There is no place for violent extremism in the Army.
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Foreword

This guide provides information to Army leaders and security professionals to help understand the challenges from the threat of violent extremism. This guide is for informational awareness and not intended as a “how-to” prevention 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 constitutionally protected.

Therefore, Army leaders seeking 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.

Purpose

This guide helps Army leaders and security professionals understand violent extremism, how to recognize when someone may be leaning toward behavior that could become “extremist” and/or leads to violence, and serves as a stepping-stone to support community awareness efforts that help Soldiers, DA Civilians, and family members recognize and report suspicious activities.

“Violent extremism presents a critical threat to the United States. Individuals who commit acts of violent extremism are inspired by diverse political, religious, and philosophical beliefs, and are not limited to any single population or region. No matter the motivation, attacks by violent extremists have devastating effects on our communities.”

Introduction

Violent extremism poses a critical threat to the United States, both the homeland and the U.S. military operations overseas. Acts of violent extremism undermines the rule of law and the protection of human and civil rights. The threat is not limited to a single political, religious, ethnic/cultural or ideological background. Regardless of its motivation, violent extremism can have devastating effects on both civilian and military communities and could, if left unchecked, impact Army readiness.
PART 1:
What is Violent Extremism?

Definition

In the Strategic Implementation Plan for Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States, the White House defined violent extremism as “individuals who support or commit ideologically-motivated violence to further political goals.”

The Government Accounting Office, in an April 2017 report, defined violent extremism “as ideologically, religious, or politically-motivated acts of violence—[which] has been perpetrated in the United States by white supremacists, anti-government groups, and radical Islamist entities, among others.”

Sub-categories of Violent Extremism

Because violent extremism manifests in diverse attributes and tactics, which may be driven by distorted beliefs, values and ideologies, it can be ineffective and possibly misleading to develop a single definition. For example, the following terms fall under the broader concept of “violent extremism”:

- **Terrorism:** The unlawful use of violence or threat of violence, often motivated by religious, political, or other ideological beliefs, to instill fear and coerce governments or societies in pursuit of goals that are usually political.

- **Hate Crimes:** The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) defines 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.”

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3 Joint Publication 3-07.2, Antiterrorism, 14 March 2014

4 [https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/civil-rights/hate-crimes#Definition](https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/civil-rights/hate-crimes#Definition)
Scope of Violence

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

• Bombings (including bomb threats)
• Shootings (targeted violence and active shooters)
• Biological and chemical attacks
• Use of sharp-edged weapons and physical assault
• Vehicle ramming
• Assistance to foreign terrorist organizations (monetary and other material support)

Select Examples of Violent Extremist Attacks

Several examples of recent violent extremist attacks are provided below. Additional examples are in Appendix A.

Christopher Hasson—In January 2020, a U. S. Coast Guard lieutenant was sentenced to more than 13 years in federal prison on federal charges of illegal possession of silencers, possession of firearms by an addict, unlawful use of a controlled substance, and possession of a controlled substance. Hasson intended to inflict violence on the basis of his racist and hateful beliefs.5

Jarrett Smith—In September 2019, Jarrett William Smith, aka Anti-Kosmik, an active poster in Feuerkrieg Division’s Wire chat and Soldier in the U.S. Army, was arrested and charged with unlawfully distributing instructions for making explosive devices over social media. He spoke to others on social media about wanting to travel to Ukraine to fight with a “violent, far-right military group.” Smith pleaded guilty in federal court and faces up to twenty years in prison.6

Patrick Crusius—A 21-year-old from a suburb of Dallas who was radicalized as a white supremacist online and saw immigrants as a threat to the future of ‘white’ America, was charged with killing 22 people at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, on August 3, 2019.7

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7 Combating Terrorism Center (CTC) at West Point, CTC Sentinel, The El Paso Terrorist Attack: The Chain Reaction of Global Right-Wing Terror, https://ctc.usma.edu/el-paso-terrorist-attack-chain-reaction-global-right-wing-terror/
James Harris Jackson—On March 20, 2017, a 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.\(^8\)

Dylann Roof—In June 2015, a racially or ethnically motivated violent extremist "condemned to death for a mass shooting at a Charleston, South Carolina, church, … [was] found guilty of 33 federal charges, including hate crimes and obstruction of religion resulting in death."\(^9\)

Mohammad Youssuf Abdulazeez—On July 16, 2015, Mohammad Youssuf Abdulazeez opened fire on two military installations (a recruiting center and a reserve center) in Chattanooga, Tennessee, killing four Marines and one Sailor. Former FBI Director James Comey commented, “there is no doubt that the Chattanooga killer was inspired, motivated by foreign terrorist organization propaganda.”\(^10\)

Who are Violent Extremists?

There is no definitive profile of a violent extremist. Just as a range of violent acts is included under the umbrella of violent extremism, those perpetrating these acts vary widely in their beliefs and characteristics. While the public often associates violent extremism with violent Islamic extremists, there are actually a wide variety of domestic violent extremism threats that pose a danger to the United States— including Racially or Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremists (RMVE), Animal Rights and Environmental Violent Extremists, Anti-Government or Anti-Authority Violent Extremists, Abortion-Related Violent Extremists, and All Other Domestic Terrorism Threats. Some individuals become active members in these domestic terrorist groups and take action within their affiliated group's purview.

The mere advocacy of political or social positions, political activism, use of strong rhetoric, or generalized philosophic embrace of violent tactics may not constitute extremism, and may be constitutionally protected. No investigation may be opened based solely on First Amendment protected activity. Hateful rhetoric without any threat of violence or criminal activity is not investigated by the FBI.

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The National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), maintains a database name the Profiles of Individual Radicalization in the United States (PIRUS). The database consists of 2,226 Islamist, far-left, far-right, and single-issue extremists who have radicalized to violent and non-violent extremism in the United States from 1948 through 2018.

The database is freely available for download on START’s webpage at https://www.start.umd.edu/profiles-individual-radicalization-united-states-pirus-keshif. A May 2020, PIRUS Research Brief compares ideological groups, sub-ideologies, and includes a correlation matrix examining the relationship of individual attributes to violent extremism.
Sample of Extremist Ideologies

The table below provides an overview of the main types of ideologies within the United States including a brief description of their associated beliefs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extremist Group Type</th>
<th>Beliefs and Ideology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Racially or Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremists (RMVE)</td>
<td>The Racially/Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremist (RMVE) threat encompasses the potentially unlawful use or threat of force or violence, in furtherance of political and/or social agendas which are deemed to derive from bias, often related to race, held by the actor against others, including a given population group. RMVEs use both political and religious justifications to support their racially- or ethnically-based ideological objectives and criminal activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Government or Anti-Authority Violent Extremists</td>
<td>The Anti-Government/Anti-Authority Violent Extremist threat encompasses the potentially unlawful use or threat of force or violence, in furtherance of political and/or social agendas, which are deemed to derive from anti-government or anti-authority sentiment, including opposition to perceived economic, social, or racial hierarchies, or perceived government overreach, negligence, or illegitimacy. This threat category typically includes threats from Anarchist Extremists, Militia Extremists, Puerto Rican National Extremists, and Sovereign Citizen Extremists. Anarchist Extremists have primarily focused on targeting symbols of capitalism, law enforcement, and government. They remain loosely organized nationally but have demonstrated the capability to quickly mobilize against issues they oppose, which often results in acts of vandalism or property damage and confrontations with law enforcement and others with opposing ideologies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extremist Group Type</td>
<td>Beliefs and Ideology</td>
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<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Militia Extremists</td>
<td>Militia Extremists have primarily focused on Second Amendment gun rights and land rights, paramilitary training, and the acquisition of weapons, ammunition, and food supplies in preparation for criminal confrontations with government or law enforcement. Militia extremists perceive the US Government as overreaching in regard to gun and land rights, or as being ineffective in the face of border security issues and terrorism. Militia extremists have historically targeted the government and law enforcement, but in recent years have increasingly threatened or plotted violence against suspected undocumented immigrants and drug traffickers along the southwestern border, anti-fascists, and Muslims, whom they perceive as threats to public safety.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rican National Extremists (PRNE)</td>
<td>Puerto Rican National Extremists (PRNE) have primarily focused on seeking independence for Puerto Rico by destabilizing the relationship between the US Government and the Government of Puerto Rico—which they view as a proxy of the United States. PRNEs take up economic causes, such as the perceived negative effects of capitalism, to draw attention to their fight for independence and inspire the island’s population to revolt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sovereign Citizen Extremism (SCEs)</td>
<td>Sovereign Citizen Extremism (SCEs) have primarily focused on the belief the US government is illegitimate and that US government laws and regulations, including taxes, are illegitimate as well. SCEs have harassed and targeted law enforcement and government personnel with retaliatory liens and frivolous lawsuits. SCE violence is primarily sporadic and reactive, occurring within the context of routine encounters with law enforcement during traffic stops and the service of warrants, evictions, etc. at the home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Rights and Environmental Violent Extremists</td>
<td>The Animal Rights/Environmental Violent Extremist threat encompasses the potentially unlawful use or threat of force or violence, in furtherance of political and/or social agendas by those seeking to end or mitigate perceived cruelty, harm, or exploitation of animals and/or the perceived exploitation or destruction of natural resources and the environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abortion-Related Violent Extremists</td>
<td>The Abortion-Related Violent Extremist threat encompasses the potentially unlawful use or threat of force or violence, in furtherance of political and/or social agendas relating to abortion, including pro-life or pro-choice.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Extremist Group Type** | **Beliefs and Ideology**
--- | ---
Other Terrorist Threats | The All Other Domestic Terrorism Threats category encompasses threats involving the potentially unlawful use of threat of force or violence, in furtherance of political and/or social agendas which are not otherwise defined under one of the other threat categories. Such agendas could flow from, but are not limited to, a mixture of personal grievances and beliefs, including those described in the other domestic terrorism threat categories. Some actors in this category may also carry bias related to religion, gender, or sexual orientation.

**How Are Violent Extremists Radicalized?**

What is radicalization? Radicalization\(^{11}\) 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 through which an individual changes from a non-violent belief system to a belief system that includes the willingness to actively advocate, facilitate, or use unlawful violence as a method to affect societal or political change.”\(^{12}\) 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.”\(^ {13}\)

Young men and women are spending more time online where they are searching for a sense of identity, community, and purpose. Violent extremist ideologies help to provide such individuals a common identity and sense of purpose. This ideology is used to indoctrinate new recruits to accept individual(s)/groups’ goals and directives, and also allows these individual(s)/groups to maintain cohesion, ensure conformity, and justify the use of violence to meet the ideology’s goals.

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. Developmental resources can be both external and internal factors. External resources can include having

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11 [https://info.publicintelligence.net/DHS-FBI-NCTC-CivilianTargetsHVEs.pdf](https://info.publicintelligence.net/DHS-FBI-NCTC-CivilianTargetsHVEs.pdf)
positive family support, positive family communication, safety (at home, school and in one’s neighborhood), having positive role models and positive peer influence.”\(^1\)\(^4\)

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.”\(^1\)\(^5\)

It is important to consider the totality of circumstances when observing potential indicators, as some factors may increase the risk of extremist violence in a given situation. These factors may include but are not limited to:\(^1\)\(^6\)

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

**Mobilization to Violence Reference Guide**

The National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) published a guide titled, *Homegrown Violent Extremist Mobilization Indicators*.\(^1\)\(^7\) “The indicators of violent extremist mobilization described are observable behaviors that could help determine whether individuals or groups are preparing to engage in violent extremist activities, such as conducting an attack or traveling overseas to join a foreign terrorist organization.” “In an effort to mitigate future attacks, the initial list of indicators was developed based on a review of information derived from dozens of FBI terrorism investigations, peer-reviewed academic studies, and brainstorming sessions by experts

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\(^1\)\(^5\) Ibid

\(^1\)\(^6\) Homegrown Violent Extremist Mobilization Indicators, 2019 Edition, [http://go.usa.gov/xEKgd](http://go.usa.gov/xEKgd) p. 21

\(^1\)\(^7\) Ibid
from the Intelligence Community and law enforcement. The indicators are continuously updated based on input from subject matter experts.”

**Internet and Propaganda**

Social media activity among far-right extremists has dramatically increased in recent years. George Washington University’s Program on Extremism calculated that major American white nationalist groups on Twitter added about 22,000 followers between 2012 and 2016—a 600 percent increase.\(^\text{18}\) “The most popular theme among white nationalists on Twitter was the concept of ‘white genocide,’ the notion that the ‘white race’ is directly endangered by the increasing diversity of society.”\(^\text{19}\)

Violent extremist groups are using sophisticated, deliberate strategies to actively target vulnerable individuals online, often through dissemination of Hollywood-like propaganda videos and messaging campaigns. According to a study of Racially or Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremists 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.”\(^\text{20}\) Similarly, terrorist groups such as Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) release various forms of propaganda to radicalize, recruit, and mobilize potential adherents to violence.

The emergence of applications such as Telegram, SureSpot, Kik, and WhatsApp has been a particular game changer for ISIS and its efforts in the West. Previously, the group used such platforms to help encourage supporter attacks in the West, such as the May 2015 attack in Garland, Texas.\(^\text{21}\)

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 website banner includes the statement “we are a community of racial realists and idealists … we are White Nationalists who support true diversity and a homeland for all peoples, including ours. We are the voice of the new, embattled White minority!”\(^\text{22}\)

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\(^\text{19}\) Ibid

\(^\text{20}\) [https://extremism.gwu.edu/sites/g/files/zaxdqs2191/f/downloads/Nazis%20v%20ISIS.pdf](https://extremism.gwu.edu/sites/g/files/zaxdqs2191/f/downloads/Nazis%20v%20ISIS.pdf)


\(^\text{22}\) [https://www.stormfront.org/forum/](https://www.stormfront.org/forum/)
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. Additionally, various forms of the web forum, 4chan, 8chan and 16chan were used by actors who carried out racially motivated violence.

Extremism is an International Concern

Extremists groups are by no means unique to the U.S. Many countries have extremist groups (some much worse than in the U.S.) which threaten the security and sovereignty of their nations. “Neo-Nazi and white supremacist groups in the United States and Europe have become more active and dangerous in the last decade and have developed a much deeper on-line presence. This has helped them establish closer trans-national contacts. One common preoccupation for both individuals and groups has been the conflict in Ukraine, where a well-established far-right extremist movement and its associated militia have consistently engaged with and welcomed far-right ideologues and fighters from other parts of Europe and North America.”

In his February 2020 testimony, FBI Director Wray noted that hate-crimes “are not limited to the United States and, with the aid of Internet like-minded hate groups, can reach across borders.” Those groups are especially prominent in Germany, Italy, Croatia, Ukraine, and Russia but also present in most European countries. Some have direct and recurring links with groups in the United States.

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23 http://www.vanguardnewsnetwork.com/
24 NCTC Current (U//FOUO) RMVEs Using Variety of Online Platforms for Extremist Activity, 29 Jan 20
26 https://www.counterextremism.com/roundup/eye-extremism-feb-6-2020
PART 2

Participation in Extremist Organizations within the Military

“Due to indications of an increase in extremist activity by former and current military personnel, evidenced by a spike in open source reporting, the Army Threat Integration Center (ARTIC) produced a report examining 22 cases of current and former DoD members expressing support for and or allegedly affiliated with extremist groups while serving in or having recently separated from the military from 2017–2019.”

“ARTIC analysis considered an organization to be “extremist” if its core ideology espouses racially motivated hatred, such as Neo-Nazism, white supremacism, or black separatism, and or religious hatred, such as espoused by al-Qa’ida or the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. The majority of the information in the report was obtained via open sources.”

“Twenty out of the 22 reports examined by the Army Threat Integration Center (ARTIC) from 2017 to 2019 involved military members allegedly demonstrating support for white supremacist or neo-Nazi ideology and or associating with explicitly white supremacist or neo-Nazi organizations. Two reports involved alleged support for ideology in support of foreign terrorist organizations, namely ISIS. In all 22 reports the suspects were male. Of the 22 cases examined, 13 involved Soldiers, six involved Marines, two involved Airmen, and one involved a member of the Coast Guard. Seven out of the 22 members engaged in, or discussed engaging in, violent acts involving explosives and or firearms.”

Read the full report produced by the ARTIC for examples of radicalized individuals and extremist groups.


28 Due to the nature of open source reporting, and the possibility of ongoing investigations involving DoD personnel within this report, some of the allegations presented may prove to be unfounded.

29 Army Threat Integration Center, Indications of Extremism in the Military 2017-2019, April 2020
Army Guidance on Participation in Extremist Organization and Activities

Participation in extremist organizations and activities by Army personnel is inconsistent with the responsibilities of military service. It is the policy of the United States Army to provide equal opportunity and fair treatment for all Soldiers without regard to race, color, sex (including gender identity), national origin, religion, or sexual orientation. Enforcement of this policy is a responsibility of command, is vitally important to unit cohesion and morale, and is essential to the Army’s ability to accomplish its mission. It is the commander’s responsibility to maintain good order and discipline in the unit. Every commander has the inherent authority to take appropriate actions to accomplish this goal. This paragraph identifies prohibited actions by Soldiers involving extremist organizations, discusses the authority of the commander to establish other prohibitions, and establishes that violations of prohibitions contained in this paragraph or those established by a commander may result in prosecution under various provisions of the UCMJ.30

Participation in Extremist Organizations or Activities

Military personnel must reject participation in extremist organizations and activities. Extremist organizations and activities are ones that advocate—

- Racial, sex (including gender identity), sexual orientation, or ethnic hatred or intolerance.

- Creating or engaging in discrimination based on race, color, sex (including gender identity), national origin, religion, or sexual orientation.

- The use of force or violence or unlawful means to deprive individuals of their rights under the United States Constitution or the laws of the United States, or any State.

- Support for terrorist organizations or objectives.

- The use of unlawful violence or force to achieve goals that are political, religious, discriminatory, or ideological in nature.

- Expressing a duty to engage in violence against DOD or the United States in support of a terrorist or extremist cause.

- Support for persons or organizations that promote or threaten the unlawful use of force or violence or criminal activity.

30 Pages 14-16 of this guide are extracts from the draft Army Regulation 600-20 (Para 4-12)
• Encouraging military or DA Civilian personnel to violate laws or disobey lawful orders or regulations for the purpose of disrupting military activities (subversion).

• Participating in activities advocating or teaching the overthrow of the U.S. Government by force or violence, or seeking to alter the form of government by unconstitutional means (sedition).

Prohibited Activities

Soldiers are prohibited from the following actions in support of extremist organizations or activities. Penalties for violations of these prohibitions include the full range of statutory and regulatory sanctions, both criminal (UCMJ), and administrative.

• Participating in public demonstrations or rallies.

• Attending a meeting or activity with the knowledge that the meeting or activity involves an extremist cause when:
  » on duty
  » in uniform
  » in a foreign country (whether on or off-duty or in or out of uniform)
  » it constitutes a breach of law and order
  » it is likely to result in violence
  » in violation of off-limits sanctions
  » in violation of a commander’s order.

• Fundraising activities.

• Recruiting or training members (including encouraging other Soldiers to join).

• Creating, organizing, or taking a visible leadership role in such an organization or activity.

• Distributing literature on or off a military installation, the primary purpose and content of which concerns advocacy or support of extremist causes, organizations, or activities; and it appears that the literature presents a clear danger to the loyalty, discipline, or morale of military personnel or the distribution would materially interfere with the accomplishment of a military mission.

• Receiving financial assistance from a person or organization who advocates terrorism, the unlawful use of force or violence to undermine or disrupt U.S. military operations, subversion, or sedition.
Commanders’ Authority

Commanders have the authority to prohibit military personnel from engaging in or participating in any other activities that the commander determines will adversely affect readiness, good order and discipline, or morale within the command. This includes, but is not limited to, the authority to order the removal of symbols, flags, posters, or other displays from barracks, to place areas or activities off-limits (see AR 190 – 24), or to order Soldiers not to participate in those activities that are contrary to good order and discipline or morale of the unit or pose a threat to health, safety, and security of military personnel or a military installation.

Reporting Requirements

Commanders will notify the local law enforcement, U.S Army CID, and their supporting counterintelligence organization in cases where they know or suspect that Soldiers are engaging in extremist activities. If a Soldier possesses a security clearance, commanders will ensure the security manager records the derogatory information as an incident report.
PART 3
How Community Members Can 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. Members of Army communities may also come across extremist information and activities. 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, 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.

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 their 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 neighborhoods stay safe from terrorist activities. Army community members can report behaviors and activities that make them feel uncomfortable and do not look right (suspicious behavior). 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.

iSALUTE

Another suspicious activity reporting program managed by the Army military intelligence community is 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 with a foreign influence.

What Activities to Report

Examples (not all inclusive) of potentially suspicious behaviors and activities to report includes:

• Persons advocating loyalty to a foreign interest over loyalty to the U.S.

• Persons expressing hatred for or advocating violence against American society or government.

• Persons advocating support for terrorist or violent extremist organization.

• Evidence of terrorist training or attendance at terrorist facilities.

• Persons repeatedly viewing websites that promote terrorism.

• Persons exchanging information on websites that promote use of force against the U.S.

• Seeking religious or political justification for a planned violent act.

Additional potential indicators can be found in the NCTC/FBI/DHS Homegrown Violent Extremist Mobilization Indicators Booklet (referenced above):
http://go.usa.gov/xEKgd
• Expressing acceptance of violence as a necessary means to achieve ideological goals
• Communicating a desire for revenge, promoting violent extremist narratives, sharing and praising violent extremist videos.
• Attempts to radicalize others, especially peers and family members.
• Participating in on-line sites or groups that promote violent extremism.
• Seeking or claiming relationships with incarcerated or infamous violent extremists.
• Changing vocabulary, style of speech or behavior to reflect hardened point of view or new sense of purpose associated with violent extremist causes.
• Persons joking or bragging about association with a foreign intelligence service, terrorist group, or violent extremist group.
• Persons sending large amounts of money to foreign countries.
• People photographing, drawing or measuring important facilities.
• Persons asking questions about sensitive information such as building blueprints, security forces/plans/procedures, or VIP travel schedules without a need to know.
• Persons purchasing explosive devices or bomb-making materials or seeking instructional information on their design and use.
• A briefcase, suitcase, backpack or package left unattended.
• Vehicles left unattended in No Parking zones adjacent to important buildings.
• Intruders found in secure areas where they are not authorized/don’t belong.

What Information to Report

• Date and time the activity occurred
• Where activity occurred
• Physical descriptions of the people involved
• Description of the vehicle(s) involved
• What type of activity
• Describe what you saw or heard
• Provide pictures if you took any

No one behavior, standing alone, should be considered an indicator of potential for violence; rather all behaviors and circumstances should be considered in totality.
Where to Report

• U.S. Army CID Crime Tips:
  » https://www.cid.army.mil/

• Contact the local counterintelligence office

• iSALUTE—The iSALUTE counterintelligence reporting portal is accessible via every Army commands' home page; individuals may also report by telephone at 1-800-CALL-SPY (1-800-225-5779) [CONUS ONLY]

• FBI Tips: https://tips.fbi.gov/

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, ethnic/cultural, 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.
Appendix A

Select Examples of Violent Extremist Attacks

Targeting of Law Enforcement—Law enforcement officers are common targets of domestic and internationally inspired extremist violence. The greatest threat emanates from anti-government extremism and those acting against perceived threats to personal rights, and perceived unjust policing and judicial systems. Threat reporting indicates domestic extremists will continue to target officers in retaliation, as symbolic targets of anti-government extremism, or reactively during law enforcement encounters.31

Shannon Maureen Conley—A Colorado 19-year-old who was arrested after attempting to board a flight to Turkey, pled guilty in 2014 to conspiracy to provide material support to ISIS. In furtherance of the conspiracy, Conley joined the U.S. Army Explorers (USAE) to be trained in U.S. military tactics and in firearms. She traveled to Texas and attended the USAE training. She also obtained first aid/nursing certification and National Rifle Association certification.32

Moner Mohammad Abu-Salha—On 25 May 2014, an American suicide bomber killed himself and several Syrian troops with a truck bomb in Ariha, Syria, in the name of al-Nusra Front.33

Frazier Glenn Miller—On 13 April 2014, Frazier Glenn Miller shot and killed three individuals he believed to be Jewish in Overland Park, Kansas.34

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.35

31 Joint Intelligence Bulletin, Targeting of Law Enforcement by Domestic and Homegrown Violent Extremists, 12 October 2018.
32 https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/colorado-woman-sentenced-conspiracy-provide-material-support-designated-foreign-terrorist
33 https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/american-who-killed-himself-in-syria-suicide-attack-was-from-south-florida-official-says/2014/05/30/03869b6e-e7f4-11e3-a86b-362fd5443d19_story.html
34 https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/jewish-center-shootings/jewish-site-killings-death-sentence-white-supremacist-frazier-glenn-miller-n461071
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.36

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.37

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.38

37 https://www.investigativeproject.org/3061/little-rock-jihadist-sentenced-to-life
38 https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Fort_Hood/FortHoodReport.pdf
Appendix B

Racially or Ethically Motivated Violent Extremism (RMVE) Symbols Reference Guide

RMVEs often use the internet and social media platforms to network with other like-minded individuals, and post derogatory messages or propaganda supporting their extremist rhetoric. Although all RMVEs use, or threaten to use force in furtherance of their agenda, they distinguish themselves by depicting specific symbols to represent their ideology. The following five symbols have been used by some RMVEs:

![Tottenkampf](image1)
![Schwarze Sonne](image2)
![Ionizing Radiation Symbol](image3)
![Pine Tree Emoji](image4)
![Eco-Fascism Rune](image5)

The RMVE symbols below are provided as a reference sheet to assist individuals with a need to know in identifying which group of RMVE uses which symbol, both online and in real life; this list is not all-inclusive as symbols and groups are constantly evolving. Please note that membership in the following RMVE groups, or the depiction or possession of these symbols by themselves, is protected by the First Amendment and may not constitute a criminal offense. Nonetheless, when examined within the entirety of one’s social media activity and behavior, they may indicate potential for terrorism-related activity or acts of violence that should be shared with appropriate partners for situational awareness.

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39 This appendix is an extract from the Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center, Joint Information Bulletin, 22 May 2019
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Atomwaffen (AWD)</strong></th>
<th><strong>The Base</strong></th>
<th><strong>Feuerkrieg Division</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>(U) Neo-Nazi group whose members are linked to violent crimes and have participated in white supremacist rallies and events, “hate camps,” and military-style training exercises. The group promotes and reads American neo-Nazi James Mason’s <em>Siege</em>, a book that endorses lone actor terrorist attacks against multiple targets.</td>
<td>(U) White supremacist extremist AWD splinter group with an international social media presence. The Base believes in eco-fascism, an idea that individuals have the right to use any violent means necessary to protect the environment and the Aryan race. The group regularly engages in paramilitary style training.</td>
<td>(U) A new European neo-Nazi group that heavily endorses the “teachings” of American neo-Nazi James Mason’s <em>Siege</em> book. The group additionally openly supports the AWD, and is attempting to recruit and establish a chapter in Europe.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Sonnenkrieg Division</strong></th>
<th><strong>Vanguard America, formerly Reaction USA</strong></th>
<th><strong>Patriot Front</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>(U) Group that is considered the United Kingdom branch of the AWD Division. The group is attempting to recruit in Europe. In December 2018, three alleged group members were arrested on terrorist offenses in the UK.</td>
<td>(U) A white supremacist group with neo-Nazi ideology that opposes multiculturalism. It has participated in white supremacist rallies/protests around the country, including the deadly Unite the Right rally. The group’s members have targeted Jewish institutions with hateful propaganda. Infighting has led to the formation of splinter groups.</td>
<td>(U) White nationalist hate group that broke off from Vanguard America (Van Am) in the aftermath of the deadly Unite the Right rally. Its founder led Van Am members during the rally, including James Alex Fields, Jr., who was convicted of murdering an anti-racist protester with his vehicle. Patriot Front participates in localized “flash mobs” and torch marches/demonstrations.</td>
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### Mountainman Appalachia

(U) AWD splinter group that engages in paramilitary style training while subscribing to an AWD-style ideology. The group also trains in the Appalachia region of the United States.

### Northwest Front

(U) Group was run by recently deceased leader Harold Covington, who endorsed white supremacist extremist ideals in line with eco-fascism. Group endorses creating an ethno-state in the northwest United States.

### True Cascadia

(U) Group endorses the creation of an ethno-state in the northwest United States. Promotes eco-fascism and has members who belong to other groups such as The Base and Northwest Front.

### Identity Evropa

(U) Racist alt-right "identitarian" group which recruits heavily on college campuses by flyering propaganda posters. Its goal is to transform young Caucasian individuals into the "fashionable" new face of white nationalism. The group allegedly helped plan the violent Unite the Right Charlottesville rally in August 2017.

### American Identity Movement

(U) Newly re-branded group stemming from Identity Evropa members who wished to rebrand themselves after a number of online leaks of their identities and group affiliation.

### Volksfront

(U) Neo-Nazi and international fraternal organization for persons of European descent, whose goal is to create an all-white homeland in the Pacific Northwest. Members have previously engaged in assaults, murder, and violent intimidation acts, especially against minorities.
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<tr>
<th><strong>Identity Dixie</strong></th>
<th><strong>Traditional Workers Party</strong></th>
<th><strong>League of the South</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>(U) Self-described “southern nationalist” and “alt-right” group, which promotes racist, derogatory and homophobic views. Its goal is to “achieve the independence of the Dixieland.”</td>
<td>(U) Neo-Nazi group that promotes white separatism, ethnic purity, and a white supremacist view of Christianity. Members participated in the deadly Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, VA, in August 2017.</td>
<td>(U) Neo-Confederate and Anglo-Celtic group advocating for a Southern secession, ruled by white men. Initially members were mostly academic figures, but now consist of hardliners engaging in street violence and protesting at rallies, including the deadly Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, VA, in August 2017.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Nationalist Socialist Movement or NatSoc</strong></th>
<th><strong>Rise Above Movement (RAM)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Beach Goys</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>(U) One of the largest and most explicitly Neo-Nazi groups in the United States, which seeks to deny citizenship and legal protection to Jews, non-whites, and members of the LGBTQ community. Known for its policy allowing members of other racist groups to join NSM, while simultaneously maintaining their other RMVE group membership.</td>
<td>(U) Violent racially motivated street fighting group based in Orange County, Los Angeles, and San Diego. Several members attended and instigated violence at Charlottesville, Huntington Beach, and Berkeley rallies.</td>
<td>(U) Group based in Orange County and Los Angeles that engages in ‘book burning’ and ‘hate hikes’ related to white supremacist extremist ideology. Has overlapping members with RAM.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hammerskin Nation</td>
<td>Nordic Resistance Movement</td>
<td>Asatru Folk Assembly</td>
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<td>(U) White supremacist extremist group seeking racial separation and survival of the white race by committing acts of violence, primarily against minorities, in support of their political and social goals.</td>
<td>(U) Neo-Nazi movement based throughout Scandanavia. The group’s ideals and belief in eco-facism is being espoused and rebranded with many United States social media users as the “Nordic Front.”</td>
<td>(U) America’s largest neo-Völkisch hate group, which is organized around an ethnocentric tribalism and archaic misogynic notions of gender. Neo-Völkisch adherents worship the Norse or Germanic gods, whose spirituality is premised on the survival of white Europeans.</td>
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