

Terrorism Prevention—A Form of Violence Reduction

1. WHAT IS TERRORISM PREVENTION? Terrorism Prevention, previously known as Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), is a multi-agency, multidisciplinary, proactive approach against the many forms of terrorist ideology. Terrorism Prevention works to protect our nation from terrorist threats, and remains our highest priority. It utilizes prevention, intervention, and disengagement efforts. The principles and strategies used in Terrorism Prevention are similar to those applied to community policing, counter-drug, and counter-gang initiatives. Where possible, Terrorism Prevention should be incorporated into existing programs related to public safety, public health, resilience, inclusion, and violence prevention. At the state and local level, the importance of a whole-of-government approach to stemming Homegrown Violent Extremism includes local communities and first responders. Communities are an integral part of the effort to prevent violent extremism and can assist public safety professionals in identifying at-risk individuals and intervening. Awareness and vigilance are crucial to identify behaviors that can lead to a violent act in the US.

Violence reduction is a proactive approach to counter efforts by terrorists, and address those conditions that allow for violent extremism. Violent extremism refers to encouraging, condoning, justifying, supporting, planning or committing ideologically-motivated violence to further political goals or social change. Violent extremism is a complex and global phenomenon, which is not limited to a particular ideology. The ability to recognize and address possible terrorist activity is critical in the prevention of terrorist attacks in the US. Some activities may be constitutionally protected and may be insignificant on their own but when observed in combination with other suspicious behaviors, may constitute a basis for reporting. Law enforcement action should not be based solely on the exercise of constitutionally protected activities or on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or any combination of these factors. Whether a plan for a terrorist attack is homegrown or originates overseas, indicators of a future attack may be derived from information gathered by first responders, public and private sector stakeholders, and communities.

2. WHAT ARE SOME ASSUMPTIONS AND FACTS ABOUT TERRORISM PREVENTION? It is important to dispel myths, which include:

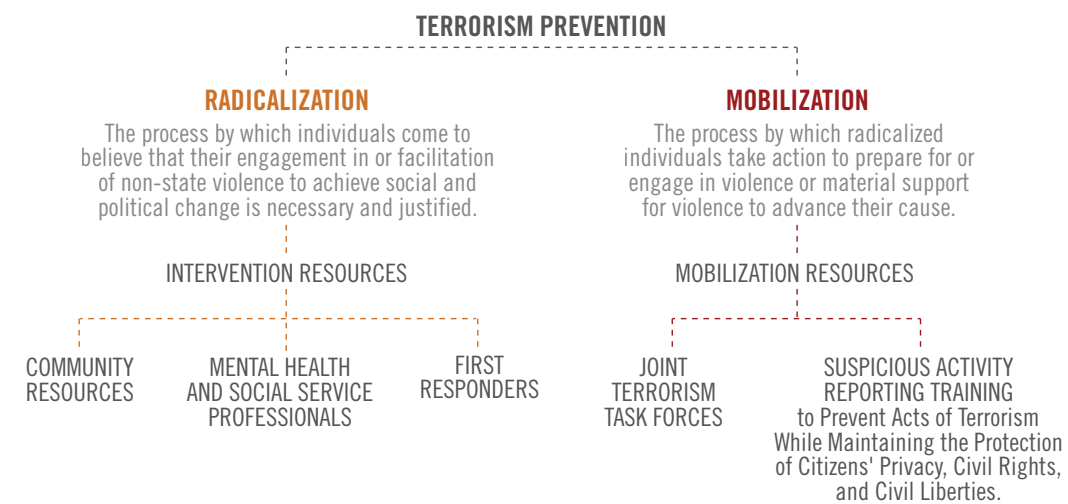
ASSUMPTION	FACT
“The US Government is unresponsive to community concerns.”	The US Government partners with communities to address all forms of violent extremism to develop solutions that best fit their community.
“Terrorism Prevention is perceived as a form of government surveillance used by counterterrorism practitioners.”	Terrorism Prevention includes efforts to build resilience in the community and are not used for gathering intelligence, or performing investigations for the purpose of criminal prosecution.
“Terrorism Prevention is often criticized for focusing only on specific communities, while not addressing other types of violent extremism.”	Terrorism Prevention addresses all forms of terrorism irrespective of ideology. Terrorists espousing violent extremist ideologies underscore the need to work across all communities in the US.
“Terrorism Prevention focused programs lack evidence-based research and empirical data supporting their mission and goals.”	While research demonstrates it is difficult to predict who will radicalize to violence, data from prevention programs on community violence, gangs, and public health inform effective efforts to prevent terrorism. Since 2010, the US Government has invested over \$20 million into research aimed at understanding all forms of radicalization to violence.
“Terrorism Prevention inhibits law enforcement efforts to undermine terrorism.”	Terrorism Prevention complements traditional counterterrorism measures through processes and initiatives designed to prevent a terrorist attack from ever occurring in the first place.

3. WHAT ARE RADICALIZATION AND MOBILIZATION TO VIOLENCE? Behaviors associated with radicalization may be observed by first responders, community members, or family members. If addressed early enough, the transition from views protected by the First Amendment to mobilization to violence may be prevented. The below graphic provides examples of resources which may be applied once it has been determined that indicators reveal violent radicalization or progress towards mobilization to violence.



* Once an individual is incarcerated, the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) provides all inmates with opportunities to prepare themselves to remain crime-free after returning to the community. This is accomplished by encouraging inmates to participate in a range of programs that are proven to help them adopt crime-free lifestyles, such as medical and mental health screening, educational programs, vocational training, job training, substance abuse treatment, work in Federal Prison Industries, and placement in a Residential Reentry Center (halfway house) prior to release, if appropriate. Additionally, BOP's overall reentry strategy addresses risk factors that ultimately impact an offender's potential for return to a criminal lifestyle. It is also important to note that medical and mental health screening may also occur pre-mobilization.

4. HOW DO I ADDRESS RADICALIZATION AND MOBILIZATION TO VIOLENCE IN MY COMMUNITY? Communities can learn from each other's best practices. Community policing initiatives often directly help Terrorism Prevention goals by enhancing public safety and improving quality of life within the community. Targeted interventions are another best practice, especially in the case of minors, who require early engagement before individuals are radicalized. By truly understanding communities and fostering relationships within all segments of the population, federal, state and local first responders are at the leading edge of inclusive and socially responsive Terrorism Prevention efforts. The below graphic depicts Terrorism Prevention programs that can 'prevent' mobilization to violence or 'assist' in disengagement efforts.



Protecting civil rights and civil liberties is paramount in itself and helps to counter violence by safeguarding equal and fair treatment, ensuring nonviolent means to address grievances, and making it more difficult for terrorists to divide communities. Additional advice and consultation can be provided about potential privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties concerns via DHS, DOJ, and FBI privacy and civil liberties offices.



NOTICE: This product was developed by the Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT), which is a collaboration by NCTC, DHS, the FBI, and state, local, tribal, and territorial government personnel to improve information sharing and enhance public safety. The product is intended to promote coordination among intergovernmental authorities and the private sector in identifying, preventing, and responding to foreign terrorist activities in the US. The product should be considered within the context of existing laws, authorities, agreements, policies or procedures. For additional information contact us a JCAT@NCTC.GOV.

Terrorism Prevention—A Form of Violence Reduction *(continued)*

5. HOW CAN FIRST RESPONDERS SUPPORT TERRORISM PREVENTION?

Public safety professionals from state, local, tribal, and territorial government agencies as well as private and public sector stakeholders, are critical partners in preventing violence, because they usually have initial contact with individuals contemplating violence. Terrorism Prevention programs can be effective disruption tools if used at the appropriate time within the cycle of violence. Appropriate mental health and social service professionals can use a whole-person evaluation approach toward an individual who may be considering violent actions as a solution to his/her grievances. In other words, professionalization of existing intervention processes entails law enforcement working more effectively with mental health and social service professionals. Information reported by family members or other loved ones may require sensitive handling to preserve the first responder community bonds.

- **Prevention:** Educating communities to increase awareness of all forms of violent extremism while building and/or continuing to strengthen trust between communities and first responders.
- **Intervention:** Provides practical opportunities for Terrorism Prevention with intervention efforts before an individual takes action in support of violent extremist ideology. Intervention also requires continued trust building among all stakeholders, enhanced interpersonal skills, and systematic and precise legal framework to minimize potential liability concerns.
- **Participation:** Becoming part of a multi-disciplinary team to identify existing risk factors in an individual's life and facilitate identification of relevant community resources to apply.
- **Engagement:** Interacting with each segment of society to build awareness and educate on emerging trends. Interacting with communities to allay fears, build trust, and establish collaborative partnerships.

6. WHO CAN HELP TERRORISM PREVENTION?



TERRORISM PREVENTION STAKEHOLDERS

PRIMARY FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of Justice
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- National Counterterrorism Center

SUPPORTING FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

- Department of Education
- Department of Health & Human Services
- Department of Housing & Urban Development

SUPPORTING FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES (INTERNATIONAL-FOCUSED)

- Department of Defense
- Department of State
- United States Agency for International Development

NON-FEDERAL STAKEHOLDERS & LOCAL PARTNERS

- Academia
- Communities
- Educators
- Law Enforcement
- Mental Health Providers
- Private Sector
- Social Services

7. WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE? For informative tools, research, and funding opportunities from the US Government and broader Terrorism Prevention community, refer to the inter-agency CVE Task Force <https://www.dhs.gov/cve>.

- **Terrorism Prevention Information:** Access to federal grant information, Office of Community Partnerships, lines of effort, additional resources, and contact information for the Office of Community Partnerships (OCP) (<http://www.dhs.gov/topic/countering-violent-extremism>).
- **Active Shooter Public Portal** provides a user friendly environment to promote information sharing and collaboration between federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, private, civilian, and international entities working to counter the threat of violent extremism and help prevent active shooter incidents (<http://www.dhs.gov/cveas-portal>).
- **Toolkit** provides an overview of approaches to Terrorism Prevention, factsheets, training, guidance, best practices, engagement activities, and additional resources (<http://www.dhs.gov/publication/CVE-tool-kit>).
- **Community Awareness Briefing (CAB)** is an unclassified presentation on radicalization and terrorist recruitment designed to build awareness and understanding of violent extremism and to catalyze community efforts on prevention.
- **Law Enforcement Awareness Brief (LAB)** is a 2-5 hour customizable brief designed for state and local law enforcement on their role in the national terrorism prevention strategy.
- **Community Resilience Exercise (CREX)** is a half-day table-top exercise designed to improve communication between law enforcement and communities, and to share ideas on how best to build community resilience.
 - CAB, LAB, and CREX can be requested through the interagency Terrorism Prevention Task Force, DHS and Fusion Centers (via NCTC Domestic Representatives) (<https://www.dhs.gov/Countering-Violent-Extremism>).
- **Don't Be A Puppet:** Built by the FBI in consultation with community leaders and other partners, the site uses a series of interactive materials to educate teens on the destructive nature of violent extremism and encourages them to think critically about its messages and goals (<https://cve.fbi.gov>).
- **Pathways to Violent Extremism – NCTC's Radicalization and Mobilization Dynamics Primer** is a briefing on how and why terrorists in the US radicalize and potentially mobilize to violence. This offering can be accessed and requested by emailing (nctcpao@nctc.gov).
- The following films can be requested through FBI's Office of Partner Engagement and the Office of Public Affairs. These films are not intended for foreign distribution due to licensing.
 - **A Revolutionary Act:** The 2014 ambush-style murders of two Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Officers is a documentary film that chronicles how the killers progressed over several months from violent thoughts to attacking two police officers and a civilian. Using commentary from FBI's Behavioral Analysis Unit, Domestic Terrorism Operations Section, and interviews with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police who responded to and investigated the attacks, the film is part of an overall law enforcement awareness program on pathways to violence. The audience is primarily law enforcement officers, but the documentary could easily form the basis for a community outreach event for the general public.
 - **Redemption:** A fictional account of violent Sovereign Citizen extremists planning a revenge attack on a federal prosecutor allows the audience to observe the pathway behaviors of terrorists. This 35-minute film is best suited for outreach to the general public, and chronicles how some domestic terrorists become radicalized to violence.
 - **"Referrals"** can be used by law enforcement to refer a person (or parent) to local counseling/mental health assets. **US Department of Health and Human Services Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator:** (<http://www.findtreatment.samhsa.gov>).
 - **The DHS-sponsored course from the University of Maryland (UMD):** This is a free course open to the public. It is offered online through UMD and is a four-hour, self-paced course intended to offer a general introduction to radicalization to violence and provides examples of community-led efforts to foster resilience to violent extremism and radicalization to violence. It would be especially important to share with those creating training programs, especially because it uses cleared terminology (<http://www.start.umd.edu/training/community-led-action-response-violent-extremism>).
 - **Department of Justice/Bureau of Justice Assistance Police/Mental Health Collaboration Toolkit:** (<https://pmhctoolkit.bja.gov/>).



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PRODUCT FEEDBACK FORM

(U) JCAT MISSION: To improve information sharing and enhance public safety. In coordination with the FBI and DHS, collaborate with other members of the IC to research, produce, and disseminate counterterrorism (CT) intelligence products for federal, state, local, tribal and territorial government agencies and the private sector. Advocate for the CT intelligence requirements and needs of these partners throughout the IC.

NAME and/or ORG:

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, OR QUESTIONS. HOW DOES JCAT MAKE PRODUCTS BETTER?

WHAT TOPICS DO YOU RECOMMEND?
