



SUMMARY OF THE TERRORISM THREAT TO THE UNITED STATES

The United States remains in a heightened threat environment, as noted in the previous Bulletin, and several recent attacks have highlighted the dynamic and complex nature of the threat environment. In the coming months, we expect the threat environment to become more dynamic as several high-profile events could be exploited to justify acts of violence against a range of possible targets. These targets could include public gatherings, faith-based institutions, schools, racial and religious minorities, government facilities and personnel, U.S. critical infrastructure, the media, and perceived ideological opponents. Threat actors have recently mobilized to violence due to factors such as personal grievances, reactions to current events, and adherence to violent extremist ideologies, including racially or ethnically motivated or anti-government/anti-authority violent extremism. Foreign adversaries—including terrorist organizations and nation state adversaries—also remain intent on exploiting the threat environment to promote or inspire violence, sow discord, or undermine U.S. democratic institutions. We continue to assess that the primary threat of mass casualty violence in the United States stems from lone offenders and small groups motivated by a range of ideological beliefs and/or personal grievances.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Key aspects of the evolving threat environment include:

Several recent violent attacks by lone offenders against minority communities, schools, houses of worship, and mass transit have demonstrated the dynamic and complex nature of the threat environment facing the United States:

- Individuals in online forums that routinely promulgate domestic violent extremist and conspiracy theory-related content have praised the May 2022 mass shooting at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas and encouraged copycat attacks. Others have seized on the event to attempt to spread disinformation and incite grievances, including claims it was a government-staged event meant to advance gun control measures.
- The suspect in the grocery store attack in Buffalo, New York in May 2022 claimed he was motivated by racist, anti-Black, and anti-Semitic conspiracy theories, often referred to as the “great replacement” or “white genocide.” These theories claim that minorities, multiculturalists, and a ruling elite are deliberately threatening the existence of the white race. The alleged 2019 attacker at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas cited similar grievances and inspiration for the attack, and both the Buffalo and El Paso attackers indicated they were inspired by the 2019 attacker of two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand.
- A violent attack in May 2022 in Laguna Woods, California targeted congregants of a church that serves the Taiwanese community. The attack killed one individual and wounded five others. According to the lead investigative agency, the suspect also placed Molotov cocktail-like devices around the church and secured the doors with chains and super glue.
- In April 2022, an individual wearing a gas mask threw two smoke canisters and opened fire on a New York City subway during morning rush hour, resulting in injuries to dozens of individuals. Following the shooting, a number of pro-al-Qa’ida and ISIS users celebrated the attack, which remains under investigation.

The continued proliferation of false or misleading narratives regarding current events could reinforce existing personal grievances or ideologies, and in combination with other factors, could inspire individuals to mobilize to violence.

- Some domestic violent extremists have expressed grievances related to their perception that the U.S. government is unwilling or unable to secure the U.S.-Mexico border and have called for violence to stem the flow of undocumented migrants to

RESOURCES TO STAY SAFE

Stay Informed and Prepared

- [Be prepared](#) for emergency situations and remain aware of circumstances that may place you at risk. Make note of your surroundings and the nearest security personnel.
- Keep yourself [safe online](#) and maintain [digital and media literacy](#) to recognize and build resilience to false or misleading narratives.
- Review DHS [resources](#) for how to better protect [businesses, houses of worship, and schools](#), and ensure the safety of public gatherings.
- Prepare for potential [active shooter](#) incidents, as well as efforts to [prevent, protect against, respond to, and mitigate the use of explosives](#).
- [Learn more](#) about community-based resources to help prevent individuals from radicalizing to violence.
- The [Power of Hello Campaign](#) helps you observe and evaluate suspicious behaviors, includes information to mitigate potential risks, and obtain help when necessary.

Report Potential Threats

- Listen to local authorities and public safety officials.
- [If You See Something, Say Something®](#) [Report suspicious activity](#) and threats of violence, including online threats, to local law enforcement, [FBI Field Offices](#), or your local [Fusion Center](#). **Call 911 in case of emergency.**
- If you know someone who is struggling with mental health issues or may pose a danger to themselves or others, [seek help](#).

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*****The NTAS Bulletin issued on February 7, 2022 and set to expire on June 7, 2022 is hereby canceled.*****

the United States. We assess that there is increased risk of domestic violent extremists using changes in border security-related policies and/or enforcement mechanisms to justify violence against individuals, such as minorities and law enforcement officials involved in the enforcement of border security.

- Given a high-profile U.S. Supreme Court case about abortion rights, individuals who advocate both for and against abortion have, on public forums, encouraged violence, including against government, religious, and reproductive healthcare personnel and facilities, as well as those with opposing ideologies.
- As the United States enters mid-term election season this year, we assess that calls for violence by domestic violent extremists directed at democratic institutions, political candidates, party offices, election events, and election workers will likely increase.

Foreign adversaries remain intent on exploiting the dynamic threat environment to sow discord, undermine U.S. democratic institutions, and promote or inspire violence by their supporters.

- Following the January 2022 hostage situation at a synagogue in Colleyville, Texas, ISIS and al-Qa'ida supporters released statements celebrating the hostage taker for bringing attention to the issue of a federally convicted female al-Qa'ida supporter and suggested the event could serve as inspiration for future attackers. Foreign terrorist organizations will likely continue to use online platforms to attempt to inspire U.S.-based individuals to engage in violent activity.
- In April 2022, ISIS released an audio message announcing a new global campaign of attacks to “avenge” the deaths of the group’s deceased leader and spokesman. The message called on ISIS supporters to carry out knife and vehicle ramming attacks in the United States and Europe.
- The pro-al-Qa'ida Malahem Cyber Army released the third issue of its “Wolves of Manhattan” magazine in April 2022, which focused on the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. The magazine encouraged supporters to travel to Ukraine to acquire training and weapons to use in attacks against the West.
- Chinese, Iranian, Russian, and other foreign malign influence actors have sought to contribute to U.S. internal discord and weaken its focus and position internationally. These actors have amplified narratives that radicalized individuals have cited to justify violence, including conspiracy theories and false or misleading narratives promoting U.S. societal division. In recent months, Russia and other actors have also amplified conspiracy theories alleging U.S. responsibility for the Russia-Ukraine crisis and claiming U.S. support for bio-weapons labs abroad. Some of these actors have used these conspiracy theories to justify calls for violence against U.S. officials and institutions.
- As the U.S. 2022 mid-term elections approach, malign foreign actors could bolster their messaging to sow discord and influence U.S. audiences in keeping with practices during previous election cycles.

HOW WE ARE RESPONDING

DHS works with partners across every level of government, in the private sector, and in local communities to keep Americans safe, including through the following examples of our resources and support:

- DHS and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) continue to share timely and actionable information and intelligence with the broadest audience possible. This includes sharing information and intelligence with our partners across every level of government and in the private sector. We conduct recurring threat briefings with private sector and state, local, tribal, territorial, and campus partners, including to inform security planning efforts. DHS remains committed to working with our partners to identify and [prevent all forms of terrorism and targeted violence](#), and to support law enforcement efforts to keep our communities safe.
- [DHS’s Office of Intelligence and Analysis \(I&A\)](#), the FBI, and the National Counterterrorism Center released updated [behavioral indicators of U.S. extremist mobilization to violence](#). Further, I&A’s [National Threat Evaluation and Reporting Program](#) continues to provide tools and [resources](#) for federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial partners on preventing terrorism and targeted violence, including online suspicious activity reporting training.
- [DHS’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency \(CISA\)](#) works with government and private sector partners – including owners and operators of [critical infrastructure, soft target facilities, and public gathering places](#) – to [enhance security and mitigate risks posed by acts of terrorism and targeted violence](#) through its network of [Protective Security Advisors](#) and resources addressing [Active Shooters](#), [School Safety](#), [Bombing Prevention](#), and [Soft Targets-Crowded Places](#).

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National Terrorism Advisory System

Bulletin

DHS.gov/advisories

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- DHS's [Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships \(CP3\)](#) educates and trains stakeholders on how to identify indicators of radicalization to violence, where to seek help, and the resources that are available to prevent targeted violence and terrorism. In 2021, CP3 awarded about \$20 million in grants through its [Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention \(TVTP\) Grant Program](#).
- In 2021, DHS designated for the first time domestic violent extremism as a "National Priority Area" within its [Homeland Security Grant Program \(HSGP\)](#), resulting in at least \$77 million being spent on preventing, preparing for, protecting against, and responding to related threats.
- In 2022, DHS's [Nonprofit Security Grant Program \(NSGP\)](#) provided over \$250 million in funding to support target hardening and other physical security enhancements to non-profit organizations at high risk of terrorist attack.
- DHS remains focused on disinformation that threatens the security of the American people, including disinformation spread by foreign states such as Russia, China, and Iran, or other adversaries such as transnational criminal organizations and human smuggling organizations.
- [SchoolSafety.gov](#) consolidates school safety-related resources from across the government. Through this website, the K-12 academic community can also connect with school safety officials and develop school safety plans.

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The National Terrorism Advisory System provides information on homeland security issues and threats. It is distributed by the Department of Homeland Security.
More information is available at: [DHS.gov/advisories](#). To receive mobile updates: [Twitter.com/dhsgov](#).

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