



## BTAC TARGETED VIOLENCE THREAT ASSESSMENT

# Threat Triage and Data Collection



The FBI's Behavioral Threat Assessment Center (BTAC), Behavioral Analysis Unit 1 (BAU 1), Critical Incident Response Group (CIRG), offers the following triage factors to assist with the initial triage of a threat and to guide appropriate data collection in support of an assessment:

## Document Use and Direction

The information presented below should be used as a starting point for investigators working on threat investigations. This type of data will assist in the triage of threats and, in some cases, further threat assessment and the development of threat management strategies. The factors below are anchored in BTAC's publication *Making Prevention a Reality: Identifying, Assessing and Managing the Threat of Targeted Attacks* (2016) and other Structured Professional Judgment (SPJ) tools used by BTAC. For assistance concerning an ongoing investigation, including operational support and consultation from the FBI's BTAC, please contact your local FBI office Threat Management Coordinator (TMC). For matters involving potential violation of federal law or violent extremism, e.g. where the person of concern is exhibiting behaviors indicating a belief that violence is necessary and justified to achieve social, political or religious change, please contact your local FBI TMC and/or Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF).

## Background

<b>Person of Concern:</b>	<b>Name/ID</b>			
<b>Referral Contact:</b>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"><b>Name</b></td> <td style="width: 33%;"><b>Phone</b></td> <td style="width: 33%;"><b>Email</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>		

This document contains juvenile identity and behavior information and should be protected in accordance with 18 U.S.C. Section 5038.

## Data Collection

Sources of information reviewed in furtherance of this triage included:

- School Records, to include grades, attendance, disciplinary records and notes
- Employment and personnel records
- Criminal History/ Calls for service to the residence, non-arrest police reports
- Audio or video recordings to include body camera footage of the person of concern
- Interactions with social services agencies
- Reports and recordings of interviews, and lists of intended interviewees in the case
- Mental Health/ Medical Records
- Suicidal ideation, plans, gestures or attempts
- Substance use/abuse
- Correspondence, particularly to/from any identified potential victims (e.g., e-mails, letters, texts, graffiti)
- Journals, notes, other writings
- Social Media Accounts and Activity and/or online research pertaining to past attacks, offenders, weapons, suicidality, and other relevant interests
- Physical or online purchase history and financial transactions
- Home Life: where and with whom does individual reside and quality of relationships and support system
- Habits, routines, opinions and views of the person of concern and any recent changes
- Interactions with others, both when the person of concern is satisfied and dissatisfied
- Current identified and potential targets of interest

- Weapons access and familiarity, or attempts to access/purchase weapons, target practice and shooting club membership, concealed carry permits and ownership registration or that of their parents and close family
- Military Records
- Any Additional Documents \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Triage Process and Factors

The questions below should not be misconstrued as a substitute for an actual threat assessment, rather a review to assess urgency, credibility, and imminence of a potential threat. The answers to these questions will factor into subsequent discussion and decisions about further investigation, assessment, intervention, and potential management.

1. Has the person of concern directly threatened others or stated their intention of conducting an act of violence against others?
2. Is there information to corroborate or substantiate the underlying concern? Is the person of concern's behavior consistent with the perceived or alleged threat?
3. Has the person of concern demonstrated behaviors, including indirect or nuanced threats, or movement from thought to action, indicating violence is necessary and justified to resolve personal grievances and/or to affect social or political change?
4. Is there information to suggest the person of concern is capable (e.g., weapons access, prior training, financial status, etc.) of committing an act of violence towards others?
5. Has the person of concern exhibited changes to their normal life, such as cessation of medications and/or substance use, withdrawal from life pattern, including social media, and/or increase in activity?
6. Is the person of concern demonstrating any last resort warning behaviors, such as end of life planning, hopelessness, or preparation of a legacy token?
7. Due to the known association between homicide and suicide it is important to recognize the presence of plans for suicide. Is there any indication the person of concern has a history of suicidality or plans to suicide during an act of violence against others?

### Threat Enhancing Factors<sup>a</sup>

Please check Y(Yes), N (No), or U (Unknown)

**Risk Factors** (existing realities about the person of concern that may increase the risk of violence he poses in a given situation)

Age (15-24 yoa) _____	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Weapons	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender (M)	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Firearms/edged weapons	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
History of Violence	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Explosives	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
History of Non-Violent Criminality	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Access to networks/funding/resources	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
Childhood Exposure to Violence	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Problematic Behaviors	
Substance Abuse/Dependence	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	(e.g., stalking, harassing, menacing)	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
Mental Health Stressors	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	History of non-compliance	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
Major Mental Illness	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Environmental	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
Personality Disorder	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Family dynamics/support	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
Antisocial Behaviors	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Isolation	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
History of Suicidality	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Instability	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
Organization	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Others are Concerned	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
Coping/Resiliency	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>

**Warning Behaviors** (represent changes in patterns of behavior that may be evidence of increasing or accelerating risk)

Pathway Behavior	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Approach Behavior	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
Fixation Behavior	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Rejection of non-violent options	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
Identification	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Capability Development	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
Novel Aggression	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Secrecy/Concealment/Deception	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>

<sup>a</sup> These factors are existing realities about an individual that may increase the risk of violence they pose in a given situation

Leakage (legacy token)	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Identification of specific targets	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
Directly Communicated Threat	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>		

**Indicators of Potential Imminence** (behaviors that may indicate a person of high concern may be close to acting)

Energy burst	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Cessation of medications/substances	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
End of life planning	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Withdrawal from life patterns	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
Last resort behavior	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>		

**Triggers and Stressors** (stressor can be anything in the person of concern's life that causes tension or anxiety)

Financial	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Divorce	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
Family	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Employment/Education	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
Recent Trauma or Loss	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Termination	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
Medical	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Professional Standing	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
Anniversaries	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Humiliating Event	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
Relationship	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Substance Use	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
Other _____	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>		

**Mindset** (underlying motivators and drivers)

(Refer cases with indication of violent extremist group/ideology to your local FBI TMC, BAUC, or JTTF)

Identifying with an extremist group	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Belief that violence is justified	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
Support for extremist ideology	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Sense of perceived injustice/ grievance/threat	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
Social support for extremist views	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>		

**Protective Factors/Mitigators<sup>b</sup>**

Non-Violent Alternatives	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy Support System (family/social)	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
Sense of Humor	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Shift in ideology away from extremism	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
Future Oriented	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Unmet expectations in extremist group	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
Healthy Self Esteem	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Competing roles and priorities	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
Coping/Resiliency Mechanism	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Dissatisfaction with role in extremist group	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
Access to Resources	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>	Barriers to action (real or perceived, self or imposed)	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>
"On the Radar"	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>		
Other _____	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/>		

**BTAC Resources**

BTAC has produced several documents and publications to assist with the data gathering, threat assessment, and threat management process. Several of these publications are available on-line at [www.fbi.gov/services/cirg](http://www.fbi.gov/services/cirg) and other BTAC Quick Launch Documents can be obtained through your local FBI Threat Management Coordinator (TMC).

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(U) The FBI's **Behavioral Threat Assessment Center (BTAC)** is a national-level, multi-agency, multi-disciplinary Task Force focused on the **prevention of terrorism** and **targeted violence** through the application of behaviorally-based operational support, training and research. In this unique capacity, the BTAC provides investigative and operational support for the FBI's most complex, concerning, and complicated international and domestic terrorism investigations. In addition, the BTAC provides threat assessment and threat management support to federal, state, local, tribal and campus law enforcement partners, as well as community stakeholders, working diligently across the United States on targeted violence prevention. Significant lines of effort on targeted violence prevention include persons/adults of concern, potential active shooters, school shootings/threats, stalking and workplace violence. The BTAC's extensive and broad-ranging capabilities are enhanced through a cadre of BAU coordinators assigned to all 56 field offices across the United States.



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<sup>b</sup> These factors that may prevent an individual from thinking seriously about, or completing, an act of targeted violence