

## **The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Overview of Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Recent Progress**

The Department works closely with state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement, government organizations, and community groups to detect and prevent violent criminal activity that may be motivated by extreme ideological beliefs. The goal is to fully integrate CVE awareness into daily law enforcement activities nationwide by building upon existing community oriented policing practices that have proven to be successful for decades. Since the release of the Administration's national *CVE Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) for Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States*, DHS, in coordination with the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), Department of Justice (DOJ), the FBI, and State and Local law enforcement, has made progress in the following areas:

1. Better understanding the behaviors and indicators of violent extremism through analysis and research;
2. Supporting law enforcement and community oriented policing efforts through training and grant prioritization; and
3. Enhancing operational partnerships with communities, law enforcement, and international partners.

### **Analysis and Research to Better Understand Violent Extremism**

DHS has produced substantial analysis and research on violent extremism since the release of the SIP, including over 75 case studies and assessments produced by the DHS Office for Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) and over 14 reports produced by DHS's Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) on behaviors and indicators associated with violent extremism. This analysis and research has been shared with State and Local law enforcement officials to help detect and mitigate threats and it has been integrated into CVE training materials for law enforcement.

- DHS/I&A developed an in-depth study that looks at the common behaviors associated with 62 cases of Al-Qa'ida-inspired violent extremists. It also produced homeland security reference aids on domestic violent extremist groups, including violent Anarchist Extremists, violent Racist Skinhead Extremists, violent Sovereign Citizen Extremists, violent Animal Rights Extremists, and the Animal Liberation Front.
- DHS/I&A completed a joint case study with EUROPOL exploring some of the major tactics and factors associated with Anders Breivik's violent attack, developing this product at the unclassified level for a state and local law enforcement audience. This product also provides potential pre-attack indicators to inform law enforcement officers and help inform future reporting of suspicious activities from the community level.
- DHS/S&T sponsored a study on Building Resilience to Violent Extremism Among Somali-Americans in Minneapolis-St. Paul, which identified a range of risk and protective factors that may have impacted the involvement of some Minneapolis-St. Paul Somali-American youth in violent extremism. Based on these factors, the research team provided recommendations on how preventative efforts could be developed at the individual, community, and government levels.
- DHS/S&T has funded focus groups across the country on the CVE-related information and training needs of State and Local law enforcement and fusion center personnel. A final report on this effort will be completed this spring.



### **Training and Grants to Support Law Enforcement and Community-Oriented Policing**

The Department is committed to ensuring that State and Local law enforcement have the tools to recognize and detect behaviors and indicators of violent extremism. Operationally appropriate CVE training is critical to effective community oriented policing activities.

- DHS, in partnership with the FBI and State and Local partners, have developed a series of webinars/webcasts that focus on the Domestic Violent Extremist threat such as the Active Shooter incident in Oak Creek, WI, Violent White Supremacists, Violent Sovereign Citizens, and Violent Militia Extremists. The post production on the Active Shooter session is complete and is available to State and Local law enforcement via the CVE Training and Active Shooter Resources Webportal.
- Since 2011, 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.
- The Department has partnered with the International Association of Chiefs of Police to work with their CVE Advisory Group the comprises State and Local Law Enforcement leadership from across the country; they have continued to advise DHS on CVE training and training development, CVE Law Enforcement needs, CVE resource development, best practices in community engagement, and most recently on law enforcement awareness on online radicalization to violence.
  - These efforts culminated in the creation of a new CVE Webportal, which was launched in August 2012 through the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) for CVE law enforcement training practitioners. The Webportal contains over 300 CVE training resources, including case studies on multiple types of violent extremism, reports on terrorism trends, community oriented policing best practices, training frameworks, and other tools that trainers can incorporate into their training development efforts—there are currently 870 users (as of 5/10/13).
- In collaboration with the Interagency Threat Assessment Coordination Group (ITACG), Bureau of Prisons, and National Joint Terrorism Task Force (NJTTF), the Department also developed CVE training for frontline correctional facility, probation, and parole officers at the State and Local level. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is also developing a curriculum for rural correctional facility management.
- The DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) has held more than 70 community engagement events and has trained local law enforcement on cultural awareness and how to best engage with communities through over 75 training events.
  - CRCL has provided training on religious and cultural practices for Sikh, Arab, and Muslim cultures as well as understanding constitutionally protected activity for over 4,000 State and Local law enforcement and fusion center personnel. This includes topics such as cultural and behavioral norms and how best to engage communities that may be targeted for violent extremist recruitment. Training topics include effective policing without the use of ethnic or racial profiling, and best practices in community outreach.
  - In 2011, CRCL conducted roundtable engagements in 14 cities, and in 2012, CRCL expanded engagements to 16 cities.



- In 2012 CRCL personnel also conducted presentations on the Administration's national CVE Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) for Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States, as part of nine community engagement roundtable meetings; those were followed up with coordinated and more detailed threat assessment CVE workshops conducted in partnership with NCTC in six of those cities.
- DHS in partnership with the FBI and State and Local partners have developed a series of webinars/webcasts that focus on the Domestic Violent Extremist threat such as the Active Shooter incident in Oak Creek, WI, Violent White Supremacists, and Violent Sovereign Citizens. The post production on the Active Shooter session is complete and will be available to State and Local law enforcement via the CVE Training Resources Webportal.
- DHS expanded FY2012 grant guidance to include funding for training and local CVE efforts, including participating in CVE training workshops, developing CVE training curriculum, and incorporating CVE training resources into existing training programs.
- DHS in partnership with the NCTC, co-leads a sub-Interagency Policy Committee (IPC) on CVE Training for Law Enforcement
- DHS CRCL in partnership with the DOJ, co-leads a sub-IPC, the National Engagement Taskforce (NETF), and is working to gather best practices and resources from around the USG as well as State and Local partners in order to share them with engagement practitioners.

### **Enhancing Operational Partnerships and Best Practices with Local Communities, State and Local Law Enforcement, and International Partners**

#### *Domestic Partnerships with Communities and State and Local Law Enforcement*

- In 2011, DHS established a Homeland Security Advisory Council's (HSAC) Faith Based Security and Communications Advisory Committee (FBAC) to share threat related and security awareness information, as well as information on the USG's counterterrorism activities, with national religious organizations representing a variety of faiths. As a result of this, there has been an increase in close interfaith collaboration in which faith-based groups have been instrumental in de-escalating interfaith tensions after potentially violent situations.
- The HSAC FBAC took action following the June 2012 incident in Dearborn, Michigan at the Arab International Festival, in which there were interfaith tensions between the Bible Believers group and participants at the Arab International Festival; the August 5, 2012 shootings at the Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, WI; the August 6, 2012 Joplin, MO Mosque burning; the August 15, 2012 shooting at the Family Research Council in Washington, D.C.; and the September 11, 2012 U.S. Embassy and Consulate attacks in Egypt and Libya.
- Faith leaders on the FBAC have been essential partners in supporting the President's plan to reduce gun violence, as well as preventing violent crime, and their input has been incorporated into our development of model emergency plans for schools and houses of worship.
- For example, FBAC members provided recommendations on how to protect houses of worship and reduce gun violence, and their recommendations helped inform DHS's input that was provided to the Vice President's office in support of the President's Plan to Reduce Gun Violence.



- The FBAC has provided their individual feedback and participated in the February 27, 2013 White House event focused on Taking Action: Creating Model Emergency Management Plans for Schools, Institutions of Higher Education, and Houses of Worship. DHS is working closely with the FBAC to provide site security assessments at houses of worship.
- For example, since the Newtown shooting, DHS Protective Security Advisors (PSAs) have conducted over 100 site security assessments at houses of worship and schools, DHS, FBI, and the Secure Community Network have briefed over 300 Jewish school administrators on improving security at their facilities.
- DHS has also worked to implement the recommendations of the Secretary's HSAC Countering Violent Extremism Working Group, which included national and local community leaders from the Muslim-American community who worked to ensure that enhanced information-driven, community-oriented policing efforts were directly incorporated into DHS's training efforts.
- In January 2012, DHS, the White House, NCTC, DOJ, and the FBI hosted 50 State, Local, and Tribal law enforcement officials at the White House to share their views on how the Federal government can better support their local CVE efforts. The feedback received in this workshop informed the Department's Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 grant guidance and the development of online CVE training for officers nationwide.

#### *International Partnerships*

- In March 2013, DHS participated and led a USG delegation in a discussion regarding online radicalization to violence; it was hosted by the Australian embassy and attended by the UK, Canadians, and the Netherlands.
- DHS recently participated in the planning and coordination of the Global Counterterrorism Forum's (GCTF) March 2013 Workshops in regards to CVE and Community Engagement (CE) and Community Oriented Policing (COP); both workshops brought together CE and COP practitioners from around the globe to discuss and exchange best practices on CVE.
- In November 2011, Europol Director Wainwright and Secretary Napolitano agreed to expand collaboration between DHS and Europol on CVE.
  - Since with the meeting, the US and Europol have focused on exchanging: 1) case studies on violent extremist activity and behaviors and indicators of violent extremism; 2) strategies used by local law enforcement to combat violent extremism; and 3) Best practices in the area of CVE training.
  - These exchanges also explored how the internet and social media are used to recruit individuals for violent extremist activity and/or as a communication conduit for those seeking to inspire individuals to commit acts of violence.
- For the past year, DHS, EU, and Europol partners have expanded collaboration in studying violent extremism cases and developing CVE training standards, including:
  - A joint case study on the 2011 Norway attacks, including an analysis of the Breivik manifesto, which has been posted on DHS' CVE Webportal and briefed to State and Local law enforcement at four separate CVE Training Workshops.
  - A UK briefing on the Nail Bomber Case, a Belgian briefing on their community policing training, a Spanish briefing on the 2004 Terrorist Attacks in Madrid, as well as US briefings on case studies on Al-Qa'ida-inspired violent extremists.



- DHS, in collaboration with the UK Home Office, is sponsoring research that has resulted in several reports on the behaviors and motivations of lone-actor terrorists and the factors associated with disengagement from terrorism.
- DHS has also strengthened international CVE partnerships with Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, and the Netherlands.
- The U.S. and Canada are working under the Beyond the Border Action Plan to improve bilateral cooperation to identify, prevent, and counter violent extremism in our two countries. By working cooperatively on research, sharing best practices, and emphasizing community-based and community-driven efforts, the U.S. and Canada will have a better understanding of this threat and an increased ability to address it effectively.
- DHS/CRCL has also worked internationally on engagement:
  - From 2011-2012, a DHS CRCL representative was detailed to the US Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan to develop community engagement programs focused on countering violent extremism in Pakistan. CRCL also facilitated two international delegations with Pakistan and Spain to share engagement strategies and counter-radicalization efforts with young students, professionals in academia and government officials and an exchange program with Germany for community and faith based leaders, educators, and law enforcement in partnership with the Department of State.
  - In 2011 and 2012, DHS CRCL in partnership with the US Department of State coordinated four community engagement exchange delegations between four cities in Germany and the United States. The delegations, representing key civil society stakeholders, educators, and law enforcement officials participated in week-long programs involving a best-practices exchange in community engagement on CVE. The cities involved were Chicago, Detroit, Houston, and Seattle with Hamburg, Dusseldorf, and Berlin.
  - In September and October 2012, a CRCL representative visited the UK to discuss civil liberties protections in the homeland security effort, support US Embassy CVE engagement efforts with the Somali community in UK, foster transatlantic engagement, and conduct ethnic media outreach. The CRCL representative also provided Cultural and CVE Engagement training at the U.S. Embassy in London for CVE Officers from embassies in Europe, Yemen and Kenya. As a result of this engagement, a UK Government delegation from the Prevent Counter Terrorism Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism at the Home Office, Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Somalia Unit, and UK Embassy Washington, accompanied DHS representatives to Minnesota for a three day CVE engagement tour to better understand engagement initiatives with the U.S. Somali community.
  - DHS CRCL Community Engagement section members have regularly participated in the US-UK Joint Contact Group, and have used this opportunity to establish strong relationships with the British Muslim community. CRCL officials have also given presentations on the Department's outreach efforts at international conferences and academic forums in England, Austria, Poland, Kazakhstan, Sweden, Denmark, and Canada, and through State Department-sponsored public diplomacy trips to Egypt Kyrgyzstan and multiple ethnic media engagement trip to England. DHS CRCL was also a host to a UK Prevent detailed official for over a year to improve information exchange and cooperation.

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