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A Letter from Leadership

Welcome to the first issue of the CP3 Newsletter.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships (CP3) supports DHS's commitment to enhancing our collective ability to prevent all forms of terrorism and targeted violence.

We recognize that achieving this prevention mission is beyond the federal government's capability and role alone. We work to build trusted partnerships across all levels of government; and through a whole-of-society approach, including collaborating with and convening houses of worship, civic organizations, health practitioners, law enforcement, industries; and with international partners. CP3 provides the technical, financial, and educational assistance required to establish and expand local prevention frameworks.

This newsletter will serve to update readers on news, events, and data related to our prevention mission, as well as our collaborative work with our many partners. We hope you find it informative, and we welcome your feedback.

Respectfully,

Dr. John Picarelli

Director, Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships

Department of Homeland Security

Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grantee

Highlight: Arizona State University

Arizona State University's McCain Institute is an FY20 Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention grant program recipient whose program seeks to build a national network of prevention practitioners. This interdisciplinary network will serve to both increase the efficacy of locally based prevention frameworks and programs as well as expand referrals to qualified programs throughout the country by providing prevention and intervention practitioners with a forum where they can identify promising practices, discuss the latest research, and share resources. As part of this program, the McCain Institute is hosting a 12-part "[Prevention Practitioners](#)" workshop series, which aims to both create and foster this national network.

On February 23 the McCain Institute held the second workshop within this series titled "Staffing Multi-Disciplinary Teams." The workshop featured a diverse array of speakers including other FY20 grantees such as Boston Children's Hospital, Life After Hate, and the Citizens Crime Commission of New York. The workshop covered the four stages of interventions and strategies for staffing multi-disciplinary teams. Over 70 people from across the U.S. and internationally attended.

The McCain Institute followed this on April 13 and May 4 with their third and fourth workshops, titled "Civil Liabilities in the Prevention and Intervention Space" and "Balancing Information Sharing and Privacy." The most recent workshop, Identifying Local TVTP Resources, occurred on May 28, 2021. If you would like to stay up to date with this workshop series you can find them on the [Prevention Practitioners Network](#) webpage.

An Update from CP3 Headquarters

CP3 has five core lines of effort: Field Operations, Strategic Engagement, Policy and Research, Grants and Innovation, and Education and Information Sharing. Field Operations staff are deployed across the U.S. and are supported by the four other lines of effort headquartered at DHS:

1. **The Strategic Engagement Section** engages with partners, stakeholders, and communities nationally and internationally, as well as with other U.S government partners, in coordination with other engagement offices at DHS. The Section conducts a series of digital forums on targeted violence and terrorism prevention to bring together members of the public, technology sector partners, and subsector stakeholders to discuss targeted violence and terrorism prevention efforts in their communities and to identify potential emerging practices. In March 2021, CP3 held the Digital Forum on Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention on Gaming and Esports, with over 200+ virtual attendees per day from around the country across four days of events and speakers from Electronic Arts, Twitch, the Wilson Center, and the U.S. Department of State.¹ In April, CP3 co-organized and co-hosted the Counter-Disinformation University Research Fair alongside the State Department's Global Engagement Center, and DHS offices such as the Counterterrorism and Emerging Threats Team, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's Mis, Dis, and Mal-information Team and Office of the Chief Learning Officer.
2. **The Policy and Research Section (PRS)** provides timely, accurate, and accessible information to guide the establishment and operation of local prevention frameworks. PRS has recently produced a number of publications on themes such as threat assessment and management teams, media literacy and critical thinking in online spaces, and mitigating the effects of social isolation in youth populations. In addition, PRS supports the CP3 Director in chairing the Executive Steering Committee on Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention, which coordinates policy development.
3. **The Grants and Innovation Section** funds grantees across three key tracks: establishing local prevention networks, piloting innovative prevention programs, and replicating successful prevention initiatives. Additionally, CP3 funds and implements a full range of partnerships to support and enhance efforts by law enforcement, faith leaders, local government officials, and communities to prevent targeted violence and terrorism. By providing these stakeholders with funding and technical assistance to conduct training, CP3 enables grantees to develop prevention programs in support of resilient communities, while strengthening networks and creating new collaborations. The FY 2020 grants program accounted for \$10 million across 29 grantees, and the FY 2021 program will disburse \$20 million across grant applicants

¹ Reference to specific non-federal entities does not imply endorsement by DHS or the U.S. Government.

selected for the program. For more information, see the FY 2021 [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#).

4. **The Education and Information Sharing Section** coordinates, implements, and continuously improves CP3's training efforts to address the prevention knowledge requirements of state, local, tribal, territorial, and nongovernmental stakeholders. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, this section has remotely delivered the Community Awareness Briefing (CAB), a premier education and information sharing product, to hundreds of people across CP3's stakeholder groups. The Education and Information Section is currently updating and refreshing CAB materials and is also working to implement a self-guided digital CAB training that users can access without a facilitator. In addition, the section supports the Invent2Prevent program, where students compete in a semester-long project to develop their own dynamic products, tools, or initiatives to prevent targeted violence and terrorism.

Notes from the Field

CP3's Field Operations team consists of four regions—East, Central, Mountain, and West—and has a total of 14 Regional Prevention Coordinators. Below are highlights from selected regions:

- **Georgia:** CP3 is partnering with the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to provide community awareness training across the state to mental health practitioners, community resource providers, and crisis intervention teams to enhance their understanding of targeted violence threats and their role in prevention and bystander intervention methods. This partnership and training will help reach rural communities outside the state's metropolitan areas.
- **Texas:** CP3 is working with 20 Education Service Centers (ESCs) throughout the state and has recently been invited to speak about its mission and provide prevention training to several ESCs at their annual safety and security summits. School administrators and school resource officers (SROs) representing rural schools with minimal budgets and resources will attend these summits.
- **Missouri:** CP3 will speak at the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's security and safety summit in June and the department's SRO academy in the fall. School administrators and SROs from all over the state, including rural areas, will attend.
- **Iowa and Nebraska:** CP3 is working with a team of MBA students on a communications and marketing plan of action to reach urban and rural populations in Nebraska and Iowa. Based on preliminary research, the states' rural populations has few resources compared to the region's larger cities. The Regional Prevention Coordinators will find the best way to connect these populations to relevant intervention communication networks, starting with local school boards.

Additional Information: Racially or Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremists-White Supremacists

Racially or Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremists-White Supremacists² (RMVE-WSs) are a subset of the Domestic Violent Extremist (DVE) and have been the most lethal DVE movement since 2001. RMVE-WS are motivated by a belief in the superiority of the white race and primarily target religious, racial, and ethnic minorities, places of worship, and law enforcement because they perceive these targets as opposing their goals or threatening the white race. RMVE-WS actors operate largely in a non-hierarchical environment and use websites, social media, and encrypted applications to share violent extremist messaging, operational tactics, recruit, and plan attacks.

One of the primary drivers of some RMVE-WSs is the *accelerationism concept*, which RMVE-WSs interpret as calling for a series of violent acts to bring about societal collapse through a race war because RMVE-WSs want society to be reconstructed in a form consistent with their beliefs. Additionally, RMVE-WSs' personal factors or grievances may also serve a significant role in driving some to mobilize to violence, which is a trend we consistently observe across various violent extremist movements. Conspiracy theories are also central to many RMVE-WS movements, such as the White Genocide conspiracy theory, which claims that minorities, multiculturalists, and a ruling elite are promoting the ongoing demographic shifts in Western countries to deliberately threaten the white race.³

One of the key initiatives DHS has developed to mitigate the risk of an individual engaging in RMVE-WS activity is our Community Awareness Briefing which DHS terrorism prevention officials deliver to community stakeholders to facilitate bystanders' ability to recognize the early signs of possible radicalization and mobilization to violence by RMVE-WSs and other violent extremists. We ask the public to report suspicious activity and threats of violence, including online activity, to local law enforcement, FBI field offices, or fusion centers.

² Groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of unlawful violence with intent to intimidate or coerce the federal government, ethnic and racial minorities, or non-Christian faiths, and often specifically Jewish persons, in support of their belief in the inferiority of nonwhites and non-Christians.

³ Generating, accessing, discussing, or otherwise interacting with conspiracy-related content without engaging in violence or other criminal activity may be protected activity under the First Amendment.

Quick Links and Upcoming Events

CP3 Resources:

- [Mitigating the Threat of School Violence as the U.S. "Returns to Normal" from the COVID-Pandemic and Beyond](#)
- [CP3 Director's written testimony before U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Homeland Security \[PDF\]](#)
- [Digital Forum on Gaming and Esports Wrap-Up](#)
- [Threat Assessment and Management Teams](#)
- [Media Literacy and Critical Thinking Online](#)
- [Overview of Community Engagement in Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention](#)

News from DHS:

- The Secretary of Homeland Security, alongside the Attorney General, [testified to the Senate Committee on Appropriations](#) on Domestic Violent Extremism in America.
- The Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released "[Domestic Violent Extremism Poses Heightened Threat in 2021](#)," an unclassified summary of the Joint Comprehensive Threat Assessment on domestic violent extremism.
- The U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center released the report "[Averting Targeted School Violence: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Plots Against Schools](#)" [PDF].
- The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) released its second graphic novel in the [Resilience Series](#) to educate the public on the dangers and risks associated with dis- and misinformation campaigns. [Bug Bytes](#) communicates the dangers and risks associated with mis-, dis-, and malinformation (MDM) campaigns. Readers follow protagonist Ava as she uncovers a disinformation campaign set to damage 5G critical communications infrastructure in the United States. CISA's first graphic novel, [Real Fake](#), was released in October 2020 and demonstrates how threat actors capitalize on political and social issues (especially around election cycles) to undermine public confidence by causing chaos, confusion, and division.

Prevention Related Updates:

- By July 2022, phone service providers will direct callers dialing "988" to the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (see "[FCC Fact Sheet: 988 and Suicide Prevention Hotline](#)").
- US National Institute of Justice funded research from UCLA and the University of Illinois Chicago, provides recommendations to improve bystander reporting based on interviews of

law enforcement and community practitioners. The summary report is available at: [Ten Ways to Improve Community Reporting for Violent Extremism and Targeted Violence - General Internal Medicine & Health Services Research - UCLA Health - Los Angeles, CA](#)

Upcoming Events:

- June 15, Invent2Prevent, [Invent2Prevent Virtual Final Competition](#)
- June 29, United States Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center, [Encore Event: Averting Targeted School Violence](#)