



A COMMON LEXICON



**IACP Committee on Terrorism
Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Working Group**



The Goals of Outreach

From a law enforcement perspective, the goals of national security community outreach and engagement are to:

- ✓ Build and maintain relationships and partnerships with diverse communities;
- ✓ Establish transparency, mutual understanding and trust between the diverse communities and law enforcement;
- ✓ Ensure public safety and address threats by building law enforcement's knowledge and awareness of diverse communities; and,
- ✓ Ensure equal and respectful treatment of communities and partners.

Basic Definitions:

Counter-radicalization: The activities and strategies undertaken by government, law enforcement, non-governmental organizations, and others to challenge and oppose the violent extremist ideology and the processes of radicalization to violence.

De-radicalization: Activities undertaken to change the mindset of a radicalized individual away from the acceptance or endorsement of a violent extreme ideology in order to deter him/her from future violent action. This is often used in the context of “rehabilitation” of convicted terrorists—an activity that Canadian and US law enforcement do not engage in.

Radicalization to Violence: Radicalization is the process by which individuals—usually, but not always, young people—are introduced to an overtly ideological message and belief system that encourages movement from moderate, mainstream beliefs towards extreme views. Radicalization becomes a threat when individuals espouse or engage in violence as a means of promoting political, ideological or religious extremism.

Terrorism: This has not been defined as it is already defined in the legal documents of member countries.

Violent Extremist: A “violent extremist” encourages, endorses, condones, justifies, or supports the commission of a violent or criminal act to achieve political, ideological, religious, social, or economic goals against those he or she opposes.

Origins:

This section contains terms describing where an individual is from, how he or she was recruited into violent extremist activity, and his or her relationship to an organization.

Domestically-radicalized: A “domestically-radicalized” individual is a citizen or long-term resident of a country whose primary social influence has been the cultural values and beliefs of his or her country of current residence. Regardless of the inspiring ideology, his or her radicalization and indoctrination process began or occurred primarily within his or her country of current residence.

Internet-facilitated radicalization: “Internet-facilitated radicalization” is the process by which an individual radicalizes to violence primarily as a result of online media including social networks.

Family-influenced violent extremist: A “family-influenced violent extremist” is born into a family with parents or other close relatives who hold violent extremist views. He or she is raised to believe in these violent extremist views, adopts his or her relatives’ violent extremist ideology, and may grow up as part of a violent extremist social group.

Self-radicalization: “Self-radicalization” is the rare process by which an individual creates a violent ideology and radicalizes to violence with no active social interaction.

Self-starter/ Directed: A “self starter” is an individual or group that makes significant steps in the radicalization process without being recruited and has no direct or personal influence from other violent extremists in the early stages of radicalization. He or she might later seek out contact with other violent extremists or be pulled into their orbit. There should be an element of autonomy in a self starter’s radicalization.

Socially reinforced violent extremist: A “socially reinforced violent extremist” may have underlying tendencies for participating in violent extremist activity (for example, feelings of persecution or isolation, violent personality, etc.) but would not proceed without reinforcement from social interactions with like-minded others often using online social networking tools.

Targeted recruit: A “targeted recruit” is selected by a recruiter for advantageous characteristics such as citizenship, access to a trusted position, or skills and abilities. An individual who is recruited on the basis of his or her access or nationality to gather intelligence can be considered a targeted recruit.

Unwitting co-optee: An “unwitting co-optee” provides support to terrorism without knowing that his or her actions are contributing to terrorism. Such an individual may not suspect that he or she is being taken advantage of. Not all unwitting co-optees are engaging in criminal behavior.

Activity / Terrorist Role:

These terms describe the roles individuals may play in terrorist activity.

Operative: An “operative” knowingly participates in terrorism, regardless of his or her affiliation with a terrorist organization. Some of the types of activity defined in this lexicon do not require knowledge on the part of the individual that he or she is participating in terrorism, so not all individuals fitting the definitions in this lexicon are “operatives.”

Foot Soldier/Militant: A “foot soldier” or “militant” is defined as persons—including operatives and facilitators, but not terrorist leaders—who carry out terrorist acts or support them.

Courier: A “courier” enables terrorism by physically carrying items such as messages, information, or money. He or she might have no knowledge of the content of the communications, but if he or she is unaware that he or she is enabling communications, he or she should also be considered an unwitting co-optee (see previous page).

Facilitator: A “facilitator” knowingly provides one or more of a wide array of services to other operatives that enable the execution of terrorist plots, training, travel, or financing. Such activity might include setting up bank accounts, acquiring or producing false identification or travel documentation, aiding travel, disbursing funds, simple procurement of materials, or enabling communications via electronic means or by coordinating couriers.

Fundraiser: A “fundraiser” solicits and collects funds that are destined for use to support terrorism. This can be done through legitimate non-governmental organizations (NGOs) including charities that are infiltrated or exploited by terrorists to conceal terrorism fundraising. A fundraiser might also use other criminal activity such as fraud or diversion of funds from legitimate businesses to support terrorism. If a fundraiser is unaware that the funds will be diverted to terrorism, he or she is also considered an unwitting co-optee.

Intelligence Operative: An “intelligence operative” carries out various intelligence-gathering activities such as surveillance, testing security, or denial and deception. Some intelligence operatives might attempt to gain employment in sensitive positions in government, law enforcement, or the private sector.

Leader: A “leader” sets the agenda for a movement or organization. Such an individual is usually a charismatic leader with the ability to attract followers, dictate the terms of a network or cell, and resolve grievances within an organization.

Activity / Terrorist Role:

These terms describe the roles individuals may play in terrorist activity.

Radicalizer: Sometimes referred to as an “extremist ideologue” or “propagandist,” a “radicalizer” establishes, promotes, or disseminates justifications for violent extremism, often through manipulation of primary text materials such as religious texts or historical accounts that establish grievances. He or she might not have strong links to any terrorist organization or be integrated into an organization’s command structure. Unless he or she directly advocates specific acts of violence, much of such an individual’s activity might be constitutionally protected.

Recruiter: A “recruiter” attempts to identify and assess individuals who can be enlisted to support terrorist activity either by pitching them to join an organization, or by getting their unwitting support.

Sympathizer: A “sympathizer” is primarily a spectator of terrorism. He or she may have tangential contact with terrorist operatives but plays no active role in an attack or preparations for an attack, and has no detailed insider knowledge of terrorist plans.

Behaviour:

These terms describe an individual's tradecraft or a group's structure.

Cell: A "cell" is a small, close knit group of two or more individuals who are engaged in activity toward a common terrorist objective that may receive direction from an outside source or be part of a decentralized terrorist movement. Cell members are often bound together by strong emotional or ideological ties, and might even engage in rapport-building activities that have no operational purpose other than to foster group loyalty.

Clean operative: A "clean operative" is an individual who has not previously come to the attention of the law enforcement or intelligence communities. Terrorist groups may seek out such operatives because of the increased difficulty of detecting them.

Covert tradecraft: "Covert tradecraft" includes communications security, intelligence gathering, deception, counter-surveillance and counter-intelligence. The purpose of such tradecraft is to avoid attention from law enforcement and intelligence services and to mask association with violent extremist activity and terrorist organizations.

Decentralized terrorist movement: A "decentralized terrorist movement" involves individuals or small terrorist cells which may be influenced by leaderless resistance strategies and may lack directional vertical command links to a larger organization. They function with a common goal shared among independent groups.

Disengaged violent extremist: A "disengaged violent extremist" has previously undertaken politically-motivated violence but is currently not participating in violent extremism. He or she may reengage in such activity either on his or her own initiative or as a result of contact with others.

Homegrown violent extremist: A "homegrown violent extremist" is a citizen or long-term resident in a western country who has rejected western cultural values, beliefs and norms in favor of a violent extremist ideology. The homegrown violent extremist intends to commit terrorism inside western countries or against their interests.

Infiltrator tradecraft: "Infiltrator tradecraft" involves entering a country for a specific purpose, such as launching an attack or performing surveillance on targets. An operative or group of operatives practicing infiltrator tradecraft will generally avoid contact with other violent extremists, but may use unwitting co-optees for facilitation. Like sleeper tradecraft, infiltrator tradecraft may involve attempts to "blend in" to avoid attention, but does not include the element of awaiting "activation" before taking operational action.

Behaviour:

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Lone Terrorist: A "lone terrorist" commits terrorist acts alone and without witting support from others. The perpetrator may have contact with others, but those other individuals are not aware of the perpetrator's plans or intentions. The individual may be estranged or rejected from a terrorist or like-minded group, or may follow the ideology of a leaderless resistance movement. During the planning and execution stages of his or her attack, the lone terrorist avoids collaboration — and often, contact — with other known violent extremists. As a result, the lone terrorist might be freed from the strategic concerns and constraints on tactics and targets that affect terrorist organizations. He or she may also have a lower operational profile, thus more difficult to detect.

Network: A "network" is any group of two or more individuals that is tied together by communication or common associations. A network is distinguished from a cell in that a network does not necessarily work together toward a discrete common objective, although all the members might ideologically support a common goal. Any individual's associations can typically be described in terms of multiple networks.

Sleeper Tradecraft: "Sleeper tradecraft" is a sub category of covert tradecraft. An operative practicing sleeper tradecraft does not engage in terrorism until a need arises. He or she directs his or her efforts at establishing bona fides as a law abiding citizen to establish cover, and intends, from the beginning of his or her deployment, to be "activated" through covert communications with handlers who are aware of the operative's clandestine relationship with a terrorist organization

Appendix A

These terms relate to Islam and/or Islamist Extremism

Allah: The Arabic word for God, literally “the God.” Allah / God has the same meaning in Islam — as a monotheistic faith — as in Judaism and Christianity. Arabic speaking Christians refer to Allah in their prayers and liturgy.

Fatwa: A ruling made by a Muslim scholar on a spiritual or temporal matter.

Islamism: An ideological movement rooted in the notion that Islam is not simply a religion but also a fully developed political system. Islamism is NOT a synonym for Islam nor is it a synonym for terrorism or extremism. The basic tenets of Islamist thought hold that modern Islam must return to its historic and theological roots, that Islamism must become a political unifying factor for Muslims globally, and that a truly Islamic society must be governed by law derived from Islamic sources.

Islamist Extremism: Violent extremism in pursuit of Islamist goals.

Jihad: An Arabic noun connoting “striving.” Depending on the context, jihad can refer to inner, spiritual struggle (the so-called “greater” jihad) or actual physical conflict, up to and including combat (“lesser” jihad) in defense of other Muslims. Colloquially, it is used by non-Muslims to refer to violent extremism in pursuit of Islamist goals. Preferred terminology in this context is terrorism, violent extremism in pursuit of Islamist goals, or neo-jihadism.

Koran (Qur’an): Muslim holy book consisting of God’s revelation to Muhammed. The Qur’an includes many of the same figures and incidents recounted in both the Hebrew Bible, or Old Testament, and the Christian Bible, or New Testament.

Mujahid (pl. mujahideen): An Arabic noun connoting someone who engages in jihad, the term has colloquially been used to describe someone who fights in a conflict that is rooted in Islamist extremism. Preferred terminology in this context is terrorist, violent extremist, Islamist extremist, or neo-jihadist.

Muhammed: To Muslims, Muhammed is the Prophet chosen by God in the 7th Century to receive God’s final revelation. Muslims view Muhammed as the last in a long line of prophets that includes Abraham, Moses and Jesus. While he is revered as a prophet, Muhammed is mortal and has no divine qualities. Muslims do not worship Muhammed; like Jews and Christians, they worship only God.

Single Narrative: A “one size fits all explanation” or “theory of everything” that drives radicalization to violence. The Islamist extremist narrative maintains that the West is fundamentally “at war” with Islam and with Muslims. Critical threads in this narrative include conflict in Afghanistan and Iraq; perceived injustices against Palestinians; and Western strategic alliances with “apostate” regimes in the Middle East.

Umma: Literally the global community of Muslims, umma is a fundamental Islamic concept expressing the unity of all Muslims and the responsibilities and duties of care that are imposed on them by that unity.

Appendix B

These terms relate to
Political Extremism

Right Wing Extremism

Extreme right wing ideology is rooted in the notion that affiliation to a nation or race takes precedence over all other political or personal relationships. Exponents of extreme right wing ideology often identify specific minority groups in their population as inferior or undesirable and, in some cases, may call for exclusion, oppression or even killing of members of those groups. Most right wing extremists are opposed to any form of state that is not structured along racial or ethnic lines and are willing to use violence to achieve their ideological goals.

Left Wing Extremism

Extreme left wing ideology advocates the use of any means necessary, including violence, to bring about an egalitarian, classless society. Left wing extremists often identify themselves with a particular ideological focus such as animal rights, the environment, or the interests of a particular minority group. However, they tend to be united by a worldview that is rooted in opposition to capitalism and globalization. Some left wing extremists, such as revolutionary Marxist-Leninists, view strong central authority as a means of bringing about and perpetuating an egalitarian society. Others, including anarchists, envision a leaderless society ordered around small communal groupings.

Terminology

Racist: One who demonizes others based on ethnic characteristics, often including skin color. Some racists also believe in the innate superiority of one race over another.

Nativist: One who acts to preserve the integrity of the existing culture of a region from outsider or immigrant population influences.

Xenophobe: One who fears immigrant population influences on one's societal norms.

National Socialism (Nazism): A political ideology popularized by Adolph Hitler's Nazi regime, which posits that a nation's strength lies in the racial "purity" of its people. Under Hitler, Jews and other perceived "degenerate" minorities were considered a threat to the strength and vitality of the Aryan race, generally, and state, specifically.

White Power: A slogan coined by American Nazi Party leader George Lincoln Rockwell, who used it in a debate with Stokely Carmichael of the Black Panther Party, after Carmichael issued a call for "black power". The term is now associated with the White Supremacy movement as a slogan of solidarity and support for white separatist objectives.

Appendix B

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Political Extremism

New World Order: A term describing a fundamental shift in world politics and the balance of power between multiple state actors. First used in official contexts to signify anticipated positive changes in world events, the term has since been adopted by conspiracy theorists to negatively characterize a perceived secret society. It is often abbreviated as NWO by “right-wing” reactionary and apocalyptic groups.

Odinism: Odinism derives its name from Odin, the chief deity in Norse mythology, and refers to the neo-pagan revitalization of indigenous, pre-Christian, Northern European religious beliefs. Some right wing extremists have incorporated racist interpretations of Odinism’s idealization of pre-Christian, Nordic culture into their ideology.

Skinhead: Skinhead subculture originated as a multicultural, working class youth movement and continues today in this traditional form, as well as in explicitly racist and non-racist versions. Skinhead appearance is distinctive and generally features some combination of a shaved head or cropped hair, tight pegged jeans, suspenders, heavy boots and military issue flying jackets. Racist skinheads are often closely associated with neo-Nazi groups. While their grasp of ideology is often tenuous, they are violent, and share many characteristics with street gangs. Physical attacks on immigrants and “non-whites” are a central component of their culture. Some extreme right wing skinheads may “graduate” to more organized extremist political activism.

Aryan: A term adapted by early “racialist” thinkers and used today by white supremacists to designate the so-called “Aryan race”—those of Western European, specifically English or Germanic, descent. The term was originally used to describe the earliest Indo-European linguistic groupings, which originated in Central Asia.

Holocaust denial: Holocaust deniers deny, downplay or, in some cases, celebrate the murder of six million Jews by the Nazis and their collaborators during the Second World War. Key elements of Holocaust denial include claims that the existence of extermination camps and gas chambers is a fabrication and that the Nazis had no official policy of Jewish extermination. Some Holocaust deniers characterize themselves as legitimate historians and refer to their theories as “historical review” or “historical revisionism.” Most claim that the Holocaust is a myth perpetrated by Jews to advance specifically Jewish interests. Holocaust denial is primarily associated with the extreme right, although some extreme left wing groups have used Holocaust denial as a means of expressing support for Palestinian and other Middle East-related causes.

Appendix B

These terms relate to
Political Extremism

Tactics

Leaderless resistance: The distinction between the leaderless resistance and the lone terrorist is the former can consist of a small group of covert cells independently working toward a shared political goal, while the latter describes an individual who acts on behalf of a mass movement's ideology, but without orders from or links to any exclusive mass movement group (organization). The term was perhaps first used by Louis Beam to refer to the right-wing militias' fight against the U.S. Government through asymmetrical warfare. This tactic was described by William Pierce in his books "The Turner Diaries" and "Hunter".

Direct Action: Any activities that directly challenge the established set of laws within a society, but are conducted outside of the electoral or judicial processes. Direct Action differs from activism or lawful protests as it results in a violation of law in order to challenge the law. Its objective is political or social and can include both non-violent criminal extremist or violent criminal extremist activities. The former is often described as "civil disobedience" and the latter "terrorism."

Black Bloc: Black Bloc is a tactic used by organized groups of violent anarchists to infiltrate non-violent demonstrations in order to provoke authorities and destroy property. Persons participating in a Black Bloc usually cover their faces and dress in black clothing and protective gear in order to both disguise their identity and to emphasize the "collective" nature of their actions. Black Bloc is often mistakenly believed to be an organized political faction.

Appendix B

These terms relate to
Political Extremism

Common Right Wing Symbology

All of these may appear as tattoos, graffiti, or code in correspondence, often in combination with symbols associated with Nazi Germany such as Swastikas and "SS" lightning bolts, and pre-Christian, or Nordic, runes and other devices.

88: refers to the eighth letter of the alphabet — "H". When combined in this way, it is shorthand for "Heil Hitler."

14: for "14 Words" or "we must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children"

3/11: the 11th letter of the alphabet — "K" — multiplied three times, for KKK

4/20: April 20th, Hitler's Birthday

18: the first and eighth letters of the alphabet — "AH" — for Adolf Hitler

23: the 23rd letter of the alphabet — "W" — for "white"

RaHoWa: RaHoWa is an acronym for "Racial Holy War," the white supremacist concept of an apocalyptic confrontation with the non-white world. It originates with the Church of the Creator, a right wing extremist religious movement founded in the 1970s. The Church of the Creator and its successor, the Creativity Movement, is founded upon the inevitability of an apocalyptic struggle between the "white race" and "inferior races".

ZOG/JOG: ZOG is an acronym for Zionist Occupation Government or Zionist Occupied Government. JOG — Jewish Occupied Government — is also used, though less frequently. It alludes to a conspiracy theory common among right wing extremist groups that the government of the United States (and a number of other countries) is a puppet regime under the control of a powerful yet shadowy cabal of Jews.

