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• Indicators are highly diagnostic on their own

1) GROUP B

 Indicators are moderately diagnostic on their own and require one or more other indicators to gain diagnosticity

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 Indicators are minimally diagnostic on their own and require several other indicators to gain diagnosticity

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• Identified factors that could increase the likelihood that the mobilization indicators suggest violent mobilization

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HOMEGROWN VIOLENT EXTREMIST MOBILIZATION INDICATORS

The indicators of violent extremist mobilization described herein are observable behaviors that could help determine whether individuals or groups are preparing to engage in violent extremist activities, such as conducting an attack or traveling overseas to join a foreign terrorist organization. Indicators are grouped by diagnosticity—meaning how clearly we assess the behavior demonstrates an individual's likelihood of engaging in terrorist activity.

The National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) emphasize that many of the indicators described herein may involve constitutionally protected activities and might be insignificant on their own. However, when observed in combination with other suspicious behaviors, these indicators may raise suspicion in a reasonable person and constitute a basis for reporting. Law enforcement action should not be taken solely based on the exercise of constitutionally protected rights, or on the apparent or actual race, ethnicity, national origin or religion of the subject, or on any combination of these factors. Individuals are encouraged to contact law enforcement if, based on these indicators and the situational context, they suspect an individual is mobilizing to violence.

WHY WAS THIS BOOKLET CREATED?

The United States and other Western nations face a heightened threat from homegrown violent extremists (HVEs) heeding the call to violence from foreign terrorist organizations, including the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS), al-Qa'ida, and other groups. In an effort to mitigate future attacks, the initial list of indicators was developed based on a review of information derived from dozens of FBI terrorism investigations, peer-reviewed academic studies, and brainstorming sessions by experts from the Intelligence Community and law enforcement. The indicators are continuously updated based on input from subject matter experts.

The booklet was initially published in 2015, with an updated version published in January 2017. An unclassified version was released in December 2017.

MOBILIZATION INDICATOR CRITERIA

The booklet describes each indicator in terms of four criteria: diagnosticity, category of behavior, observable (by), and time sensitivity.

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DIAGNOSTICITY - The extent to which the behavior demonstrates mobilization to violence

GROUP A: Highly diagnostic on their own

GROUP B: Moderately diagnostic on their own; require one or more other indicators to gain diagnosticity

GROUP C: Minimally diagnostic on their own; require several other indicators to gain diagnosticity

CATEGORY OF BEHAVIOR - The type of behavior the indicator typically represents

Preparation: Developing and displaying a readiness to commit a violent act

Motivation: Developing and displaying a mindset oriented toward committing a violent act

Concealment: Hiding violent act-related activities from scrutiny

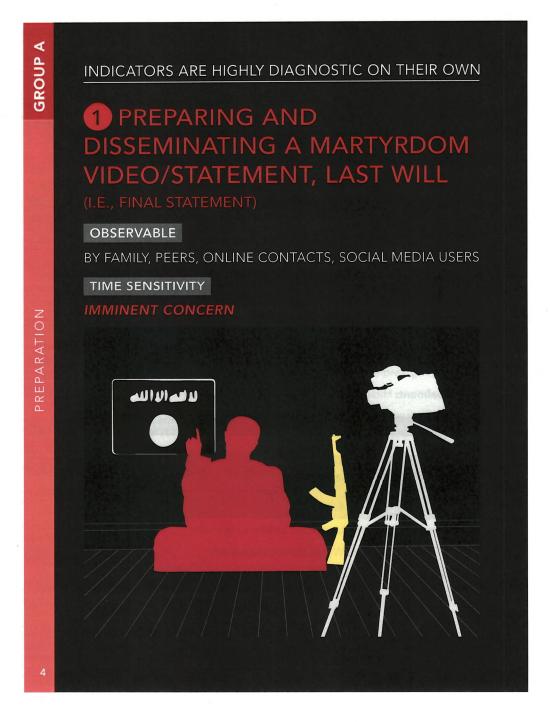
OBSERVABLE - The people who are most likely to see these activities

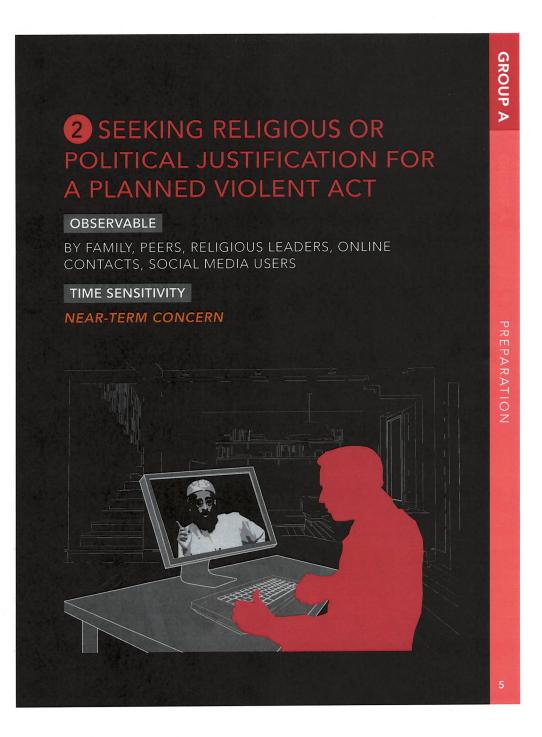
TIME SENSITIVITY - The typical amount of time between the occurrence of the behavior and the violent act; these timelines are generalized guidelines and individual cases vary as other factors accelerate and decelerate mobilization

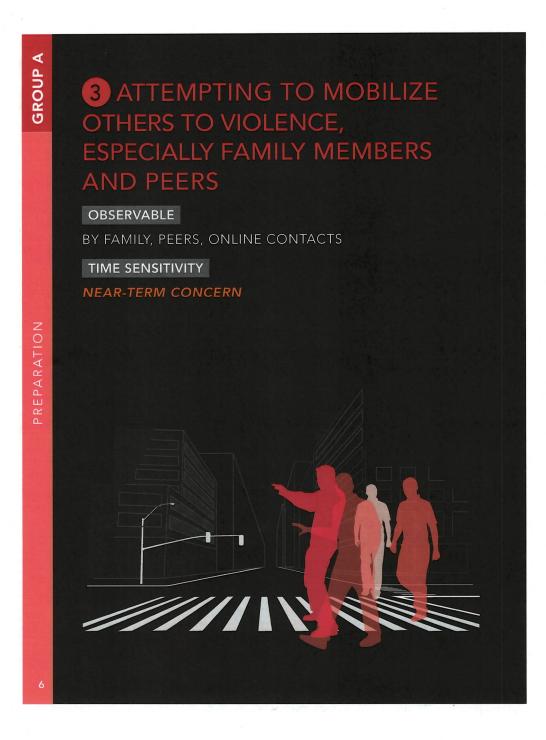
Imminent Concern: Days/hours before violent act

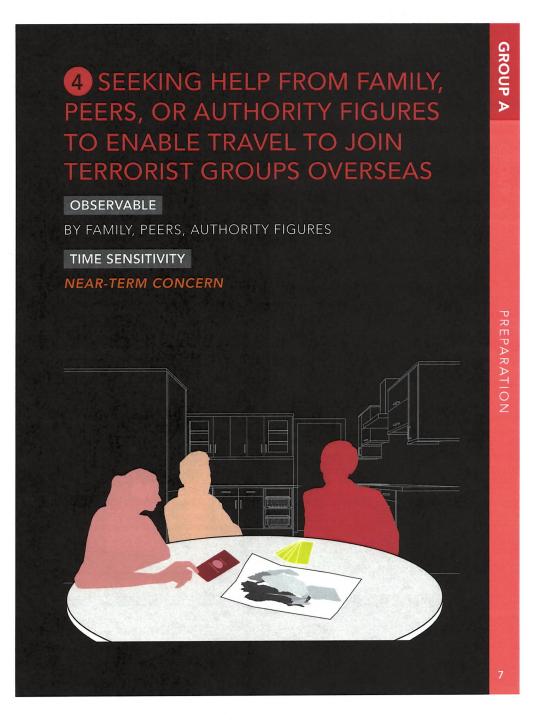
Near-Term Concern: Weeks before violent act

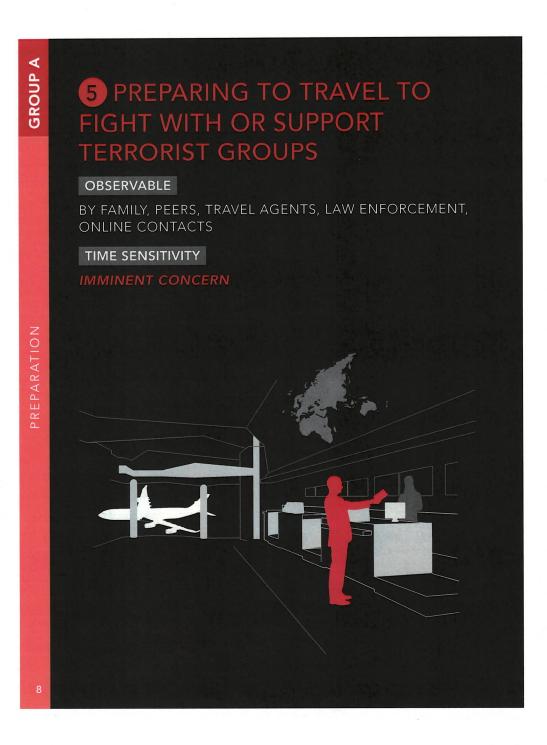
Long-Term Concern: Months or years before violent act

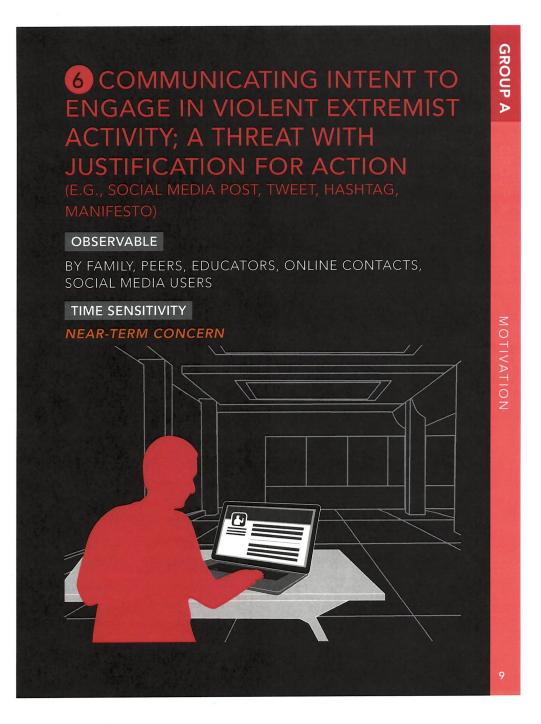














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GROUP B

11 **Conducting research for target or tactic selection** (e.g., acquiring maps, blueprints, schematics, technical capabilities, planning and logistics information)

Observable by family, peers, community members, law enforcement

Long-Term Concern

Suspicious sending of financial resources, electronic equipment, or survivalist gear to people or groups overseas

Observable by family, peers, financial institution employees, material providers/shippers

Long-Term Concern

13 Receiving unexplained monies from third parties overseas

Observable by family, peers, travel agents, financial institution employees, sellers, law enforcement

Near-Term Concern

GROUP

2

Expressing acceptance of violence as a necessary means to achieve ideological goals (e.g., communicating desire for revenge, promoting violent extremist narratives, sharing and praising violent extremist videos)

Observable by family, peers, educators, online contacts, social media users

Long-Term Concern

15 Attempting to radicalize others, especially family members and peers

Observable by family, peers, law enforcement Long-Term Concern



Creating or joining a group that promotes violence to address perceived social, political, or ideological grievances

Observable by family, peers, community members, social media users

Long-Term Concern



Having an acknowledged or implied membership in, or association with violent extremist groups (e.g., individuals declare they are ISIS on social media, post terrorist symbols—green birds, flags, lions)

Observable by family, peers, law enforcement, online contacts, social media users



Participating in online sites or groups that promote violent extremism

Observable by family, peers, online contacts, social media users

Long-Term Concern

Communicating directly with violent extremists online Observable by family, peers, law enforcement, online contacts Long-Term Concern

20 Seeking or claiming relationships with incarcerated or infamous violent extremists

Observable by family, peers, law enforcement, corrections officials, online contacts

Long-Term Concern

Encouraging or advocating violence toward individuals, military or government officials, law enforcement, or civilian targets

Observable by family, peers, educators, religious leaders, online contacts

GROUP B

Outbursts or behavior, including violent behavior, or advocacy that results in exclusion or rejection by family or community

Observable by family, peers, religious community, community members

Long-Term Concern

23 Producing violent extremist videos, media, and/or messaging

Observable by family, peers, law enforcement, online contacts, social media users

Near-Term Concern



Expressing desire to travel to conflict zone to fight with or support a terrorist group or idealizing living among other violent extremist groups overseas

Observable by family, peers, travel agents, law enforcement, online contacts

Engaging in suspicious travel activity (e.g., unusual purchase of one-way tickets, false excuses for intended travel, use of pass-through hubs, fraudulent application for a new passport)
Observable by family, peers, travel agents, law enforcement, government officials
Near-Term Concern
Employing new or increased use of concealment behavior (e.g., counter-surveillance techniques, encrypted media apps/software platforms, disposable "burner"

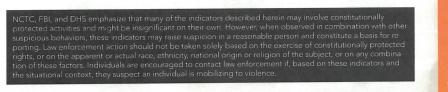
Observable by family, peers, educators, law enforcement **Near-Term Concern**

Deleting or manipulating social media or other online accounts to misrepresent location or hide group membership, contacts, or activities in support of violent extremism

Observable by family, peers, law enforcement, online contacts

Near-Term Concern

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GROUP B

INDICATORS ARE MINIMALLY DIAGNOSTIC ON THEIR OWN

28 Suspicious building and/or testing of explosives Observable by family, peers, neighbors Imminent Concern

Suspicious or illegal acquisition of weapons and/or ammunition (e.g., using borrowed or stolen ID to purchase firearm)

Observable by family, peers, financial institution employees, sellers, law enforcement, online contacts

Near-Term Concern



PREPARATION

30 Unusual purchase of military-style tactical equipment other than weapons (e.g., personal protective equipment, body armor)

Observable by family, peers, financial institution employees, sellers, law enforcement, online contacts **Near-Term Concern**

16

Suspicious, unexplained, or unusual physical or weapons training (e.g., multiple non-recreational gun range visits) or attempts to seek technical expertise (e.g., flight training, electronics, chemical)

Observable by family, peers, financial institution employees, sellers, law enforcement, online contacts **Near-Term Concern**

Conducting suspicious financial transactions (e.g., unusual applications for increase of credit or multiple lines of credit)

Observable by family, peers, travel agents, financial institution employees, sellers, law enforcement

Long-Term Concern

Disposing of personal assets/belongings in an unusual manner (e.g., selling, trading, pawning, gifting)

Observable by family, peers, law enforcement, online contacts *Imminent Concern*

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Unusual goodbyes or post-death instructions to family and peers

Observable by family, peers, online contacts Imminent Concern

Promoting violent extremist narratives (e.g., the West is waging war with Islam, it's "us" versus "them," violence is required to defend the identity group)

Observable by family, peers, online contacts, social media users

Long-Term Concern

Engaging in outbursts/fights with family, peers, or authority figures, while advocating violent extremist ideology

Observable by family, peers, authority figures, law enforcement

Long-Term Concern



Isolating oneself from family and peers, particularly if believed to be associated with violent extremist doctrine or ideology Observable by family, peers

Long-Term Concern



Adopting more than one violent extremist ideology

Observable by family, peers, religious community, online contacts

Rejecting non-violent voices in favor of violent extremist ideologues (e.g., Anwar Awlaki)

Observable by family, peers, religious community, online contacts, social media users

Long-Term Concern

Dehumanizing people who are not in the identity group (e.g., non-believers, followers of other religions or ideologies, including other variants of Islam)

Observable by family, peers, educators, religious community, online contacts

Long-Term Concern

Praising past successful or attempted attacks Observable by family, peers, law enforcement, online

contacts, social media users

Long-Term Concern

Condemning behavior of family and peers based on violent extremist doctrine (e.g., denouncing lifestyle choices such as clothing, music, religious practices) Observable by family, peers, law enforcement, online contacts, social media users Long-Term Concern GROUP C

Changing vocabulary, style of speech, or behavior to reflect hardened point of view or new sense of purpose associated with violent extremist causes Observable by family, peers, religious community, online contacts

Long-Term Concern

MOTIVAT

Consuming or sharing violent extremist videos, media, and/or messaging, retweeting or linking to violent extremists

Observable by family, peers, community members, law enforcement, online contacts, social media users

Long-Term Concern

4

Researching or discussing ways to evade law enforcement Observable by family, peers, online contacts

Long-Term Concern



Lying to law enforcement officers/obstructing investigations

Observable by family, peers, law enforcement Long-Term Concern

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RISK FACTORS

It is important to consider the totality of circumstances when observing potential indicators, as some factors may increase the risk of extremist violence in a given situation. These factors may include but are not limited to: **RISK FACTORS**

- Inability to cope with changes or perceived failures in relationships, school, or career
- History of violence (e.g., domestic violence or violence toward animals) and unstable mental state
- Social isolation or inability to join with or relate to others
- Possession of, access to, or familiarity with weapons or explosives

FAOS

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS A HOMEGROWN VIOLENT EXTREMIST?

A homegrown violent extremist (HVE) is a person of any citizenship who lives or operates primarily in the United States or its territories, and who advocates, engages in, or is preparing to engage in or support terrorist activities in furtherance of a foreign terrorist organization's objectives, but who is acting independently of foreign terrorist direction. Because HVEs are acting to further the goals of a foreign terrorist organization, they are considered foreign intelligence threats under the authorities of the Intelligence Community and domestic public safety entities.

CAN THESE INDICATORS BE APPLIED TO INDIVIDUALS OTHER THAN HOMEGROWN VIOLENT EXTREMISTS?

Certainly, behaviors exist and are noted in this booklet that would be troubling regardless of ideological motivation and may warrant contacting law enforcement. However, this booklet is focused on individuals or groups that are inspired or enabled by foreign terrorist organizations, including but not limited to ISIS, al-Qa'ida, and their affiliates and allies.

WHY CAN'T LAW ENFORCEMENT DO ALL OF THIS ITSELF; WHY INVOLVE THE GENERAL PUBLIC?

We are all in this together. We continue to see that members of the community—such as family members and peers—are often best positioned to witness signs of mobilization to violence. Such community members almost always are the first to detect hints that an individual may be considering violent action in the Homeland or overseas.

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5.	Preparing to travel to fight with or support terrorist groups8
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7.	Suspiciously obtaining or attempting (illegally or otherwise) to obtain explosive precursors
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9.	Surveilling potential targets10
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11.	Conducting research for target or tactic selection (e.g., acquiring maps, blueprints, schematics, technical capabilities, planning and logistics information)11
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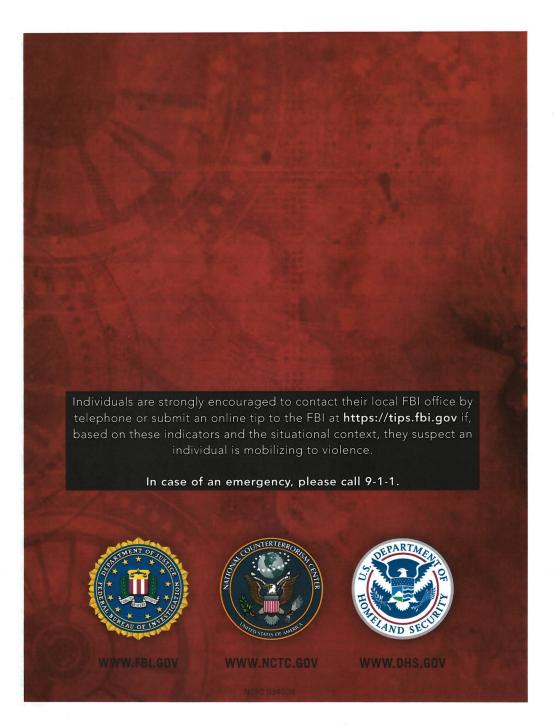
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44.	Consuming or sharing violent extremist videos, media, and/or messaging, retweeting or linking to violent extremists	20
45.	Researching or discussing ways to evade law enforcement	20
46.	Lying to law enforcement officers/obstructing investigations	20

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REFERENCE CARD

HOMEGROWN VIOLENT EXTREMIST MOBILIZATION INDICATORS 2019

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23. Producing violent extremist videos, media, and/or messaging

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