



..... Key Finding Highlights



- Terrorist attacks in 2015 highlight security challenges posed by self-radicalized individuals who are inspired by foreign terrorist organizations.
- State, local, tribal, and territorial governments continue to use Federal planning and training programs to enhance their capabilities to prevent radiological, nuclear, and explosives incidents.
- Nationwide, law enforcement and other personnel continue to use Federal exercise and training programs to strengthen capacities to detect and prevent imminent threats at large-scale public events.
- Federal, state, and local governments experience novel safety and security challenges posed by use of unmanned aircraft systems.

Core Capabilities in Practice

The Prevention mission area focuses on ensuring the Nation is optimally prepared to avoid, prevent, or stop an imminent terrorist attack within the United States. The *National Prevention Framework* (“Prevention Framework”) describes seven Prevention core capabilities, including how they interact during an imminent threat.

Being optimally prepared to prevent a terror attack in the United States begins with **Intelligence and Information Sharing**, which is the ability to develop situational awareness on the actor(s), method(s), means, weapon(s), or target(s) related to an imminent terrorist threat within the United States. Once an imminent threat has been identified, local, state, tribal, territorial, and Federal partners conduct **Screening, Search, and Detection** operations to effectively identify and locate terrorists and their means, methods, and weapons. Based on this knowledge, law enforcement officials carry out **Interdiction and Disruption** to help thwart emerging or developing terrorist plots and neutralize terrorist cells, operatives, and operations. Law enforcement should conduct their activities in a manner that preserves evidence and the Federal Government’s ability to prosecute those that violate the law. **Forensics and Attribution** is essential to identify terrorist actors, co-conspirators, and sponsors, and prevent initial or follow-on attacks.

The following are examples of actions taken in 2015 that highlight the relationships among the seven core capabilities in the Prevention Framework:

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CORE CAPABILITIES IN THE PREVENTION MISSION AREA

- Forensics and Attribution
- Intelligence and Information Sharing
- Interdiction and Disruption
- Operational Coordination
- Planning
- Public Information and Warning
- Screening, Search, and Detection

Intelligence and Information Sharing, and Public Information and Warning

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) completed efforts in November 2015 to discontinue the collection of bulk telephone metadata, helping to strengthen citizen privacy protections. In addition, ODNI has posted more than 250 declassified documents to its website to promote transparency regarding intelligence-collection programs.

To increase public awareness of indicators of terrorism and terrorist-related crime, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provided new web-based messaging materials and mobile applications for its “If You See Something, Say Something” campaign. During the 2015 Super Bowl in Glendale, Arizona, the Federal Government collaborated with state, local, and private-sector partners to promote the campaign’s messaging to over 100,000 fans and visitors.

Additionally, DHS Intelligence Officers and Reports Officers continued serving as a critical link between state and local partners and the Intelligence Community and other DHS components. These officers disseminated thousands of intelligence products in 2015. For example, on May 3, 2015, two individuals opened fire at an event in Garland, Texas. Weeks before the attack, DHS officers assigned to fusion centers in Texas shared threat information about social-media posts calling for “lone wolf” attacks at the event. Closer to the event, the DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis issued a report outlining new, specific threat information, which local law enforcement authorities used to shape their security for the event.

Interdiction and Disruption, and Planning

In 2015, the number of Americans thought to have traveled or attempted to travel to join violent extremist groups fighting in Syria increased from over 100 in 2014 to more than 250 persons. These individuals could potentially return and conduct terrorist attacks in the United States. Moreover, increasing use of encrypted electronic communications is creating additional challenges for Federal, state, and local law enforcement to monitor and disrupt malicious activities. DOJ established the Domestic Terrorism Counsel to help the U.S. Attorneys identify legal gaps and trends to shape the Nation’s legal strategy to combat threats of domestic terrorism.

Federal agencies are also establishing new entities to prevent violent extremism. In September 2015, DHS created the Office for Community Partnerships to build relationships and support local communities that seek to discourage violent extremism and undercut terrorist narratives. Its director oversees a working group responsible for policy formation, strategic planning, and coordination activities related to countering violent extremism. In January 2016, DHS and DOJ established the Countering Violent Extremism Task Force, whose mission is to manage the synchronization and integration of a whole-of-government effort to empower local partners to prevent violent extremism in the United States.

Meanwhile, Federal agencies such as the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) continue to maintain capabilities to interdict threats from land, sea, or air as they move toward or across U.S. borders. For example, the USCG Maritime Security Response Team provides advanced counterterrorism skills and tactics such as high-speed intercept and maritime radiological and explosives detection. In 2015, USCG implemented the Risk-based Maritime Security and Response Operations initiative, which adjusts how ports prioritize operations and use assets to maximize risk reduction.

Forensics and Attribution, Intelligence and Information Sharing, and Interdiction and Disruption

In fiscal year 2015, the U.S. Secret Service trained over 1,100 state and local law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judicial officials, allowing them to complete over 17,100 computer forensic examinations (inspecting over 5 million gigabytes of data). In addition, fusion centers continued to increase their accuracy in analyzing intelligence to refine investigative leads—225 out of 6,959 suspicious activity reports submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) aided in an investigation or helped identify or interdict individuals on the Terrorist Screening List.

Screening, Search, and Detection and Operational Coordination

To augment radiological and nuclear detection capabilities for designated special events—such as the Super Bowl, Papal Visit, and Indianapolis 500—the DHS Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) deployed mobile detection units 81 times, to supply radiation detection equipment for up to 40 first responders. During the Papal Visit, DHS’s BioWatch Program, which detects and provides early warning of bioterrorism incidents, facilitated the collection and testing of over 750 samples to quickly detect potential biological threats.



National Network of Fusion Centers

The 2012 *National Preparedness Report* highlighted DHS efforts—through training, technical assistance, and deployment of personnel—to enhance the capabilities of the National Network of Fusion Centers. In 2015, continued support from DHS and other interagency partners enabled the National Network to achieve its highest standards for collecting and sharing intelligence with fusion center customers.

Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshops

These workshops—sponsored by the National Counterterrorism Center, DHS, and FBI—train jurisdictions to prevent and respond to complex terrorist attacks. The cumulative number of workshops has increased from 6 in 2011 to 22 in 2015.

“If You See Something, Say Something”

Since 2012, this campaign has continued to raise public awareness of indicators of terrorism and terrorism-related crime. In 2015, DHS launched new web-based messaging materials and mobile applications to increase public awareness and help citizens more easily report suspicious activities to law enforcement.

BY THE NUMBERS

73 IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVES

SECURITY TRAININGS

The Federal Emergency Management Agency Center for Domestic Preparedness and the DHS Office for Bombing Prevention delivered 73 courses on improvised explosives security, training 1,763 emergency response professionals on bombing prevention and response actions for improvised explosive devices.

268 INTELLIGENCE PRODUCTS

FBI produced 268 intelligence products for special events (e.g., high-profile meetings; dignitary visits), including five National Special Security Events and two International Special Security Events.



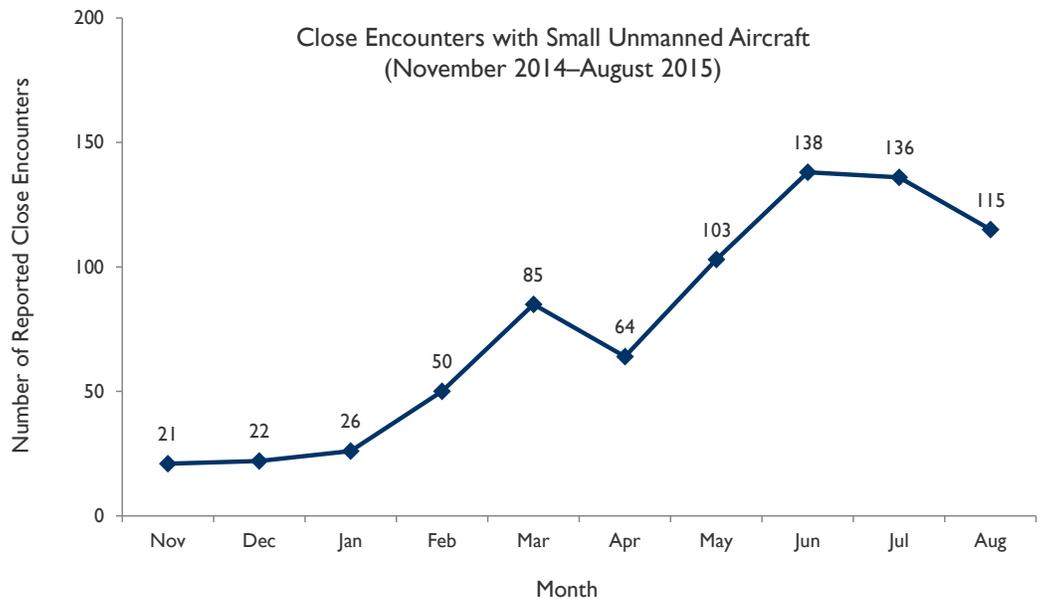
PREPAREDNESS TRENDS AND FIGURES

Increasing Use of Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems

In 2015, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) released nationwide data on the rising number of incidents involving small unmanned aircraft systems, which highlight the preparedness challenges these systems present to securing airspace and physical infrastructure. From November 2014 to August 2015, FAA received more than 700 reports from pilots and air-traffic personnel of unmanned aircraft system sightings.

The number increased from 20 reports of sightings in November 2014 to more than 100 per month between May and August 2015.

Moreover, the majority of sightings occurred above FAA’s recommended 400-foot ceiling for small unmanned aircraft systems, increasing the risk of collisions with other aircraft flying at low altitudes.



PREPAREDNESS SNAPSHOTS



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

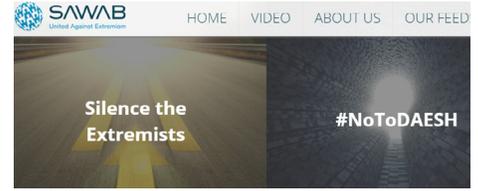
Researchers from the University of Maryland's National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, with support from the DHS Science and Technology Directorate and the National Institute of Justice, released preliminary findings from a database (named Profiles of Individual Radicalization in the United States) to help policymakers and law enforcement personnel understand common indicators of domestic violent extremist radicalization. The project identifies the key indicators of radicalization for over 1,500 U.S.-based individuals. Analysis of this data will



help researchers understand pathways to radicalization.

ERIE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In partnership with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Erie Community College in New York State designed a homeland security training program specifically for TSA officers. The online program trains officers in intelligence analysis and counterterrorism to enhance the detection of threats to airport security. In 2015, 150 TSA officers from 38 different airports completed the training program. This is one of more than 30 partnerships that TSA has



established with institutions of higher education to provide classes at all federalized airports, as well as distance learning.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The U.S. Department of State and the United Arab Emirates launched the Sawab Center in July 2015, which is the first multinational online messaging and engagement program designed to counter terrorist propaganda, such as messaging that is used to recruit foreign fighters, fundraise for illicit activities, and intimidate and terrorize local populations.

STATE PERSPECTIVES ON PREPAREDNESS

2015 State Preparedness Report Results

- Prevention core capabilities with higher priority ratings had higher proficiency ratings.
- States and territories identified Intelligence and Information Sharing as their sixth-highest-rated capability, making it the only Prevention capability to fall in the top 10 overall.
- In 2015, states and territories reported increased gaps in anti-terrorism operations, up seven percentage points from 2014 to 53 percent.

Notes: Vertical red lines (|) indicate the average rating for all core capabilities. The chart and statements do not include contributions from the three cross-cutting core capabilities—Planning, Operational Coordination, and Public Information and Warning.

