

# VIOLENT EXTREMISM

## AWARENESS PRIMER



### Increase Awareness across Army

#### GOAL 2

- 2.1 Evaluate AT awareness
- 2.2 Improve information sharing to families
- 2.3 Develop a violent extremist awareness program
- 2.4 Integrate personal information concerns in AT training



Army  
Strong



Always Ready, Always Alert  
*Because someone is depending on you*





Cover graphic: Developing a violent extremism awareness program is an objective within *Closing the Ring*, 2017-2020, Army Antiterrorism Strategic Plan, Phase IV, 22 March 2017.

This primer provides information to Army personnel and leaders to help understand the challenges of the threat of violent extremism. This Primer is for general awareness and not a “how-to prevent” solution. Readers must use caution to understand and acknowledge the fact that, given the wide-range of cultures, ethnicities, religions, socioeconomic status, and education, extreme views and ideas are inherent within modern society. Readers should also understand and acknowledge that democratic principles of freedom of speech and freedom of religion (among other civil liberties) are protected. Therefore, Army personnel and leaders looking to understand the challenges associated with violent extremism should seek advice and assistance from legal counsel, law enforcement, health service providers and other community service providers to inform a complete picture of any potential concerns involving an individual’s behavior or actions.

## Foreword



This primer helps Army personnel and leaders understand violent extremism, how to recognize when someone may be leaning toward behavior that could become “extremist” and later violent, and as a stepping-stone to support community awareness efforts that help Soldiers, civilians, and family members recognize and report suspicious activities.

Violent extremism poses a critical threat to the United States, both the homeland and the U.S. military operations overseas. Acts of violent extremism undermine the rule of law and the protection of human and civil rights. The threat is not limited to a single political, religious, or ideological background. Regardless of its motivation, violent extremism can have devastating effects on both civilian and military communities alike (as evidenced by the attacks at Fort Hood and Washington Navy Yard, among others).

Although violent extremism is not a new phenomenon, rapid changes in online communications evolved the threat in recent years. Violent ideologies and propaganda are now more accessible than ever, making it more difficult to identify and stop extremists before they act.<sup>1</sup> The White House spearheaded the fight against violent extremism with its 2011 strategy to prevent violent extremism in the United States. Since then, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State, the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and others have responded vigorously.

## **Purpose**

## **Introduction**



# What Is Violent Extremism?

## Definition

In its strategic implementation plan to prevent violent extremism, the White House defined violent extremism as “ideologically motivated violence to further political goals.”<sup>2</sup> The FBI expanded on this definition to include “encouraging, condoning, justifying, or supporting” violence for “political, ideological, religious, social, or economic goals.”

## Related Threats

Because violent extremism manifests in diverse motivations and tactics, it can be ineffective and possibly misleading to develop a single definition. For example, these related threats include significant attributes of violent extremism:

- **Terrorism:** The use of violence or threat of “violence by a non-state actor to attain a political, economic, religious, or social goal through fear, coercion, or intimidation.”<sup>3</sup>
- **Gang Violence:** Violence committed by an organized group of criminals, often assembled for the purpose of distributing or trafficking illicit goods or services.<sup>4</sup> Gang violence is often sectarian.
- **Hate Crimes:** “Criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender’s bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity.”<sup>5</sup> Hate crimes may be motivated by an additional political or social goal, but are often an end in themselves.

These three categories are not a comprehensive list of all activities that fall under the umbrella of violent extremism. Cult activities or antigovernment militias, for example, do not necessarily fall under a single category.

## Scope of Violence

When it comes to violent extremism, most people think of dramatic acts of violence such as mass shootings or bombings. In reality, the scope of violent acts that encompass this threat is fairly wide:

- Bombings (including bomb threats)
- Shootings (targeted and mass shootings)
- Use of sharp-edged weapons and physical assault
- Assistance to violent groups (monetary and other material support)
- Vehicle ramming tactic (e.g., France, Germany, United Kingdom)

## Example Vignettes


**White supremacists**—Threats and violent acts toward Jewish institutions and persons across the United States, including the desecration of headstones at Jewish cemeteries, bomb threats, and targeting nearly numerous institutions including Jewish Day Schools and Jewish cemeteries.<sup>6</sup>

**Dylan Roof**—An American white supremacist convicted of perpetrating mass murder in a Charleston, South Carolina, church in 2015.

**Holocaust deniers**—Holocaust denial is a form of anti-Semitism. Holocaust deniers ignore the evidence of the event and insist that the Holocaust is a myth, invented by the Allies, the Soviet communists, and the Jews for their own ends.

**Gangs**—“Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13),” a gang with a reputation of violence, “continues to expand its influence in the United States. FBI investigations reveal that it is present in almost every state and continues to grow its membership, now targeting younger recruits more than ever before.”<sup>7</sup>

**Outlaw motorcycle gangs**—“An association of three or more individuals ... whose members collectively



identify themselves by adopting a group identity which they use to create an atmosphere of fear or intimidation ... to engage in criminal activity ... the association uses violence or intimidation to further its criminal objectives.”<sup>8</sup>

Moner Mohammad Abu-Salha—An American suicide bomber who on 25 May 2014 killed himself and several Syrian troops with a truck bomb in Ariha, Syria, in the name of al-Nusra Front.

Zachary Adam Chesser—An American convicted in 2010 for aiding al-Shabaab, which is aligned with al-Qaeda and has been designated a terrorist organization by the U.S. government.<sup>9</sup>

Shannon Maureen Conley—A Colorado 19-year-old who was arrested after telling FBI agents that she intended to fight alongside militants, in 2015 pled guilty in 2015 to conspiracy to aid the so-called Islamic State.<sup>10</sup>

Transgender violence—“In 2015, at least 21 transgender people” were “victims of fatal violence in the United States, more killings of transgender people than any other year on record.”<sup>11</sup>

Sovereign citizen—In May 2010, a father-son team of “sovereign citizens” murdered two police officers with an assault rifle when the father and son were pulled over on the Interstate while traveling through West Memphis, Arkansas.<sup>12</sup>

### **Sample of extremist attacks with military nexus**

Carlos Leon Bledsoe—On 1 June 2009, Carlos Bledsoe attacked an Army recruiting center in Little Rock, Arkansas, killing Private William Long. He told police he was angry about the treatment of Muslims in Iraq and Afghanistan and called himself a soldier of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.<sup>13</sup>

Nidal Hasan—On 5 November 2009, then Army Major Nidal Malik Hasan entered the Soldier Readiness Processing Center at Fort Hood, Texas, and opened fire, killing 12 Soldiers and one Department of Defense civilian and wounding 32 others.<sup>14</sup>



Kevin Harpham—On 17 January 2011, Kevin Harpham planted a backpack containing a pipe bomb under a bench on the planned parade route hours before the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Unity March in Spokane, WA.<sup>15</sup>

Aaron Alexis—On 16 September 2013, Aaron Alexis entered the Washington Navy Yard and murdered 12 civilian and contractor employees, wounding four others.<sup>16</sup>

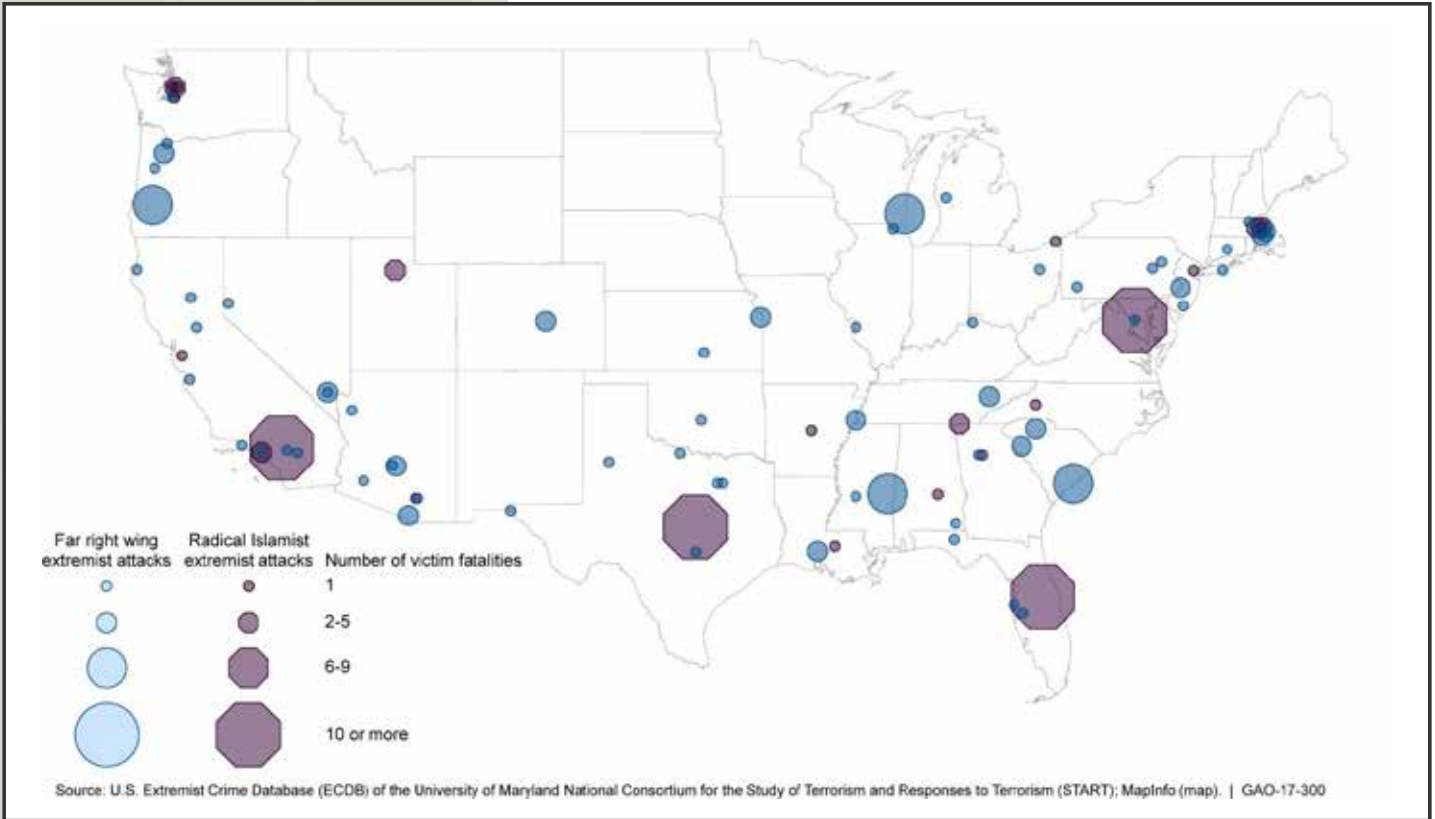
Frazier Glenn Miller—On 13 April 2014, Frazier Glenn Miller (former leader of the defunct North Carolina-based White Patriot Party) shot and killed three individuals he believed to be Jewish in Overland Park, Kansas.<sup>17</sup>

Wade Michael Page—On 5 August 2012, Wade Michael Page walked into a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, shot and killed six people, and injured four others.<sup>18</sup>

Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez—On July 16, 2015, Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez opened fire on two military installations (a recruiting station and a reserve center) in Chattanooga, Tennessee, killing four Marines and one Sailor.<sup>19</sup>

James Harris Jackson—On March 20, 2017, a 66-year-old man collecting bottles in Hell's Kitchen, New York, was fatally stabbed with a sword simply because he was black. Prosecutors indicted James Harris Jackson, a 28-year-old former Army intelligence analyst, on rare state charges of murder as terrorism, as he confessed that he stalked and targeted black men.<sup>20</sup>

The map below details a portion of the violent extremism threats that face the homeland. Of course, violent extremism is not unique to the United States. International efforts to address the challenges of extremism and terrorism have been around for years and will continue to focus on efforts to counter the spread of violence. Additional samples of domestic and international extremist attacks and groups are available in **Appendices A and B**.



**Attacks in the United States by Domestic Violent Extremists from September 12, 2001, through December 31, 2016 that Resulted in Fatalities.** Source: U.S. Extremist Crime Database of the University of Maryland National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, reproduced in Government Accountability Office, *Countering Violent Extremism*, April 2017, GAO-17-300, <http://www.gao.gov/assets/690/683984.pdf>, accessed 18 April 2017.

There is no definitive profile of a violent extremist. While the public often associates violent extremism with violent Muslim extremists, there are actually a wide variety of domestic violent extremism movements that pose a threat to the United States—for example, white supremacists, eco-terrorists, antigovernment, or radical separatist groups.

Just as a range of violent acts is included under the umbrella of violent extremism, those perpetrating these acts vary widely. Some individuals become active members in groups (terrorist organizations, hate groups, etc.) and take action within their affiliated group's purview. Others, however (often referred to as "lone wolves"), don't have direct connection with a specific group, but are inspired by the groups' rhetoric or group-sponsored violence. An example of this is the shooting in San Bernardino on 2 December 2015, when 14 people were killed and 22 others were seriously injured in a mass shooting and an attempted bombing at the Inland Regional Center. The perpetrators, Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik, were violent extremists inspired by jihadist terrorist groups. They were not directed by such groups and were not part of any terrorist cell or network.

It is important to note that affiliating with any specific group or espousing extremist beliefs does not mean an individual will perpetrate violent acts in support of that group or those beliefs.

## Who Are Violent Extremists?

## Sample of Extremist Groups

Extremist Group Type	Beliefs and Ideology
<b>Race-Related</b>	<b>White Supremacy:</b> “Racist ideology centered upon the belief, and the promotion of the belief, that white people are superior in certain characteristics, traits, and attributes to people of other racial backgrounds and that therefore white people should politically, economically and socially rule non-white people.” <sup>21</sup>
	<b>Black Separatists:</b> “Typically oppose integration and racial intermarriage, and they want separate institutions—or even a separate nation—for” black people in America. Most contemporary “forms of black separatism are strongly anti-white and anti-Semitic, and a number of religious versions assert that blacks”—not Jews—“are the Biblical ‘chosen people’ of God.” <sup>22</sup>
	<b>Anti-Immigrant:</b> “These groups seek nothing less than a zero-immigration policy and zero tolerance for immigrants. To cover their tracks, these groups deploy the rhetoric of ‘controlled immigration,’ casting themselves as reasonable proponents of ‘common sense’ immigration reform.” <sup>23</sup>

Extremist Group Type	Beliefs and Ideology
<b>Social and Political</b>	<p><b>Alt-Right:</b> “A set of far-right ideologies, groups and individuals whose core belief is that ‘white identity’ is under attack by multicultural forces using ‘political correctness’ and ‘social justice’ to undermine white people and ‘their’ civilization. Characterized by heavy use of social media and online memes, Alt-Righters eschew ‘establishment’ conservatism, skew young, and embrace white ethno-nationalism as a fundamental value.”<sup>24</sup></p>
	<p><b>Anti-LGBT<sup>25</sup>:</b> Believe that “the LGBT rights movement and its so-called ‘homosexual agenda’ are the prime culprits in the believed destruction of American society and culture.”<sup>26</sup></p>
	<p><b>Sovereign Citizens:</b> “Believe that natural citizens are not subject to any United States federal law, including being subject to the jurisdiction of federal courts, but are subject to natural law and common law.”<sup>27</sup></p>
	<p><b>Antigovernment:</b> “Factors fueling the antigovernment movement in recent years include changing demographics driven by immigration, the struggling economy and the election of the first African-American president.”<sup>28</sup></p>
	<p><b>Eco-Terrorists:</b> These environmentally oriented, subnational groups use or threaten the “use of violence of a criminal nature against people or property ... for environmental-political reasons, or aimed at an audience beyond the target, often of a symbolic nature.”<sup>29</sup></p>
<b>Religious</b>	<p><b>Islamists or Jihadists:</b> Believe that there is a war against Islam that justifies violent acts and/or believe that an Islamic state governing the entire community of Muslims must be created.</p>
	<p><b>Anti-Muslim:</b> “Broadly defame Islam, which they tend to treat as a monolithic and evil religion. These groups generally hold that Islam has no values in common with other cultures, is inferior to the West and is a violent political ideology rather than a religion.”<sup>30</sup></p>
	<p><b>Anti-Semitism:</b> “A certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”<sup>31</sup></p>



# How Are Violent Extremists Radicalized?

What is radicalization? Radicalization is a term often used in conjunction with violent extremism. There are many definitions of radicalization within the context of the terrorist and extremist threats. The FBI defines radicalization as “the process by which individuals come to believe their engagement in or facilitation of nonstate violence to achieve social and political change is necessary and justified.”<sup>32</sup> Just as there are many definitions, there are multiple thoughts on the “process” by which an individual becomes radicalized. Recent research, however, shows that “violent extremism is not a linear progression, but an evolving, dynamic situation involving numerous factors, catalysts, inhibitors, and mobilization variables.”<sup>33</sup>

Although there is no “extremist profile,” or linear conceptualization of radicalization, previous research of convicted terrorists points to certain susceptibilities. For example, a lack of developmental resources might make a young individual, “vulnerable to a range of destructive actions, including violent extremism.”<sup>34</sup> Developmental resources can be both external and internal factors. External resources “can include having positive family support, positive family communication, safety (at home, school and in one’s neighborhood), having positive role models and positive peer influence.”<sup>35</sup> Internal resources can include motivation for success, “possessing a healthy sense of empowerment, setting appropriate boundaries and expectations, developing social competencies and maintaining a positive sense of self-esteem and identity.... a lack of protective resources can lead to greater vulnerability, especially for youth. Protective resources are social and psychosocial factors that can stop, delay, or diminish negative outcomes. Protective resources, often in the form of healthy relationships, promote social well-being and can be crucial to preventing at-risk individuals from recruitment by terrorist organizations.”<sup>36</sup>

## **Risk Factors**

Various government, law enforcement, and academic and nongovernmental organizations have attempted to identify specific indicators of violent extremism to aid in intervention and mitigation strategies. While some entities' understanding of risk factors focuses on a specific group or type of violent extremism (for example, radical Islamic or "lone wolf" actors), other research presents a broader look at what factors might make an individual more vulnerable to violent extremism.

It is important to note, however, that there has been no scientific evidence that specific factors will definitively lead an individual to acts of violence. Furthermore, any identified risk factors are not predictive indicators of either radicalization or violence. Plenty of people (particularly young people) have thoughts, ideas, beliefs, and attributes that are included in the above factors—these do not make them violent or extremists. The seriousness of the threat, however, continues to motivate further research to understand what might lead an individual towards violence. For example, recent research sponsored by the Department of Justice is examining the similarities between factors that lead to gang involvement and violent extremism. The results of this research may identify common intervention strategies.

The following table provides a representation of several theories of risk factors and indicators of violent extremism and a summary of the different types of identified factors, including (1) behavioral (observed actions); (2) internal (psychological status or personal beliefs); and (3) external (outside influences). The table is further divided between theories derived from academic or nongovernmental organizations and those sponsored by law enforcement or government entities.

<b>Academic or Nongovernmental Organizations</b>			
<b>Theory</b>	<b>Behavioral</b>	<b>Internal</b>	<b>External</b>
Moghaddam “Staircase to Terrorism” <sup>37</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unsuccessful attempts at alleviating an unfair situation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feelings of discontent, aggression, and sympathy to violence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perceived adversity and a causal agent who becomes the “enemy.”</li> </ul>
Precht <sup>38</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity factors: access and exposure to extremist ideas, including physical and virtual spaces such as the Internet, mosques, penal institutions, and social groups and collectives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background factors can include personal struggles with religious identity, experiences with discrimination, and lack of social integration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trigger factors include people—such as a mentor or charismatic leader—and events—such as policy actions—that might provoke or incite either antipathy or activism.</li> </ul>
WORDE <sup>39</sup>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psychological factors: post-traumatic stress disorder, mental illness, a search for purpose or adventure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sociological motivators: alienation, acculturation problems, marginalization, discrimination, and kinship ties.</li> <li>• Political grievances: human rights abuses, lack of political rights and civil liberties, corruption, conflict, and foreign occupation.</li> <li>• Economic factors: unemployment, relative deprivation, financial incentives.</li> </ul>
Minneapolis CVE Framework <sup>40</sup>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disaffection (for the youth demographic).</li> <li>• Internal identity crises.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community isolation.</li> <li>• Lack of opportunity, including high unemployment, lack of activities for youth, and few mentors.</li> <li>• Disconnect between youth and religious leaders.</li> </ul>



<b>Academic or Nongovernmental Organizations</b>			
<b>Theory</b>	<b>Behavioral</b>	<b>Internal</b>	<b>External</b>
Boston CVE Framework <sup>41</sup>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feeling isolated and alienated (for the youth demographic).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U.S. policy and events around the globe.</li> <li>• Recruitment occurring on social media and other media platforms.</li> </ul>

<b>Law Enforcement and Government</b>			
<b>Theory</b>	<b>Behavioral</b>	<b>Internal</b>	<b>External</b>
NYPD Intelligence Division <sup>42</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rejects popular culture.</li> <li>• Involvement in social activism and community issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals undergo indoctrination or adoption of jihadist ideals combined with Salafi views.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crisis or trigger event: job loss, social alienation, death of a family member, international conflict.</li> </ul>
Strategic Multilayer Assessment Team <sup>43</sup>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endogenous factors: a person's inherent characteristics that cannot easily be changed, including genetics, culture, environment, values, and emotions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exogenous factors: external influences on a person that are not inherent to one's personality, culture, genetics, etc. These factors are often triggers that move a predisposed person to take action. Exogenous influences include exposure to narratives, radical social networks, perceived grievances, and traumatic life experiences.</li> </ul>

<b>Law Enforcement and Government</b>			
<b>Theory</b>	<b>Behavioral</b>	<b>Internal</b>	<b>External</b>
LAPD <sup>44</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of violence.</li> <li>• Associated with a group that espouses extremism.</li> <li>• Travel overseas to areas with conflict.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unmet personal needs: lacking sense of power or potency, achievement, sense of belonging, purpose, or self-esteem (person factors).</li> <li>• Strong belief in their own moral integrity.</li> <li>• Perceives fighting for the cause as noble.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group factors: collective identity, “we” and “our” cause, intentional isolation of members, language that dehumanizes opponents, danger in leaving the group, and the group seen as “family” and a protective resource (particularly for youth).</li> <li>• Context factors: current events and media, sociopolitical factors, community needs, and economic factors.</li> <li>• Community factors: sociocultural, tensions with law enforcement, weak civil society, and community capacity for assistance (for example, mental health professionals).</li> </ul>
NCTC <sup>45</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isolated from friends, family, community.</li> <li>• Establishes relationships with other violent extremists.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack in personal needs: limited sense of power, self-esteem, confidence in moral integrity.</li> <li>• Feelings of victimization and discrimination.</li> <li>• Feelings of hopelessness.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic stress, lack of access to healthcare and social services.</li> <li>• Issues with U.S. policy.</li> <li>• Mistrust in institutions and law enforcement.</li> <li>• Specific events or triggers.</li> </ul>

Law Enforcement and Government			
Theory	Behavioral	Internal	External
FBI <sup>46</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will say things indicating that they justify violence.</li> <li>• Online involvement in violent extremism content and discussions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Painful experiences.</li> <li>• Personal crisis: feelings of isolation, anxiety, resentment, loneliness, and alienation due to cultural differences.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detrimental influences from familial, socioeconomic, educational experiences, or ideological factors.</li> </ul>



## Radicalization into Violence Reference Guide

In August 2011, the Army Asymmetric Warfare Group<sup>47</sup> developed a reference guide to assist military personnel and leaders to understand the risks associated with violent extremism. The guide (**Appendix C**) shows possible indicators of radicalization from the inception of thoughts and ideas through to a violent act. The guide includes a “process” chart to consider for identifying, evaluating, and responding to possible indicators. The Asymmetric Warfare Group’s guide is just that—a guide—and is not suitable for all situations.

### Internet and Propaganda

Violent extremist groups are using sophisticated, deliberate strategies to actively target vulnerable individuals online, often through dissemination of Hollywood-esque propaganda videos and messaging campaigns. According to a study of white supremacist movements active on Twitter, these groups, by 2016, had increased their followers by more than 600% since 2012. Organized social media activism techniques, proselytization, and organized recruitment are done “by a highly interconnected network of users” focusing “on the theme of white genocide” using “terminology from popular entertainment.”<sup>48</sup> Similarly, terrorist groups such as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) reach out directly to U.S. youth using a variety of social media to radicalize, recruit, and mobilize potential adherents to violence.<sup>49</sup>

Since March 2016, “a new term has entered the lexicon of American and European terrorism analysts, law enforcement, and national security journalists: the ‘virtual plotter.’ This phrase, and variations of it, describes members of jihadi terrorist groups, mainly affiliated with the Islamic State, who use social media and applications with encryption capabilities to reach out to and correspond with radicalized Westerners. The emergence of applications such as Telegram,

SureSpot, Kik, and—since its recent offering of end-to-end encryption—WhatsApp has been a particular game changer for the Islamic State and its efforts in the West. In some cases, its members plot and direct attacks, helping to hone and focus the often undisciplined zeal of potential lone-actor terrorists so as to ensure that their eventual actions achieve either the maximum propaganda value or casualty impact.”<sup>50</sup>

The Internet is also host to various web forums where individuals can view and share extremist views. One is Stormfront, a white nationalist and white supremacist forum. Stormfront’s guidelines for posting indicate, “Our mission is to provide information not available in the controlled news media and to build a community of White activists working for the survival of our people.”<sup>51</sup> A rival site is the Vanguard News Network (VNN), an anti-Jewish, white separatist, neo-Nazi, holocaust denial, and white nationalist website. VNN is one of the most active white supremacist sites on the Internet, according to the Anti-Defamation League.



# How to Make a Difference

## All Community Members

All members of the Army community play an important role in preventing vulnerable individuals from entering on the path to radicalization and violence. In addition to Military Police and local law enforcement, others play a crucial role: community leaders, friends, families, co-workers, teachers, and community service providers. Education, promotion of awareness, and dialogue are important tools for prevention.

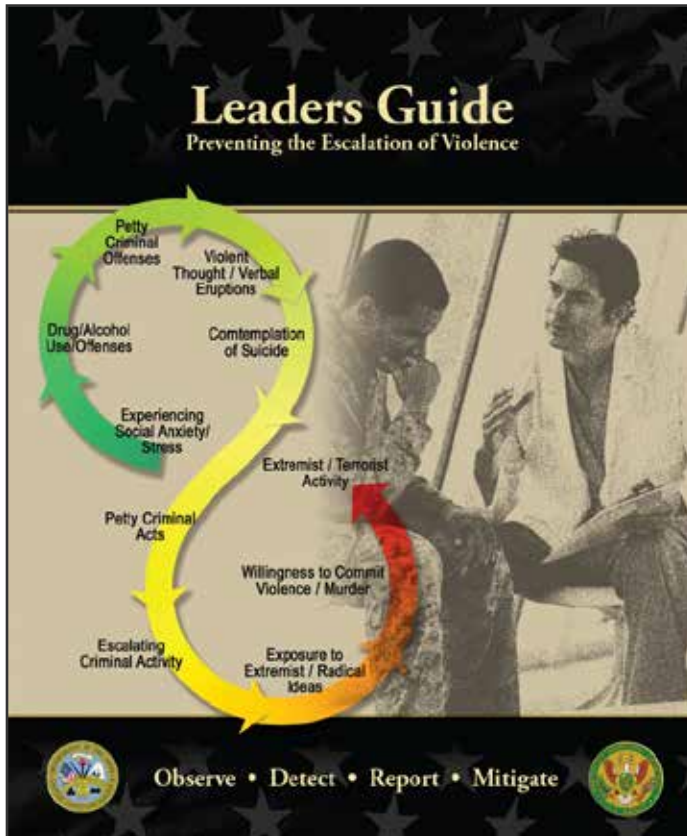
## Youth and Families


Parents should promote their children's awareness about inappropriate content and engage them in an open and frank dialogue. Access to inappropriate online material can be more easily prevented if the computer is in an open area where a parent is nearby and can monitor use. Parents and guardians should supervise the use of mobile electronic devices and monitor downloading activity. Parents and guardians should monitor the websites accessed by their children and report material of concern to their Internet Service Provider or to the Military Police or law enforcement. Parental guidance is essential to give direction to a potentially vulnerable young person. Parental guidance provides a shield against propaganda that promotes the use of violence. More important, family members should seek to maintain a bond with vulnerable youth who may become radicalized. It is important for parents facing this situation to seek support through law enforcement and other appropriate community service providers.

## Leaders

Through a new self-paced, online training (**Appendix D**), Army community leaders, Military Police and law enforcement, school officials, and community leaders can gain a better understanding of radicalization to violence and violent extremism in the United States.

Also available is the *Leaders Guide – Preventing the Escalation of Violence*, produced by the Office of Provost Marshal General, Antiterrorism Division. This guide is available on the Army Antiterrorism Enterprise Portal (ATEP), <https://army.deps.mil/army/sites/PMG/prog/ATEP/default.aspx>.





# What to Do if You Observe Suspicious Behavior: Report It!

## **iWATCH Army**

Modeled after the Los Angeles Police Department's iWATCH program, iWATCH Army encourages and empowers the Army community to identify and report suspicious behavior potentially associated with terrorist activity. The passive element of iWATCH Army is individual situational awareness of surroundings. The active element of iWATCH Army involves individuals taking action to report suspicious behavior or activities to Military Police or local law enforcement for investigation.

iWATCH ARMY is a community program to help your neighborhood stay safe from terrorist activities. Army community members can report behaviors and activities that make them feel uncomfortable and do not look right (suspicious behaviors). iWATCH ARMY is a program and partnership between your community and your local law enforcement. iWATCH ARMY asks community members to report behavior and activities that are unusual or seem out of the ordinary.

Examples of behaviors and activities to report:

- People drawing or measuring important buildings
- Strangers asking questions about security forces or security procedures
- A briefcase, suitcase, backpack, or package left behind
- Cars or trucks left in No Parking zones in front of important buildings
- Intruders found in secure areas
- A person wearing clothes that are too big and bulky and/or too hot for the weather
- Chemical smells or fumes that worry you
- Questions about sensitive information such as building blueprints, security plans, or VIP



travel schedules without a right or need to know

- Purchasing supplies or equipment that can be used to make bombs or weapons or purchasing uniforms without having the proper credentials

#### **What to Report**

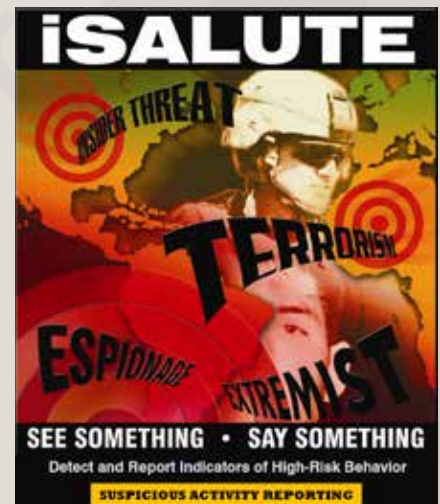
- The date and time.
- Where it happened.
- What you witnessed.
- A description of who was involved
- Male or female?
- How tall?
- Build?
- Hair color, skin color, age?
- English speaking or another language?
- Was there a car? Note the license plate number.
- Have you seen this activity in your neighborhood before?


#### **iSALUTE**

iSALUTE is an Army counterintelligence reporting program to prevent espionage, sabotage, subversion, and international terrorism. iSALUTE supports the Army's counterintelligence policy established in AR 381-12, Threat Awareness and Reporting Program. iSALUTE seeks Army-wide community support to report threat incidents, behavioral indicators, and counterintelligence matters that are potential indicators of espionage, terrorist-associated insider threat, and extremist activity.

#### **What Activities to Report**

The below examples represent "indicators" of possible extremist activity that may pose a threat to DoD or disrupt U.S. military operations (AR 381-12, Threat Awareness and Reporting Program). A single





indicator by itself does not necessarily mean that a person is involved in activities that threaten the Army, DoD, or the United States; however, reporting the behavior to the supporting counterintelligence office will allow counterintelligence agents to appropriately assess the threat potential or, if appropriate, refer the incident to another agency.

- Receiving financial assistance from a person who advocates the use of violence to undermine or disrupt U.S. military operations or foreign policy.
- Soliciting advice, encouragement, finances, training, or other resources from a person who advocates the use of unlawful violence to undermine or disrupt U.S. military operations or foreign policy.
- Making a financial contribution to a foreign charity, an organization, or a cause that advocates the use of unlawful violence to undermine or disrupt U.S. military operations or foreign policy.
- Expressing a political, religious, or ideological obligation to engage in unlawful violence directed against U.S. military operations or foreign policy.
- Expressing support for foreign persons or organizations that promote or threaten the use of unlawful force or violence to achieve political, ideological, or religious objectives.
- Participation in political demonstrations that promote or threaten the use of unlawful violence directed against the Army, DOD, or the United States based on political, ideological, or religious tenets, principles, or beliefs.

### **What Information to Report**

- Size (number and description of people and vehicles)

- Activity (what the people are doing; what is suspicious)
- Location (location of people or activity)
- Unit (what unit they belong to; any markings or insignia)
- Time (date and time you observed the activity or behavior)
- Equipment (describe the equipment you saw)

### **Ways to Report**

- Contact your local counterintelligence office
- CONUS Hotline: 1-800-CALL SPY (1-800-225-5779)
- iSALUTE—The counterintelligence reporting portal via Army Knowledge Online (AKO)

## Summary

Violent extremism poses a critical threat to the homeland as well as Army operations overseas. Acts of violent extremism undermine the rule of law and the protection of human and civil rights. This threat is not limited to a single political, religious, or ideological background. Regardless of its motivation, violent extremism can have devastating effects on individual communities, and Army communities are not immune.


Our best approach to counter the effects of violent extremism and radicalization is to educate the Army community and promote better understanding of the challenges this threat presents. We must, however, proceed with caution, understanding that the democratic principles of freedom of speech and freedom of religion (among other civil liberties) are often protected. If or when concerning behavior is observed, seek counsel and assistance from community services providers such as local law enforcement and legal and health service providers to understand the complete picture of behavior associated with an individual's behavior or actions.

**ANTITERRORISM**  
**VIGILANCE**



*Always Ready. Always Alert.*  
Because someone is depending on you.





# Appendix A

## Federal Bureau of Investigation's Sample of Hate-Based Violence<sup>52</sup>

### Religious Temple—Oak Creek, Wisconsin

On 5 August 2012, a white supremacist named Wade Michael Page opened fire at a Sikh place of worship near Milwaukee. Six people died and four were wounded. Among those injured was a police officer who was shot multiple times while trying to save others. Page took his own life after being wounded by a police officer.

### World Trade Center—New York City, New York

Violent extremists have targeted the World Trade Center two times. The first attack was on 26 February 1993, when a bomb set off in the garage killed six people and injured more than a thousand. On 11 September 2001, a group of hijackers flew planes into each of the twin towers of the World Trade Center. Nearly 3,000 people from around the world were killed. Al Qaeda extremists carried out both attacks.

### U.S. Capitol—Washington, D.C.

On 1 March 1954, Puerto Rican extremists seeking independence from the United States used semiautomatic pistols to open fire on a session of the House of Representatives in the Capitol. Five members of Congress were wounded, one seriously. Four people involved in the attack were captured and sent to prison.

### Pentagon—Arlington, Virginia

The headquarters of the Department of Defense was one of the targets of the 11 September 2001 attacks by al Qaeda extremists. A hijacked plane traveling 530 miles an hour slammed into the side of the building, killing 189 people. The Pentagon was also bombed by domestic extremists in 1972, causing flooding in the building.



#### Ski Resort—Vail, Colorado

On 19 October 1998, environmental extremists torched and virtually destroyed a ski resort in Colorado. The attack caused \$24 million in damages. Most of those involved have been captured. Eco-terrorists have sabotaged and firebombed many other symbolic structures nationwide, including universities, government buildings, car dealerships, and new homes.

#### Federal Building—Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

On 19 April 1995, an anti-government extremist named Timothy McVeigh exploded a truck bomb in front of a federal building in Oklahoma City. A total of 168 people were killed—including 19 children—and hundreds more were injured. McVeigh and two others who helped him were sent to prison for the attack.

#### U.S. Navy Warship—Aden, Yemen

On 12 October 2000, al Qaeda extremists exploded a small boat alongside the USS *Cole* as it was refueling in the Yemeni port of Aden. The blast ripped a 40-foot-wide hole near the waterline of the vessel, killing 17 American Sailors and injuring many more. Some of those responsible for the attack have been killed or captured, but others remain missing.

#### U.S. Embassy—Nairobi, Kenya

On 7 August 1998, violent extremists bombed two U.S. embassies in East Africa at nearly the same time—one in Kenya and one in Tanzania. More than 200 people were killed and thousands were wounded. Both attacks were directly linked to al Qaeda. So far, more than 20 people have been connected to the bombings; several have been captured or killed.

## Appendix B

# Southern Poverty Law Center's List of Hate Groups with Descriptions<sup>53</sup>

### Alternative Right



The Alternative Right, commonly known as the Alt-Right, is a set of far-right ideologies, groups and individuals whose core belief is that “white identity” is under attack by multicultural forces using “political correctness” and “social justice” to undermine white people and “their” civilization. Characterized by heavy use of social media and online memes, Alt-Righters eschew “establishment” conservatism, skew young, and embrace white ethno-nationalism as a fundamental value.

### Anti-Immigrant



Anti-immigrant hate groups are the most extreme of the hundreds of nativist and vigilante groups that have proliferated since the late 1990s, when anti-immigration xenophobia began to rise to levels not seen in the United States since the 1920s.

### Anti-LGBT



Opposition to equal rights for LGBT people has been a central theme of Christian Right organizing and fundraising for the past three decades—a period that parallels the fundamentalist movement’s rise to political power.

### **Anti-Muslim**



Anti-Muslim hate groups are a relatively new phenomenon in the United States, with many appearing in the aftermath of the World Trade Center terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. Beginning in 2010, anti-Muslim legislation increased and opposition to the development of an Islamic Center in lower Manhattan made headlines. Few of the anti-Muslim groups in operation before 2001 still exist, but those that do are key players in the movement today.

### **Antigovernment Movement**



The antigovernment movement has experienced a resurgence, growing quickly since 2008. Factors fueling the antigovernment movement in recent years include changing demographics driven by immigration, the struggling economy and the election of the first African-American president.

### **Black Separatist**



Black separatists typically oppose integration and racial intermarriage, and they want separate institutions—or even a separate nation—for blacks. Most forms of black separatism are strongly anti-white and anti-Semitic, and a number of religious versions assert that blacks are the Biblical “chosen people” of God.



### **Christian Identity**



Christian Identity is a unique anti-Semitic and racist theology that rose to a position of commanding influence on the racist right in the 1980s. “Christian” in name only, the movement’s relationship with evangelicals and fundamentalists has generally been hostile due to the latter’s belief that the return of Jews to Israel is essential to the fulfillment of end-time prophecy.

### **General Hate**



These groups espouse a variety of rather unique hateful doctrines and beliefs that are not easily categorized. Many of the groups are vendors that sell a miscellany of hate materials from several different sectors of the white supremacist movement.

### **Hate Music**



Racist music groups are typically white power music labels that record, publish and distribute racist music in a variety of genres.

### **Holocaust Denial**



Deniers of the Holocaust, the systematic murder of around 6 million Jews in World War II, either deny that such a genocide took place or minimize its extent. These groups (and individuals) often cloak themselves in the sober language of serious scholarship, call themselves “historical revisionists” instead of deniers, and accuse their critics of trying to squelch open-minded inquiries into historical truth.

### **Ku Klux Klan**



The Ku Klux Klan, with its long history of violence, is the most infamous—and oldest—of American hate groups. Although black Americans have typically been the Klan’s primary target, it also has attacked Jews, immigrants, gays and lesbians and, until recently, Catholics.

### **Neo-Confederate**



The term neo-Confederacy is used to describe twentieth and twenty-first century revivals of pro-Confederate sentiment in the United States. Strongly nativist, neo-Confederacy claims to pursue Christianity and heritage and other supposedly fundamental values that modern Americans are seen to have abandoned.

### **Neo-Nazi**



Neo-Nazi groups share a hatred for Jews and a love for Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany. While they also hate other minorities, gays and lesbians and even sometimes Christians, they perceive “the Jew” as their cardinal enemy.

### **Phineas Priesthood**



The Phineas Priesthood is not an actual organization; it has no leaders, meetings, or any other institutional apparatus. The “priesthood” is a concept. A Phineas Priest is any individual who commits a “Phineas action,” a reference to an Old Testament story in which an interfaith couple is slain by a Hebrew man named Phineas who is then rewarded by God. Typically, white supremacists describe Phineas actions as the slaying of interracial couples, but they have included attacks on Jews, non-whites, multiculturalists and others seen as enemies.

### **Racist Skinhead**



Racist Skinheads form a particularly violent element of the white supremacist movement, and have often been referred to as the “shock troops” of the hoped-for revolution. The classic Skinhead look is a shaved head, black Doc Martens boots, jeans with suspenders and an array of typically racist tattoos.

### **Radical Traditional Catholicism**



“Radical traditionalist” Catholics, who may make up the largest single group of serious anti-Semites in America, subscribe to an ideology that is rejected by the Vatican and some 70 million mainstream American Catholics. [They] routinely pillory Jews as “the perpetual enemy of Christ” and worse, reject the ecumenical efforts of the Vatican.

### **Sovereign Citizens Movement**



The strange subculture of the sovereign citizens movement, whose adherents hold truly bizarre, complex antigovernment beliefs, has been growing at a fast pace since the late 2000s. Sovereigns believe that they get to decide which laws to obey and which to ignore, and they don't think they should have to pay taxes.

### **White Nationalist**



White nationalist groups espouse white supremacist or white separatist ideologies, often focusing on the alleged inferiority of nonwhites. Groups listed in a variety of other categories—Ku Klux Klan, neo-Confederate, neo-Nazi, racist skinhead, and Christian Identity—could also be fairly described as white nationalist.

The background of the right side of the page features several overlapping, semi-transparent silhouettes of military personnel. One figure at the top left is holding a rifle. Another figure in the center is wearing a helmet. A third figure at the bottom right is also wearing a helmet. The silhouettes are rendered in a light gray color against a slightly darker gray background.

## **Appendix C**

# **Radicalization into Violent Extremism, a Guide for Military Leaders**



There is no way to be 100% certain that an individual is becoming radicalized to the point that they may be considering violent action. This general guide for military personnel and leaders at every level to give the user a basic understanding of when further action might be needed to protect others. It should be used in the same judicious manner one uses a chart with indicators of suicide. The graphic on the left shows a chart on the right outlines a step-by-step process for identifying, evaluating, and responding to possible indicators at each level.

## Radicalization into Violent Extremism

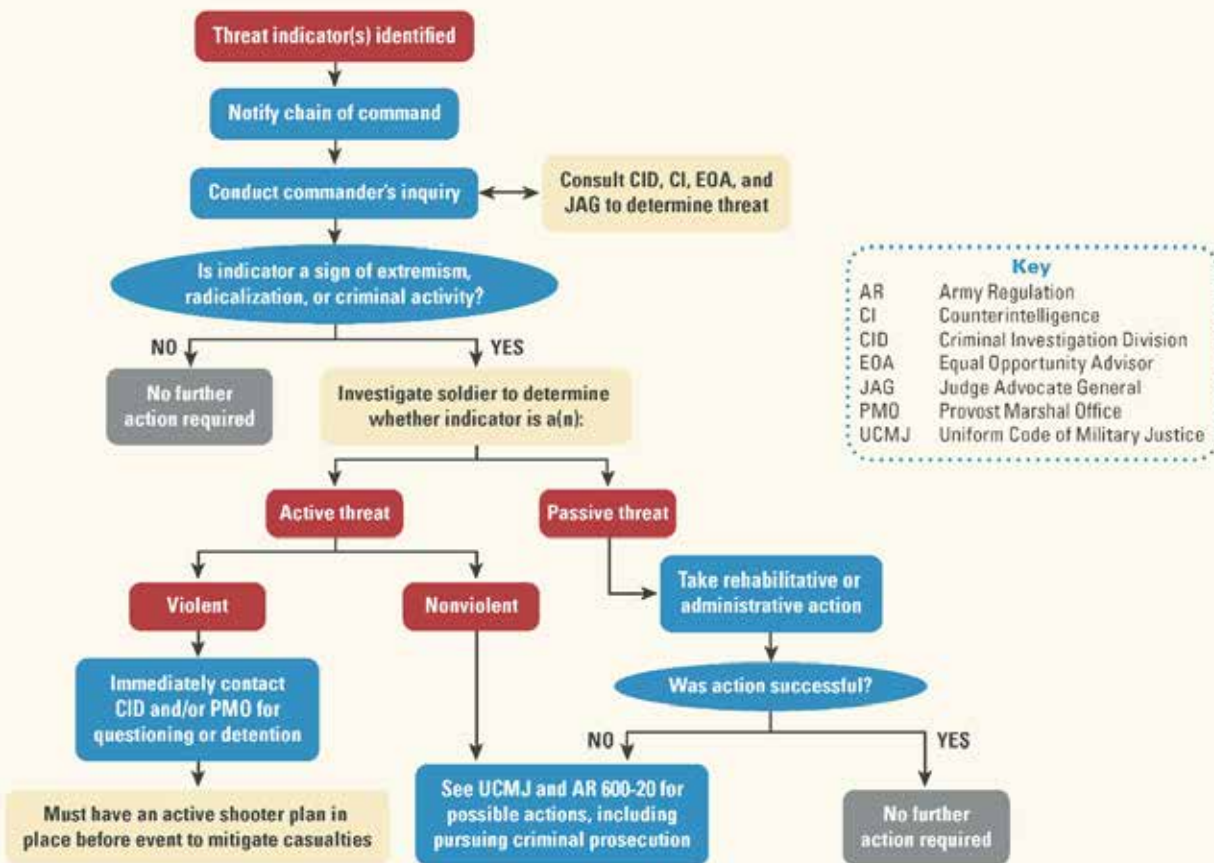


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However, recent experiences show that there are certain warning signs, or early indicators, worth review. The information below is a warranted. This guide requires the user to understand the fine line between the protection of one's rights to privacy and the need to possible indicators of radicalization from the inception of the thought increasing up to the level of violent action. The indicator decision

## Indicator Decision Chart

The indicator decision chart is a guide for leaders to use if faced with an indicator of radicalization or extremist activity. This chart might not be applicable in all situations; consult the CID or CI if there are any questions. NOTE: Use this chart in conjunction with observation of actions suggesting possible radicalization, described at the bottom of the page.



Key	
AR	Army Regulation
CI	Counterintelligence
CID	Criminal Investigation Division
EOA	Equal Opportunity Advisor
JAG	Judge Advocate General
PMO	Provost Marshal Office
UCMJ	Uniform Code of Military Justice

- Expresses support for foreign persons or organizations that promote or threaten the use of unlawful force or violence to achieve political, ideological, or religious objectives
- Participates in political demonstrations that promote or threaten the use of unlawful violence directed against the Army, DOD, or United States based on political, ideological, or religious tenets, principles, or beliefs
- Has surreptitious meetings
- Changes type of off-duty clothing
- Alters choices of reading materials in personal area
- Frequents suspicious discussion groups
- Uses extremist acronyms
- Visits extremist websites
- Alters choices in entertainment
- Displays extremist symbols in barracks or common areas
- Has peculiar discussions
- Develops strange habits
- Expresses a political, religious, or ideological obligation to engage in unlawful violence directed against U.S. military operations or foreign policy
- Solicits advice, encouragement, finances, training, or other resources from a person who advocates the use of unlawful violence to undermine or disrupt U.S. military operations or foreign policy



## Appendix D

# START Training

National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) online training course (no cost): Community-led Action in Response to Violent Extremism.<sup>54</sup>

Through new self-paced, online training, practitioners and civic actors, including law enforcement officers, school officials, and community leaders, can gain a better understanding of radicalization to violence and violent extremism in the United States. Made available at no cost to learners, the course introduces a broad spectrum of community-led activities intended to foster resilience and efforts to counter violent extremism.

Description: *Community-led Action in Response to Violent Extremism (CARVE)* is a 4-hour self-paced online course designed for a U.S.-based audience to provide community-focused, rigorously researched, and academically informed instruction on countering violent extremism. This FEMA-certified course is intended to provide a general introduction to radicalization to violence and community-based efforts. The course addresses the topic “Radicalization to Violence Awareness” by examining START-supported research about violent extremism and radicalization to violence in the United States. The course also provides guidance on “Community-Based Efforts for Countering Violent Extremism” by exploring a spectrum of community-led efforts to foster resilience to violent extremism and radicalization to violence.

The development and delivery of CARVE are funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s National Training and Education Division (course number: AWR-355-W).

### Training Objectives

After completing this training, participants will be able to recall and understand research-based information about violent extremism in the United States and a social science theory of radicalization to violence. Participants will also be able to discuss a




spectrum of community-based efforts for countering violent extremism.

## Intended Audience

Law enforcement engaged in countering violent extremism efforts such as community liaison officers or school resource officers, participants from nongovernmental organizations who are engaged in countering violent extremism at the community level, and representatives from educational, government, and business organizations.

The screenshot shows the START website page for the course "Community-led Action in Response to Violent Extremism". The page header includes the START logo, the text "A Department of Homeland Security Center led by the University", and navigation links for Research, Education, Training, Publications, and Data. The main heading is "Community-led Action in Response to Violent Extremism". Below this is a description of the course, a red "ENROLL NOW" button, and a list of training objectives, intended audience, duration, delivery format, cost, and continuing education units. The page also includes registration information and a note about registration for CARVE.

**START**   
NATIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR THE STUDY OF TERRORISM AND RESPONSES TO TERRORISM

A Department of Homeland Security Center led by the University

Research Education Training Publications Data

Community-led Action in Response to Violent Extremism

**Description:**  
Community-led Action in Response to Violent Extremism (CARVE) is a 4-hour self-paced, online course designed for a U.S.-based audience to provide community-focused, rigorously researched, and academically-informed instruction on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE). Targeted at the FEMA "basics" training level, this FEMA-certified course is intended to provide a general introduction to radicalization to violence and community-based efforts. The course addresses the topic, "Radicalization to Violence Awareness" by examining START-supported research about violent extremism and radicalization to violence in the United States. The course also provides guidance on "Community-Based Efforts for Countering Violent Extremism" by exploring a spectrum of community-led efforts to foster resilience to violent extremism and radicalization to violence.

CARVE was developed by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), based at the University of Maryland. The development and delivery of CARVE is funded by the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Training and Education Division. (Course number: AWR-355-W)

**ENROLL NOW**

**Training Objectives:**  
After completing this training, participants will be able to recall and understand research-based information about violent extremism in the U.S., and a social science theory of radicalization to violence. Participants will also be able to discuss a spectrum of community-based efforts for countering violent extremism.

**Intended Audience:**  
Law enforcement engaged in Countering Violent Extremism efforts such as Community Liaison Officers or School Resource Officers; participants from non-governmental organizations who are engaged in Countering Violent Extremism at the community level; and representatives from educational, government, and business organizations.

**Duration/Time Requirement:**  
4.0 hours

**Delivery Format:**  
Asynchronous Online

**Cost:**  
\$ 500.00

**Continuing Education Units:**  
160

**Registration Info:**  
Course Eligibility—Individuals eligible to take this course include U.S. citizens and Legal Residents representing state, local, tribal and territorial entities. This includes representatives from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the private sector. Foreign nationals residing in the U.S. and associated with a state, local, tribal, or territorial entity as defined in Congressional Appropriations may take the course after completing a Foreign Visitor Request Form. U.S. citizens residing outside of the United States and are affiliated to a U.S.-based state, local, tribal or territorial entity may take the course. Non-U.S. citizens not connected with a U.S.-based state, local, tribal or territorial entity are not eligible to take the course.

To request a Foreign Visitor Request Form, please email the training team at [training@start.umd.edu](mailto:training@start.umd.edu).

Registration for CARVE is possible through the University of Maryland's Canvas Catalog which allows users to create a unique user ID and password, complete registration, access the course, and receive a certificate of completion. You do not need to be affiliated with the University of Maryland to access courses through Canvas Catalog. Upon registration, you are guaranteed access to the course space for 60 days.



# Appendix E

## Select Terminology

**Countering violent extremism:** “Proactive actions to counter efforts by extremists to radicalize, recruit, and mobilize followers to violence.”<sup>55</sup>

**Domestic extremist ideologies:** “Violent extremists based in the United States have different beliefs that lead them to commit crimes and acts of violence. Some of the most common domestic ideologies” are sovereign citizen extremists, animal rights and environmental extremists, anarchist extremists, abortion extremists, militia extremists, and white supremacy extremists. “It is important to note that it is legal to have hateful or extremist beliefs as long as you don’t commit crimes or violence based on those beliefs. The right to assemble (or gather) in groups is also protected by the U.S. Constitution.”<sup>56</sup> The FBI includes an extensive list of “Gangs/Extremist Groups” on its website.<sup>57</sup>

**Extremist group:** A group that commits acts of violent extremism based on group beliefs and goals.

**Hate crime:** For the purposes of collecting crime statistics, “the FBI has defined a hate crime as a ‘criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender’s bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity.’ Hate itself is not a crime—and the FBI is mindful of protecting freedom of speech and other civil liberties.”<sup>58</sup>

**Homegrown violent extremists:** Those who encourage, endorse, condone, justify, or support the commission of a violent criminal act to achieve political, ideological, religious, social, or economic goals by a citizen or long-term resident of a Western country who has rejected Western cultural values, beliefs, and norms.<sup>59</sup>

**International violent extremist groups:** “More than 50 violent extremist groups around the world have been named terrorist organizations by the U.S. government.” Examples: Al Qaeda, Al Shabaab, Hizballah, ISIS/ISIL, Kahane Chai, and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). “Thousands of violent extremists belong to these

groups, support their beliefs, or are inspired by them.”<sup>60</sup>

**Radicalization:** Many definitions exist within the framework of terrorism and extremism. “The FBI defines it as ‘the process by which individuals come to believe their engagement in or facilitation of nonstate violence to achieve social and political change is necessary and justified.’”<sup>61</sup>

**Terrorism:** “The threatened or actual use of illegal force and violence by a non-state actor to attain a political, economic, religious, or social goal through fear, coercion, or intimidation.”<sup>62</sup>

**Violent extremism:** Violent extremism is defined by the FBI as “encouraging, condoning, justifying, or supporting the commission of a violent act to achieve political, ideological, religious, social, or economic goals.”<sup>63</sup>



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