Police Chief Articles for Countering Violent Extremism (CVE):

2014

1. “Law Enforcement Encounters with Sovereign Citizens”
   This article provides an overview of sovereign citizen ideology and how the ideology can impact officer safety. While the article addresses the fact that sovereign citizen ideology as a whole is nonviolent and not illegal, it does focus on the most common encounter that law enforcement will have with sovereigns: traffic stops. The article also highlights some of the tactics sovereign citizens use in courts to retaliate against law enforcement and other government employees.
   http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display&article_id=3494&issue_id=92014

2013

   This article provides an update to the 2011 article “It Can and Does Happen Here: Somali Youth with Terrorist Ties in Twin Cities.” The update focuses on the work and the community outreach and engagement efforts the Hennepin County, MN, Sheriff’s Office, has done to counter violent extremism and extremist recruiting, through community policing.
   http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display&article_id=3155&issue_id=102013

3. “Using Principles of Community Policing to Address Online Radicalization to Violence”
   This article highlights one example of federal government agencies partnering with a local law enforcement agency and community leaders to educate community members about Internet safety as a whole, and including online terrorist recruiting. The article explains why a collaborative approach is a promising practice, the important discussions that were had at the Internet safety workshop, and factors for individual communities to consider as they replicate such workshops.
   http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display&article_id=2866&issue_id=22013

4. “Officer Safety Corner: Sovereign Citizens on Traffic Stops”
   This article highlights the ideology and history of sovereign citizens, along with a brief overview of some of the criminal behavior that sovereign citizens take part in. The article then addresses specific items that officers conducting a traffic stop can recognize as indicators of a sovereign citizen, and the importance of recognizing these indicators and then need for increased safety measures.
   http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display&article_id=2862&issue_id=22013
5. “Social Media and the Homegrown Terrorist Threat”
This article describes how terrorist groups are recruiting and inspiring individuals, guiding global strategies on the Internet, and are also using various popular social media platforms to disseminate propaganda and post messages to audiences worldwide. The article further describes that by leveraging social media and the Internet, these groups are facilitating radicalization to violence and the emergence of a new terrorist threat: the homegrown violent extremist.
http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display_arch&article_id=2692&issue_id=62012

6. “Unifying Process for Threat Reporting and Information Sharing to Prevent Terrorist Attacks”
This article examines the efforts of the IACP and law enforcement leaders from federal, state, and local agencies to clarify how and to whom people should report suspicious activities; to enhance the ability of law enforcement to share information; and to implement technological advancements to facilitate information sharing. In addition, the article highlights how the federal government has enhanced its engagement with fusion centers by focusing on information sharing and collaboration.
http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display_arch&article_id=2603&issue_id=22012

7. “Radicalization to Violence: What It Is, and What It Isn’t”
This article defines radicalization to violence, identifies some of the factors and influences that can lead individuals down the path of radicalization, provides an overview of some extremist ideologies, and hypothesizes about the future of violent extremism. The article concludes by discussing how law enforcement agencies should work collaboratively with communities to counter radicalization.
http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display_arch&article_id=2602&issue_id=22012

This article highlights the importance of state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies in the prevention of terrorism. Specifically, the article mentions that possible attacks have been avoided because fusion centers have improved information sharing and analysis and because of a shift in thinking of state, local, and tribal agencies as ancillary to integral in preventing attacks.
http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display_arch&article_id=2598&issue_id=22012

This message highlights some of the no-cost or low-cost initiatives and trainings that state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies can implement or take part in to protect their hometowns and the nation as a whole. The message provides overviews of the Nationwide Suspicious
Activity Reporting Initiative, the “If You See Something, Say Something” campaign, and the “SLT 101” project.
http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display_arch&article_id=2593&issue_id=22012

2011

10. “9/11: 10 Years Later”
This message stresses the importance of remaining vigilant at all levels to the evolving threats that face the nation and mentions that most of the successful ideas, strategies, and tactics to address crime have been developed at the state and local levels. The message also highlights initiatives that are being implemented to assist agencies with information and intelligence sharing in order to prevent future attacks and to assist agencies being asked to do more with fewer resources.
http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display_arch&article_id=2466&issue_id=92011

11. “Building Trust, Driving Relationships with the Dearborn, Michigan, Arab American Community”
This article provides an overview of the Arab American population in Dearborn, Michigan, and how the police department has used a community-oriented policing philosophy to build trust with the community and overcome obstacles, such as perceived cultural bias, that are created by global events. The article stresses the importance of understanding cultural nuances, leveraging community resources, buying in to the philosophy of community-oriented policing at all levels of the agency, and continuing to engage the community in dialogue. The article concludes that communication, education, and mutual respect are integral in building trust and creating safe and secure communities.
http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display_arch&article_id=2335&issue_id=32011

12. “It Can and Does Happen Here: Somali Youth with Terrorist Ties in Twin Cities”
This article emphasizes the fact that homegrown terrorism can, and does, occur in the United States, through a description of a case in Minnesota in which approximately 20 individuals radicalized at home and ultimately traveled to Somalia to join Al-Shabab. The article stresses that homegrown terrorism is a threat in every community, that building communities of trust and using community-oriented policing is effective in building trust with immigrant communities that can lead to individuals feeling more comfortable reporting suspicious activity to police, and that through education and outreach law enforcement agencies can leverage the public as force multipliers.
http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display_arch&article_id=2313&issue_id=22011

13. “Preventing the Next Terror Attack”
This article highlights the shift in the terror threat to homegrown violent extremists that act as lone wolves, how these lone wolves are radicalized in part by an online publication by AQAP that specifically targets recruits in the West, and how law enforcement agencies can use community policing in homeland security. The article concludes by mentioning IACP efforts and programs that support state, local, and tribal agencies in preventing terrorism.
http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display_arch&article_id=2308&issue_id=22011
14. “Policing with Muslim Communities in the Age of Terrorism”
This article describes how law enforcement officers at all levels can leverage community policing principles and proactive policing in Muslim communities to effectively address terrorism and counter violent extremism. Specifically, the article mentions that efforts should be focused on direct and indirect police-community engagement strategies and media communications strategies and provides explanations and examples of each of these strategies. The article concludes that local agencies should focus on the practical side of counterterrorism by engaging local communities and reducing the prevalence of environments in which terrorists can blend in and thrive.
http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display_arch&article_id=2050&issue_id=42010

15. “Suspicious Activity Reporting: An Overview for Chiefs Engaging Untapped Local Law Enforcement and Private Industry Capabilities to fight Crime and Terrorism”
This article provides chief executives with information about participating in the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative. The article defines what a SAR is, provides the steps of the technical and business processes, describes the purpose of SARs, mentions that the initiative is designed to engage all law enforcement agencies and the private industry, and concludes with success stories and implications for law enforcement chief executives.
http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display_arch&article_id=2016&issue_id=22010