Violent Extremists (HVE), Moorish Nation, Sovereign Citizen, and international gang influences within the region.

(U//~~FOUO~~) CVE COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

(U) NGO Recommends Enhanced USG CVE Program

(U) The Washington Institute for Near East Policy released two-part article on the shortcomings of the U.S. Government's (USG's) efforts in combating violent extremism and provided recommendations to enhance community efforts to address this threat. The institute examined the August 2011 White House strategy, *Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States*, and identified several key shortcomings in the USG's efforts to counter violent extremism, including the following:

- The policy identifies al-Qa'ida and its affiliates as the principal enemy and excludes other forms of violent extremism or ideologies.
- No clear delineation of which government agency has overall responsibility for combating violent extremism.
- No clear understanding of which ideologies fuel violent extremism.
- No clear delineation of which agency has responsibility of recognizing radicalized behavior and attempts interdiction.
- Counterterrorism policy does not allow for intervention during the radicalization process, as this is not a role for law enforcement.
- Local communities are not empowered to defend against extremism.
- USG commitment to expand community engagement and development programs but no guidance on implementation.
- There are many paths to radicalization and a cookie-cutter approach to address the catalysts will not be effective.

(U) The institute opines that the aforementioned shortcomings underscore the urgency to develop a preventive strategy to reduce the spread of violent extremism at the state and local levels and establish effective partnerships with at-risk communities. The institute provided the following recommendations to address the perceived shortcomings of this policy and ultimately enhance communities' resilience to violent extremism:

- Develop domestically, a counterterrorism strategy modeled after the Global Fund for Community Engagement and Resilience, which was spearheaded by the United States and Turkey.

- Implement a multipronged prevention strategy that addresses the factors leading to violent extremism, including social alienation, psychological disorders, political grievances, and violent ideologies.
- Develop guidelines for law enforcement referrals for community intervention of radicalized individuals.
- Utilize scholars with theological and intellectual expertise to develop counter narratives to extremist rhetoric.
- Provide adequate funding for community-based solutions.
- Develop an inclusive and holistic approach to addressing and countering the dangers of radicalization, due to the diversity of extremist recruits.

Source: Washington Institute Internet website; October 2013; *An Innovative Approach to Countering Violent Extremism*; accessed via the Internet on October 9, 2013.

(U) State Department Announces Global CVE Fund

(U) In September, the Department of State announced the United States and Turkey would create a \$200 million fund to combat violent extremism by addressing recruitment and violent narratives appealing to those in extremist theaters such as Somalia, Yemen, and Pakistan. The new fund, the Global Fund for Community Engagement and Resilience, will be the first to draw its funding from various sources, such as government and non-government organizations. This fund will be used to identify local organizations, develop CVE programs, and allocate funds to local projects that assist in deflecting groups or individuals from violent extremist rhetoric. Grants from the fund will provide training for youth considered vulnerable to terrorist organizations, curriculum to teach problem solving, and informative websites to educate youth on the pitfalls of being involved with violent extremist ideologies and groups. Donors other than the United States and Turkey will include the European Union, Canada, Qatar, Denmark, Britain, and other private entities. The fund is expected to be operational by mid-2014.

Source: *The New York Times* Internet website; September 2013; *U.S. and Turkey to Create Fund to Stem Extremism*; accessed via the Internet on September 27, 2013.

(U) Community-led Violent Extremism Program

(U) In August, the International Cultural Center and other Maryland faith-based community leaders announced a partnership with the Montgomery County Police Department, Gaithersburg, Maryland, and the establishment of the Faith Community Working Group (FCWG). This partnership is the first program in the country that is community-led rather than being driven by a law enforcement agency. The FCWG will increase public safety and counter violent extremism, by allowing the community to provide vital input, direction, and focus. This partnership is based on several key tenets:

- Educate and build awareness in the faith community about the various facets of public safety and violent extremism.
- Host a series of workshops that will cover Internet safety and explain the threat of radicalization or political violence within Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.
- Cultivate expertise within the community to deal with conditions that precipitate an act of violence and intervene before an "at risk" individual chooses the path of violence.
- Develop reliable and effective relationships between government/law enforcement and community experts [social workers, psychologists, mentors, and clergy] to intervene in cases where mentoring or counseling could deter an individual from the path of violence.

(U) This grassroots partnership builds on the framework outlined in the December 2011 White House mandate - *Strategic Implementation Plan For Empowering Local Partners To Prevent Violent Extremism In The United States* (SIP), which builds awareness about the social, psychological, and ideological factors that can lead to violent extremism and enlist community experts to deal with these factors. If successful, this program might serve as a best practice that communities could adopt in establishing effective community-led CVE programs.

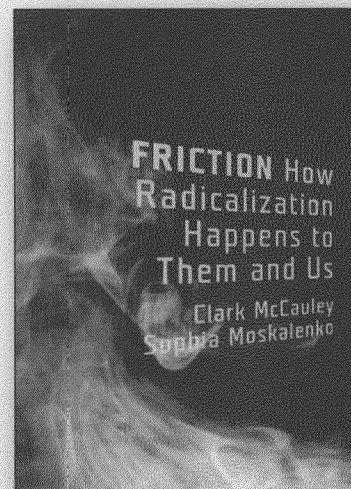
Source: International Cultural Center Internet website; August 2013; *Faith Community Role in Public Safety and Preventing Violent Extremism*; accessed via the Internet on September 19, 2013.

(U//~~FOUO~~) OPEN SOURCE ROUNDUP

(U) Friction: How Radicalization Happens to Them and Us

(U) A recent book on radicalization, "*Friction: How Radicalization Happens to Them and Us*," catalogs 12 different mechanisms that drive normal individuals to radicalization. Two prominent psychologists conducted a study of known terrorists that reviewed case studies to identify the common mechanisms that transformed normal individuals into terrorists. The psychologists, Clark McCauley and Sophia Moskalenko, evaluated each terrorist using set parameters, and documented similarities in nationality, social class, and chosen ideology. The researchers assessed that these individuals embraced terrorism through normal cognitive processes, which could be experienced by anyone. The case study identified the following 12 mechanisms leading to radicalization:

1. Personal grievance in which one seeks revenge
2. Group grievance in which a group seeks revenge
3. Slippery slope in which one seeks greater political involvement
4. Love in which one has attraction to a radicalized individual
5. Risk and status which moves one to violence regardless of ideology
6. Unfreezing in which one is open to new ideas and beliefs
7. Group polarization in which members shift to extremist views
8. Group competition when members become more cohesive following an external threat
9. Group isolation when the group becomes everything to its members
10. Jujitsu politics when terrorists provoke a government into a violent response
11. Hatred when the enemy is demonized, which elevates the group and rationalizes violence
12. Martyrdom which relies on selflessness for the cause



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(U) This book is a valuable resource in understanding the root causes of extremism and the radicalization mechanisms that drive common individuals or groups to commit a violent or terrorist act.

Source: Psychology Central Internet website; September 2013; *Friction: How Radicalization Happens to Them and Us*; accessed via the Internet on September 20, 2013.

(U) Countering the Narratives of Violent Extremism

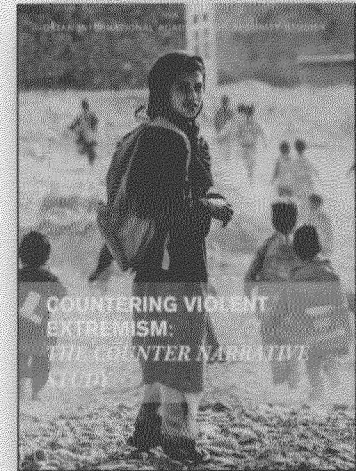
(U) The Qatar International Academy for Security Studies recently disseminated a study, which focused on the narratives used by extremist groups to recruit new members. The study discovered that terrorist and extremist

groups prey on local grievances, by exploiting feelings of anger, humiliation, resentment, or lack of purpose and incorporate these feelings into violent pronouncements. These pronouncements contain conspiratorial messages that blame those they target. A catalyst in this process is the use of the Internet and social media to provide avenues for recruitment and disseminating extremist messages. The study provided some key takeaways that are crucial in countering violent extremism and developing an effective messaging campaign:

- There is no cookie-cutter approach to countering the narrative.
- The use of Internet and social media accelerates the spread of negative messaging, resulting in increased self-radicalization or possible lone wolf scenarios.
- Extremists use local grievances as initial motivators to recruit.
- Traditional media and new media play an important role in recruitment.
- A lack of alternative narratives results in a spread of extremism.

(U) The study recommends the following guidelines in countering the narrative in an effective manner:

- Three components to an effective counter message are proper medium, message, and messenger.
- Tactics and methods must vary based on target group or community.
- Understanding local grievances is a starting point for counter narratives.
- Media is a key component in spreading counter messages.
- Education is the enemy of extremists, due to lack of critical thinking among members.
- Counter messaging requires proper language and terminology.
- Use of former extremists/terrorists is a powerful tactic.
- Religious leaders, faith-based groups, and community resiliency groups play a crucial role in countering narratives and rehabilitation.
- Effective CVE programs must be constantly assessed and recalibrated.



Source: Qatar International Academy for Security Studies Internet website; October 2013; *Countering Violent Extremism: The Counter Narrative Study*; accessed via the Internet on October 3, 2013.

(U//~~FOUO~~) RESOURCES

(U//~~FOUO~~) CVEO Established Special Interest Group

(U//~~FOUO~~) CVEO established a CVE Special Interest Group (SIG) on the Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP). This SIG allows for greater dissemination of CVE-related activities, products, academic studies, community messaging, and identifies advances in this emerging issue. It enhances our engagement and outreach programs by acting as a conduit to our international, federal, state, local, and tribal partners in addressing the CVE issue within their respective communities. If you have interest in this LEEP SIG, please contact the SIG moderator via LEEP for access.