Identifying The Threat Within 2
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Session 2: Understanding Domestic Extremist Beliefs and Interventions
Prevention and Early Intervention is the Goal

• Domestic violent extremists are often following some kind of political propaganda or conspiracy theories
• Angry, possibly have legitimate grievances or simply feeling entitled and aggrieved
• They may feel sacred values are being trampled upon, violated.
• Three Ps - Polarization, Propaganda, Promotion of Violence
• Vulnerable and motivated into action by a group, it’s ideology and social support
• To move into violence.
• How fast?
• Who knows?
• How are they weaponizing?
• Who can stop them?
Domestic violent extremists - Are they crazy?

- There is a continuum of pathology, but most violent extremists are *not* mentally ill
- They tend to be unstable and volatile, some feel entitled.
- They often have a history of adverse childhood experiences:
  - Physical abuse
  - Sexual abuse
  - Emotional abuse
  - Physical neglect
  - Emotional neglect
  - Parental divorce/separation
  - Mental illness in the household
  - Substance abuse in the household
  - Domestic violence in the household
  - Household member incarcerated
What do they believe? - White Supremacists

- Christian Identity
- Odinism
- Neo-Nazism
- Q-Anon
What do they believe? - White Supremacist

- White supremacism
- Jews are evil
- White Replacement
- White Genocide
- RAHOWA
- LGBQT is “sin” /sick
- Governmental overthrow
White Supremacist - Symbols & Slogans
Proud Boys - What do they believe?

• Western chauvinism
• Oppose drug war, political correctness & racial guilt
• Support small government, venerating housewives
• Islamophobic & transphobic
• Drinking, partying and violence
• Members have been charged with seditious conspiracy related to their actions on January 6th
Proud Boys - Symbols and Slogans
What do they believe? - Oath Keepers

• Founded in 2009 by a former U.S. Army paratrooper as “defenders of the Constitution”
• Chapters include markedly high numbers of current and former law enforcement, military, and emergency first responders
• Believes that the government is conspiring to strip Americans of civil liberties and is preparing to fight back against the “New World Order” using paramilitary tactics
• Members have been charged with seditious conspiracy related to their actions on January 6th
Oath Keepers - Symbols & Slogans
What do they believe? - Three Percenters

• Not an organized group, but rather a militant anti-government ideology which holds that only three percent of American colonists fought against the British during the American Revolution
• Claim to be resisting perceived tyranny of the U.S. government, as the “three percent” of colonists did in 1776
• Movement was initiated in 2008, with a full doctrine posted online in 2014
  • Focus of the doctrine was telling gun owners to fight back and “shoot back” if the government instituted gun reforms
• Ideology was believed by the antigovernment militants who planned to kidnap and execute Michigan governor Gretchen Whitmer in 2020
What do they believe? - Patriot Front

- Founded in 2017 as an attempt to rehabilitate the image of the explicitly fascist Vanguard America after Charlottesville
- Seeks to cast itself as mainstream, patriotic Americans
- Wants to revive an “American identity” based on a “pan-European” heritage
- Calls to establish a white ethnostate
- 31 members were recently arrested in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, where they allegedly planned to riot at a Pride parade
What do they believe? - Accelerationists

• Accelerationism is an ideology embraced by many far-right and white supremacist groups
• Term is used to describe the hastening of the collapse of society into a race war or second civil war
• Brenton Tarrant (Christchurch mosque shooter) believed that the shooting would accelerate such societal collapse
• Believe that mass shootings have a domino effect that can lead to radical change that is necessary to save the white race from destruction by nefarious forces, particularly Jews
• Goal is chaos and destabilization, as illustrated in Siege and The Turner Diaries
What do they believe? - Accelerationists

• The goal of accelerationism is to burn everything down by using violence both to target enemies and instigate an overt and extreme response from the government.

• DHS warning - white supremacists were encouraging followers to capitalize on the unrest by targeting the police with Molotov cocktails and firearms and inciting followers to engage in violence and start the ‘boogaloo’ — a term used by some violent extremists to refer to the start of a second Civil War — by shooting in a crowd.”
Accelerationist Groups, Symbols & Slogans
What do they believe? - Boogaloo Bois

• Accelerationist group which supports a second civil war
• Unique among far-right groups in its deep opposition to law enforcement
• Includes white nationalists and white supremacists as well as more libertarian and even antiracist members who also seek to overthrow the current U.S. government, which it views as tyrannical.
• Generally not considered a “hate group” but rather an anti-government movement
Boogaloo Bois - Symbols & Slogans
What do they believe? - Antifa

- Some are anarchists
- Fascists must be stopped
- Police are part of it
- Violence is justified
- Confrontational
- Punch a Nazi in the face
- Use piss balloons etc.
- Doxxing
- Infiltration
Antifa - Symbols & Slogans
What do they believe? - Q-Anon

- The Election was stolen
- Pedophiles in government
- Children being trafficked - Pizzagate
- Liberals ruining US
- Christian - One world governance
- Q is directing them
- Trump will save us - the Storm
- Day of the Reckoning - with hangings
- COVID is a conspiracy to control us
Q-Anon - Symbols & Slogans

- Calm Before The Storm
- Q WWG1WGA
- Where We Go One We Go All
- International Center for the Study of Violent Extremism
What do they believe? - Abortion Clinic Terrorists

- Unborn are human beings
- Abortion is murder
- Abortion is genocide
- Property damage justified
- Violence is justified
- Often assaults or vandalism
Abortion Clinic Terrorists - Symbols & Slogans
What do they believe? - Incels

• “Involuntary celibates”
• Blame women, feminism, and gender equality for their lack of romantic and/or sexual experiences
• Believe in the “black pill” – that society is rigged against men who lack the money, status, or physical attractiveness to enter into romantic relationships with shallow women who are constantly “trading up”
• Direct violence primarily at women as well as “Chads” – the so-called alpha men whom women prefer
• Exhibit a great deal of self-loathing and suicidality and communicate with one another almost exclusively online
Symbols & Slogans - Incels

- Chads
- Staceys
- Beckys
- Black Pill
- Roping
- Go Elliot Rodger!
Case Example: Joshua Pruitt
Case Example: Sean Gillespie
Case Example: Ed Schofield
Who can intervene?

- Teachers
- Social workers
- Community leaders
- Religious leaders
- Police
  - Many violent extremists have a history of non-ideological crime:
    - Theft
    - Drug-related crimes
    - Assault including when under the influence
  - Many violent extremists also have a history of victimization:
    - Childhood maltreatment including abuse and neglect
    - Rape
    - Witnessing community violence
Building a Pre-incident Warning System

- Tracking social media for these groups active in your community
- Recognizing and tracking symbols and signs for these groups active in your community
- Identifying who is following them and how far down the violent extremist/terrorist trajectory they have gone.
- Do these individuals have arms?
- What do their friends and family have to say about them? Are they dangerous, making threats?
- Differing levels of interventions
Where can you intervene?

MHR GUN VIOLENCE TRIANGLE

Opportunity
Mental Health Crisis
Availability of Firearms

Graphic: James Bueermann
Mental Health
• Mental health includes vulnerabilities and motivations for resonating to violent groups and ideologies – we will cover this more in session two.
• Framework: Work with mental health professionals and others in the community to identify professional interventions which can be taken, create a caring network of school counselors, mentors, psychologists, psychiatrists, etc. that are at your fingertips. Create a caring space that family members and friends of a vulnerable person about to act know they can call you and you will help not simply act punitively.
• Goal: Operationalize a program for implementing the professional mental health interventions. Just like ghostbusters - Ask yourself this far in advance – Who ya gonna call?

Firearms
• What is the state and availability of firearms in the community?
• Framework: Operationalize a program for addressing the prevalence of guns
  ▪ a program for storing community members’ guns
  ▪ Other ideas include a gunlock give away
• Goal: Know the state and availability of firearms in your community
Framework for a Pre-incident Warning System

Opportunity
- Framework: Recognize the warning signs, whether on the internet or in the community
  - Do you see the following things? *(which we covered)*
    - Language
    - Phrases
    - Symbols
- Goal: Operationalize programs to look and listen for warning signs
  - Train dispatchers to listen for warning signs
  - Train workforce to look for warning signs
  - Train faith leaders to look for warning signs
  - Train educators to look for warning signs
  - Develop a positive but strong response.
We are here to help. Contact us anytime and we’ll do our best to help you.

• Our counter narrative videos are [here](#)
  • Escape Hate
  • The Real Jihad
• Our websites are
  • ISCVE
  • Police2Peace
• Anne Speckhard – [Anne.Speckhard@ICSVE.org](mailto:Anne.Speckhard@ICSVE.org)
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