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HOMEGROWN VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM

Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Talking Points

DHS's efforts to counter violent extremism (CVE) are based on the understanding that local authorities and community members are best able to identify those individuals or groups residing within their communities exhibiting dangerous and violent behaviors associated with extreme ideological beliefs. Today, the Department operates with the understanding that as it relates to domestic violent extremism we face the greatest terrorist risk from those extremists who have either been recruited by al-Qa'ida or its affiliates or inspired by their ideology. However, we also know that violent extremism can be inspired by various religious, political, or other ideological beliefs.

- Recognizing this, DHS has designed a CVE approach that applies to all forms of violent extremism, regardless of ideology. The DHS CVE Approach, and in turn the SIP, were both informed based on the recommendations from the HSAC CVE Working Group that were issued in August, 2010.
- Through a variety of analytic, research, outreach and training efforts, DHS works closely with state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement, other local government organizations, and community groups to incorporate efforts to counter violent extremism into pre-existing community-based violent crime prevention efforts.
- On December 8, 2011, the White House released the Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Administration's CVE Strategy, which lists the current and future actions the USG will take in support of a locally-focused, community-based approach, in three broad areas:
 - Enhancing engagement and support to local communities
 - Building government and law enforcement expertise
 - Countering violent extremist propaganda
- DHS was and continues to work closely with the White House, NCTC, DOJ, and the FBI to develop and implement the SIP. Efforts include the following:

Integrating CVE into Local Efforts to Prevent Violence through Training and Grant Prioritization

- **Overall Training:** DHS is in the final stages of implementing a CVE training for Federal, State, Local, and Correctional Facility law enforcement officers, as well as a training block for State Police Academies. The key goal of the training is to help law enforcement recognize the indicators of violent extremist activity and distinguish between those behaviors that are potentially related to crime and those that are constitutionally protected or part of a religious or cultural practice.
 - **State and Local Training:** DHS is working with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA), and the National Consortium for Advance Policing (NCAP) to finalize a continuing education CVE curriculum for state and local law enforcement—the first pilot was held on Jan. 26, 2012 in San Diego, CA and the next pilot will be in Minneapolis at the end of July. The curriculum will be available online before the end of 2012. The Major Cities Chiefs Association also passed a motion to adopt and implement the DHS CVE curriculum in their training academies.

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- **Federal Training:** The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) has finalized a CVE curriculum for federal law enforcement that has been integrated into their existing training for new recruits. On February 16, 2012, DHS/FLETC hosted a full day symposium on this CVE curriculum and it is now incorporated in FLETC's training curriculum.
- **Correctional Facility Training:** DHS is finalizing CVE awareness training for Correctional Facility, Probation, and Parole Officers in collaboration with the Interagency Threat Assessment Coordination Group (ITACG), Bureau of Prisons (BOP), and National Joint Terrorism Task Force (NJTTF)—the training was piloted on March 28, 2012 in the Maryland Public Safety and Corrections Training Center. The next pilot will take place on July 18, 2012 in Orange County, CA. FEMA is also developing a curriculum for rural correctional facility management.
- **Grants:** DHS incorporated language into FY12 grant guidance that prioritizes CVE and allows funds to be used in support of State and Local CVE efforts.

Better Understanding Violent Extremism through Analysis and Research

- DHS has conducted extensive analysis and research to better understand the threat of violent extremism in order to support State and Local law enforcement, fusion centers, and community partners with the knowledge needed to identify credible behaviors and indicators of violent extremism, and prevent violent crime in their communities.
- This includes case studies and assessments produced by DHS on homegrown violent extremist activities in the U.S. identifying common behaviors to raise the situational awareness of law enforcement.
- DHS's Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) has produced a series of reports that have informed CVE work on Hot Spots of Terrorism and Other Crimes, Characteristics of American Communities Where Terrorists Lived, Planned, and Conducted Their Attacks, and Organizational Dynamics of Far-Right Hate Groups in the United States: Comparing Violent to Non-Violent Organizations.

Working with Local Communities and International Partners

- DHS works with non-governmental, state and local government, community, State and Local law enforcement, private sector and academic stakeholders, such as the DHS Homeland Security Advisory Council's (HSAC) CVE Working Group, which provided input that informed the DHS CVE approach.
- DHS hosted 50 State and Local law enforcement officials for a meeting at the White House on January 18, 2012 along with DOJ, FBI, and NCTC to hear feedback on how the federal government could better support their local CVE efforts.
- DHS has also made significant advancements in operational CVE exchanges with international partners. For the past year, DHS, NCTC, DOJ, and the FBI, along with Europol and European Union partners, have held extensive discussions which have focused on exchanging: 1) case studies on specific instances of 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.
- DHS, Europol, and EU partners have developed a joint case study on the 2011 Norway attacks, including extensive analysis of the Anders Breivik manifesto. DHS and Europol

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are also finalizing joint reports on training, and fusion center best practices, which will be distributed to law enforcement in the EU and the U.S.

- **Success Story:** DHS/Europol attended a briefing at the Pennsylvania Criminal Intelligence Center (PaCIC) on January 20, 2012 on how software is being used to counter-child pornography—French law enforcement was given access to this software, which led to an arrest of one of the largest child pornography sharing targets in Paris.

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