

IACP BRIEF

Serving the Leaders of Today, Developing the Leaders of Tomorrow

COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT



OVERVIEW

The bombing at the Boston Marathon and the killing of two deputy sheriffs in Saint John Parish, Louisiana, by two sovereign citizens demonstrate that violent extremism of all types continues to be a reality in the United States. These incidents demonstrate the range of extremist ideologies and highlight the threats posed by violent extremists nationwide. Communities of all sizes are dealing with individuals and groups that proffer violent interpretations of their beliefs, radicals hoping to identify and groom new recruits, and individuals that are radicalizing to violence.

State, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) law enforcement agencies are responding to the threats posed by violent extremism by integrating community oriented policing principles and homeland security. Community policing encourages law enforcement to use partnerships and problem-solving techniques to proactively address public safety concerns. It promotes leveraging the most valuable resource in any community—its members—by building relationships based on understanding, trust, and respect. Community members can further inform law enforcement about their religions, cultures, and beliefs, so that officers are able to distinguish between constitutionally protected behavior and criminal behavior. Community members are also best positioned to recognize suspicious activities in their own communities.

Over the past two years, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) has taken a leading role in helping SLTT law enforcement agencies understand and counter violent extremism and online radicalization to violence. Our goals are to provide resources and training materials that increase the awareness and capacity of SLTT law enforcement agencies to develop problem solving strategies to identify, prevent, and eliminate extremist illegal behaviors. This IACP Brief provides an overview of our activities.

THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY POLICING IN HOMELAND SECURITY AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

This project, supported by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office), highlights the importance of integrating community policing principles into countering violent extremism (CVE) efforts. The project focuses on using community oriented policing principles; protecting the civil rights and civil liberties of all individuals; and, partnering with local community members to identify, address, and counter extremists and their narratives.

DELIVERABLES:

COMMUNITY POLICING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM: KEY PRINCIPLES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

This guide will serve as a resource for law enforcement organizations considering, planning, and employing community policing practices tailored to violent extremism in their communities. It details five key community policing principles and the roles they play in contributing to CVE. The document also provides examples from agencies that have successfully implemented these principles. The five key principles are:

1. Foster and Enhance Trusting Partnerships with the Community
2. Engage All Residents to Address Public Safety Matters
3. Leverage Public and Private Stakeholders
4. Utilize All Partnerships to Counter Violent Extremism
5. Train All Members of the Department

A companion Executive Summary document is also being created to provide an overview of the guide.

ONLINE RADICALIZATION TO VIOLENCE TOOLKIT

This toolkit defines key phrases—such as “homegrown violent extremist” and “online radicalization to violence”—and provides information about how extremists use the Internet and different social media sites to spread propaganda and identify and groom potential recruits. The toolkit also discusses the role of community policing and how law enforcement agencies can use the same sites to counter online radicalization to violence. It consists of the following:

Issue Briefs

The purpose of the issue briefs is to raise awareness of the most common ways extremists use different social media platforms and the Internet, and how law enforcement can utilize community policing principles—both online and offline—to counter online radicalization to violence. There are six issue briefs in the toolkit:

1. Homegrown Violent Extremism
2. Online Radicalization to Violence
3. Facebook and Violent Extremism
4. Twitter and Violent Extremism
5. YouTube and Violent Extremism
6. Online Services and Violent Extremism

Webinars

A series of webinars expands on the information included in the issue briefs and provides real-world examples and screenshots of websites and social media accounts of extremist individuals and groups. The webinars also discuss how to leverage public and private stakeholders and the overall role of community policing in addressing online radicalization to violence. The three webinars are:

1. Working with Faith-Based and Community Organizations to Counter Violent Extremism
2. What is Online Radicalization to Violence?
3. Using Community Policing to Address Online Radicalization to Violence

Roll Call Video

This roll-call training video will detail how two agencies have implemented community policing principles to engage their communities and counter extremism. The goal of the video is to increase the capacity of SLTT law enforcement agencies to educate law enforcement about the importance of educating and engaging disengaged communities to effectively counter extremist ideologies and violent extremism. The video will be targeted to law enforcement executives and also be applicable to law enforcement officers.

Blog Posts

In order to raise awareness about the issue and certain aspects of social media, community policing, and countering violent extremism, blog posts have been included on The Social Media Beat—the blog of the IACP Center for Social Media—and the IACP blog. Blog posts include:

1. “Picture This: Using Instagram and Community Policing to Counter Violent Extremism”
2. “Community Policing and Confronting Violent Extremism”
3. “IACP Meeting of Law Enforcement Officials Tackles Extremism in the 21st Century”

IACP TV

This filmed discussion with Dearborn, Michigan, Chief of Police Ronald Haddad; former COPS Director Bernard K. Melekian; and former FBI Executive Assistant Director of the National Security Branch, Mark Giuliano, highlights violent extremism, the role of communities and community policing in countering violent extremism, and how law enforcement can engage the community and build trusting relationships. Additionally, the recording includes information about the support provided by the COPS Office and other federal agencies to counter violent extremism.

Police Chief Magazine Articles

Articles addressing the principles of community policing to address online radicalization and the experience of a county sheriff that has firsthand experience with community members going abroad to join a terrorist organization and how using community policing principles has also helped raise awareness and educate fellow law enforcement chief executives. The two articles are:

1. “Using Principles of Community Policing to Address Online Radicalization to Violence” (February, 2012)
2. “Countering Violent Extremism: A Community Partnership Approach” (October 2013)

ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS

An Advisory Group consisting of federal, state, and local law enforcement representatives and other federal partners was convened in May 2012 and April 2013 to inform the development of deliverables, guide the direction of the project, and peer review the deliverables. Members of the IACP CVE Advisory Group also participated in the DHS Countering Violent Extremism Working Group, were invited to the White House to discuss their CVE efforts, and played key roles in other DHS workshops.

SITE VISITS

IACP staff conducted site visits to Los Angeles, California, and Dearborn, Michigan, to see how two agencies have successfully implemented community policing into their CVE efforts.

WORKSHOPS AT IACP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A workshop/panel discussion entitled *Countering Violent Extremism: Lessons Learned and Recommendations for Law Enforcement on Addressing the Threat* took place at the 2012 IACP Conference in San Diego. A workshop/panel discussion entitled *Addressing Online Radicalization to Violence* took place at the IACP Conference in Philadelphia.

CVE HOMELAND SECURITY NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

The IACP, in partnership with DHS and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, will develop and deliver training raises awareness and understanding of violent extremism that promotes and supports community policing, community engagement, and community-based solutions. The training will utilize a combination of online courses, in-person trainings, and train-the-trainer workshops to help law enforcement prevent, protect, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism and violent extremism.

The training program will include tracks for different levels of law enforcement. Each track will include online courses that will provide all levels of an agency with information and tools about different types of violent extremists, a definition and examples of radicalization, how to assess threats and potential targets, the implications on officer safety, the importance of building partnerships with community organizations, understanding different cultures and people, the importance of community policing, and how to engage community members in preventing acts of terrorism and violent extremism. Individuals who register for the general track will select modules based on the issues facing their jurisdiction. The in-person exercises for chief executives will complement the general information provided online and institutionalize the key aspects of CVE and community policing.

The IACP is also working with other private and public-sector partners on developing similar training for law enforcement across the country.

CVE EFFORTS OF IACP COMMITTEES AND SECTIONS

COMMITTEE ON TERRORISM

The IACP Committee on Terrorism has produced five resources to assist state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies in developing strategies to reach out and engage their communities. The resources provide an overview about radicalization and highlight different types of terrorists including foreign fighters and lone wolves:

1. A Common Lexicon
2. Community Outreach & Engagement Principles
3. Foreign Fighters
4. Lone Terrorists
5. Radicalization 101

The Committee on Terrorism has also developed a roll-call video on the dangers posed by sovereign citizens to law enforcement officers.

STATE AND PROVINCIAL POLICE ACADEMY DIRECTORS SECTION

The IACP and the IACP State and Provincial Academy Directors Section (SPPADS) have assisted DHS with the CVE Community of Interest on the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN). The purpose of the portal is to provide federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and correctional law enforcement with the most current CVE training materials, case studies, analytic products, and other resources. IACP staff and members of SPPADS have attended DHS train-the-trainer workshops and have participated in conference calls about the portal and other CVE efforts.

CONCLUSION

Through continued leadership, coordination, research, and resource development, the IACP will continue to enhance the ability of law enforcement to engage in community policing principles to respond to violent extremists. Leveraging our global membership of police executives, subject matter experts, and relevant partners, the IACP will continue to increase the capacity of SLTT agencies to prevent, mitigate, and respond to emerging threats in their communities.