

## Community Resilience Exercise Proposal

**Proposal:** The Community Resilience Exercise (CREX) is a half-day table-top exercise designed to improve communication and trust between law enforcement and communities and to share ideas on how best to build community resilience against violent extremism. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) and National Counterterrorism Center's Directorate for Strategic and Operational Planning (DSOP) will work with local partners to implement this exercise in cities across the United States. CREXs focus on building trust and empowering communities against violent extremism domestically, a theme that directly supports the domestic CVE Strategy and Strategic Implementation Plan.<sup>1</sup>

**Background:** The CREX is based on a program that has been conducted over 50 times in the United Kingdom with great success. The CREX uses an unfolding scenario of possible violent extremist activity with two threads: one thread disclosing what the police have learned and the other thread what the community experiences. The scenario is revealed in several stages, with participants breaking into small groups after each stage to discuss potential responses and how they should work together. The scenario is hypothetical, but based on the behaviors exhibited by past homegrown violent extremists prior to their arrest. The exercise is facilitated by an individual with credibility in both the community and government. At the end of the exercise, the facilitators help the participants create a local action plan focused on prevention and intervention.

**The Washington DC Pilot:** DHS CRCL and NCTC DSOP partnered with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) to implement a successful pilot on June 14, 2013 in Washington, D.C. Participants were federal and local law enforcement and national community leaders, who expressed strong support for the exercise. Notably, participants highlighted the need for a partnership between enforcement and communities to discuss individuals at risk for radicalization.

### *Washington DC Pilot Results:*

Percentage	Response
85% of all participants	Understanding of challenges on both sides increased
78% of all participants	Exercise will make future engagement more effective
71% of all participants	Exercise made future engagement more likely

**Cook County CREX:** DHS CRCL and NCTC DSOP partnered with Cook County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to lead a CREX at Moraine Valley Community College in the Chicago area in Palos Hills, IL on December 5, 2013. Over 35 law enforcement and community leaders participated, and crafted a local action plan.

<sup>1</sup> Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States (August 2011) and the Strategic Implementation Plan for Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States (December 2011)

*Cook County CREX Results:*

Percentage	Response
100% of all participants	Rated the program good to excellent
92% of all participants	Would recommend the program to others
100% of all participants	Understanding of challenges on both sides increased
100% of all participants	Stated progress was made in protecting their community against violent extremism

**Duke University CREX:** DHS CRCL and NCTC DSOP partnered with the U.S. Attorney's Office, FBI, Duke University, and Safe Nation Collaborative to implement a half-day exercise at Duke University on March 22, 2014. Over 60 law enforcement and community leaders participated, and crafted a local action plan.

*Duke University CREX Results:*

Percentage	Response
100% of all participants	Constructive Use of Time
98% of all participants	Learned New Info
95% of all participants	Conference was relevant
98% of all participants	Conference helped understand concerns/others' views
95% of all participants	Will Use Info for Future Work

**Seattle CREX:** DHS CRCL and NCTC DSOP partnered with the U.S. Attorney's Office and FBI to implement a half-day exercise in Tukwila Community Center on April 9, 2014. Over 30 law enforcement and community leaders participated, and crafted a local Action Plan.

*Seattle CREX Results:*

Percentage	Response
96% of all participants	Constructive Use of Time
86% of all participants	Conference helped understand concerns/others' views
100% of all participants	Meeting other participants was a valuable part of the event
89% of all participants	Will Use Info for Future Work

**Houston CREX:** DHS CRCL and NCTC DSOP partnered with the U.S. Attorney's Office, FBI, and the Sheriff of Harris County implemented a half-day exercise at the Harris County Sheriff's Office Academy on June 14, 2014. Over 40 law enforcement and community leaders participated, and crafted a local Action Plan.

*Houston CREX Results:*

Percentage	Response
86% of all participants	Constructive Use of Time
83% of all participants	Conference helped understand concerns/others' views
95% of all participants	Meeting other participants was a valuable part of the event
81% of all participants	Will Use Info for Future Work