

Next Steps: Supporting Community-Based Efforts to Reduce Violent Crime

On Aug. 3, 2010, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano announced a series of initiatives to support state and local law enforcement and community groups across the country in identifying and mitigating threats to their communities in conjunction with National Night Out, an annual anticrime campaign involving citizens, police and neighborhood groups.

The new measures are based on [recommendations](#) made by the Homeland Security Advisory Council's (HSAC) "Countering Violent Extremism" Working Group—comprised of chiefs of police, sheriffs, community leaders and homeland security experts—on ways DHS can better support community-based efforts to combat violent extremism in the United States. Secretary Napolitano tasked the HSAC to work with state and local law enforcement, as well as relevant community groups to develop and provide these recommendations, six months ago today.

DHS has worked closely with HSAC members to develop the following initiatives that can be implemented in collaboration with our federal, state, and local partners.

In order to provide additional law enforcement training and resources to support local efforts to prevent future acts of violence:

- DHS is working with federal partners and state and local law enforcement organizations to develop an innovative **community-oriented policing curriculum** for state and local law enforcement, focused on better enabling frontline personnel to distinguish between potential criminal and legal activities.
 - DHS is working with the Department of Justice, Counter Terrorism Academy, Naval Post Graduate School, the Major City Chiefs Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and subject-matter experts from across the country to build this curriculum.
 - Once finalized, the training will be made available through a variety of venues to include DHS' Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, regional community policing institutes and online.
- To increase public awareness and preparedness about signs of criminal activity and violent extremism, DHS continues to expand its national **"If You See Something, Say Something"** campaign in coordination with law enforcement, the private sector, and community groups, integrating this effort with the National Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative and the transportation, sports, travel, and law enforcement sectors.
- DHS will continue to work with the Department of Justice to **leverage grant programs** to support training and technical assistance for state and local law enforcement, while incorporating community-oriented policing concepts into our broader preparedness efforts.

In order to improve information sharing with law enforcement partners:

- DHS will produce a series of **unclassified case studies** examining recent incidents involving violent crime and terrorism to educate and inform state and local law enforcement personnel and community members about common behaviors and indicators exhibited by the suspects.
- DHS will produce a **series of intelligence products** regarding tactics, techniques and plans of international and domestic terrorist organizations—including the recruitment and training of individuals living in the United States – to better inform state and local law enforcement personnel about threats facing the homeland and their local communities.

In order to better collect and share best practices with local law enforcement partners:

- DHS will convene a series of **regional summits** beginning this fall with state and local law enforcement, government, and community leaders to receive firsthand information and feedback on successful community-oriented policing and other crime reduction programs. DHS will **gather and share these case studies and best practices** with law enforcement partners nationwide using the widely-used *Lessons Learned Information Sharing* online platform.
- DHS and the Department of Justice will **publish guidance and recommendations** for state and local law enforcement agencies about ways to expand information sharing, suspicious activities reporting and identifying behavior that reflects criminal or terrorist activities. This agency-level guidance will serve as a complement to the individual officer curriculum.

In order to better collaborate with law enforcement partners at all levels:

- Because these new initiatives and policies are inherently relevant to local community partnerships, DHS will **expand cultural outreach and engagement activities** through its Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) in order to help both DHS employees and state and local law enforcement partners better understand, identify and mitigate threats.

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