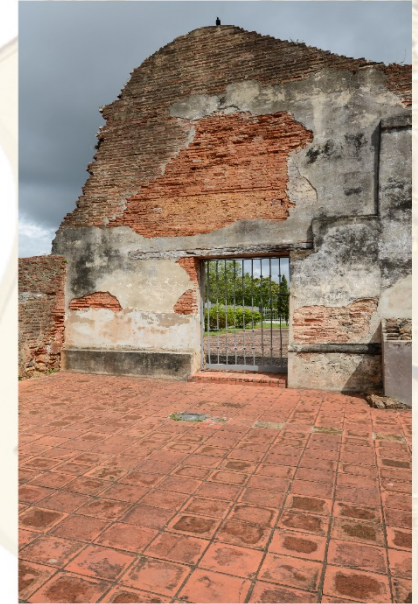


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# SAN JUAN FIELD OFFICE



## HOMEGROWN VIOLENT EXTREMISTS

JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCE  
SAN JUAN DIVISION

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# JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCE (JTTF) CONCEPT

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- The International Terrorism Program/Domestic Terrorism Programs seek to enhance communication, coordination, and cooperation between federal, state, and local agencies through the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF).
- Protecting the homeland from terrorist attacks is the responsibility of all law enforcement agencies. No single police nor intelligence agency can unilaterally accomplish this mission.

-FBI Former Director Robert Mueller



## HOMEGROWN VIOLENT EXTREMIST DEFINED

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A Homegrown Violent Extremist (HVE) is a violent extremist of any citizenship who has lived and/or operated primarily in the United States or its territories, and who is acting independently of the direction of a foreign terrorist organization (FTO).



## 2001-2008

### HOMELAND ATTACKS

In-person recruiting by local radicalizers using religious justification

Plotters targeted USG, military, and civilian targets

### TRAVEL

Limited travel, occasionally to terrorist training camps

### TERRORIST MESSAGING

Content dramatically increases, but is poorly made, inconsistent, and mostly not in English



# 2001-2008



All six individuals are USPERs



## 2009-2012

### HOMELAND ATTACKS

Independent but inspired by overseas ideologues and messaging

Social media/forums enable networking

Plots target military, but are often infiltrated by LE

### TRAVEL

Some travel overseas

Many looked to join FTOs; some served as recruiters, attackers

Most traveled without a local radicalizer's help or guidance

### TERRORIST MESSAGING

Some prominent ideologues striking a chord

*Inspire* is created and popularized "individual violent jihad"

Media-savvy propaganda made in US without scholarly credentials



2009-2012



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## 2013-2017

### HOMELAND ATTACKS

ISIS announcing its caliphate galvanizes HVEs

ISIS members' operational guidance from Syria intensifies plotting in US

Attackers demonstrate strong operational tactics, attack civilian targets

### TRAVEL

Travel to Syria, inspired by English content

US persons travel to ISIS territory decreases mid-2015

### TERRORIST MESSAGING

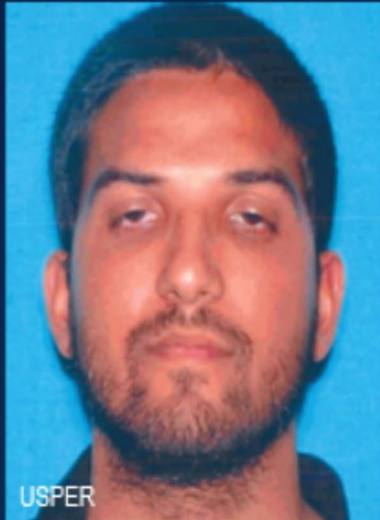
Persistent stream of English content, reaching larger audiences

Encryption becoming more prevalent





2013-2017

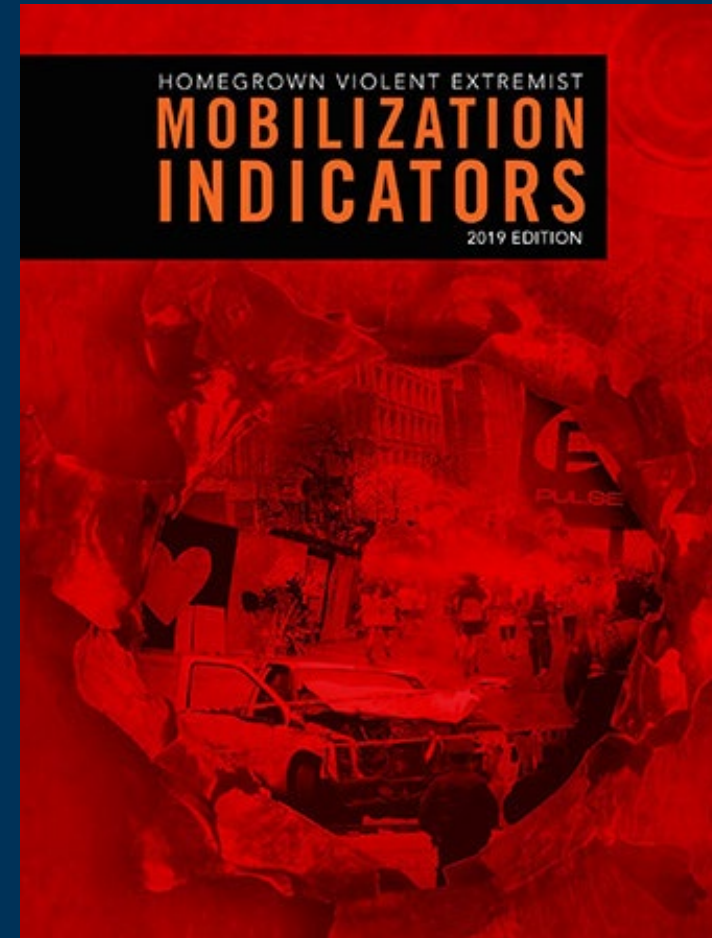


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# MOBILIZATION INDICATORS

- Indicators ranked by how diagnostic they are of mobilization; broken into tiers
- Written for public partners
- Booklet/pocket-guide





## Indicator Groups

**Group A Indicators** (5) are very diagnostic on their own

**Group B Indicators** (25) are moderately diagnostic, more so when observed with other indicators

**Group C Indicators** (20) are minimally diagnostic on their own and require the presence of other indicators to gain diagnosticity



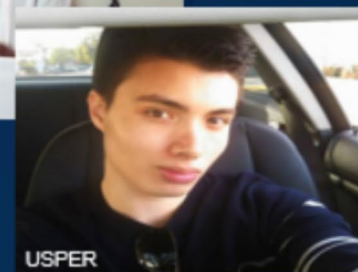
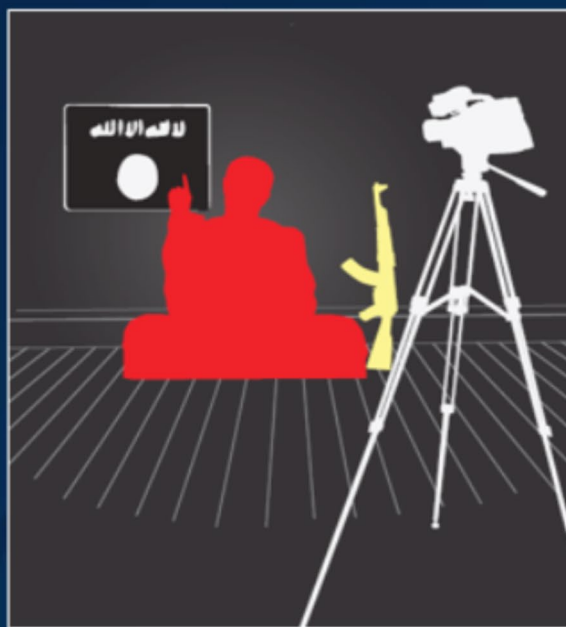
## GROUP A INDICATORS

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- Preparing and disseminating a last will or martyrdom video/statement
- Seeking help from family or friends to enable travel to join terrorist groups overseas
- Planning or attempting to travel to a conflict zone to fight with or support an FTO
- Seeking religious or political justification for violent acts
- Attempting to mobilize others, especially family members and close friends



## GROUP A: Preparing and Dissemination Last Will / Martyrdom Video or Statement





## GROUP B INDICATORS

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- Attempting to obtain explosive precursors
- Leakage on social media
- Expressing acceptance of violence
- Attempting to radicalize others
- Joining exclusive groups promoting violence
- Suspicious financial transactions
- Countersurveillance
- Suspicious travel
- Deleting social media posts
- Encrypted media applications
- Attempting to travel to a conflict zone
- Sending money to suspicious individuals overseas
- Expressing desire to travel to conflict zone
- Acquiring maps/blueprints in a suspicious manner



## GROUP B: "Leakage" Demonstrating Commitment or Intent to Engage in Violent Extremist Activity

(Posting terrorist icons/flags/prominent figures to social media, leaving unusual post-death instructions to family, or expressing unusual goodbyes to contacts, e.g., Garland, San Bernardino, or Tampa)



## GROUP B: Obtaining or Attempting (Illicitly or Otherwise) to Obtain Explosive Precursors



## GROUP C INDICATORS

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- Unusual purchase of military style tactical equipment
- Suspicious acquisition of weapons
- Selling personal belongs in an unusual manner
- Engaging in violent ideologically motivated outbursts
- Blaming external factors for failure in school, career, or relationships
- Expressing frustration with employment situation
- Unstable mental state and violent behavior
- Switching from one violent extremist ideology to another
- Increased isolation
- Replacing family and friends with violent extremist social groups
- Discussing ways to evade law enforcement
- Praising past successful or attempted attacks





# HVE TRENDS IN THE HOMELAND

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Persistent threat to the West from HVEs who either receive guidance or self-radicalize to conduct attacks

- HVEs most immediate and unpredictable threat in Homeland

Greater emphasis by ISIS to enable and inspire attacks

Current generation of HVEs has more limited knowledge of violent extremist ideology compared to HVEs in early 2000s

- Recent HVEs gravitate toward allure of violence and adventure rather than nuances of violent Salafi-jihadist ideology
- Often motivated by various violent extremist groups

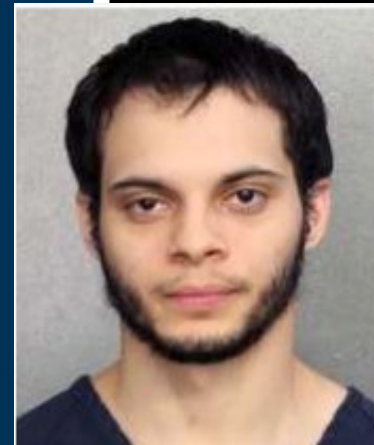
1,000 HVE cases in the US: All 50 states



# ESTEBAN SANTIAGO-RUIZ

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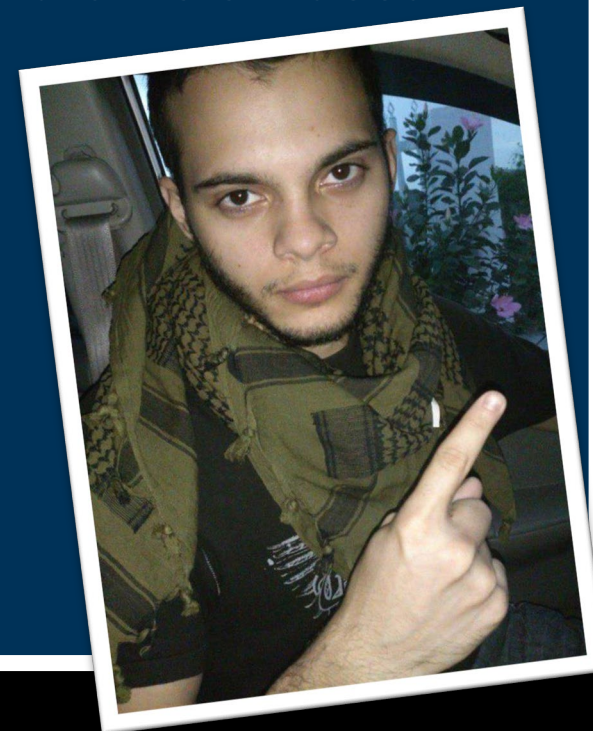
- Born in New Jersey in 1990
- Moved to Puerto Rico in 1992 – lived majority of life in Peñuelas, PR
- Joined Puerto Rico National Guard in December 2007
- Served in Iraq War from April 2010 until February 2011
- Started mental health treatment after serving in Iraq
- Served in Alaska Army National Guard from November 2014 until discharged in August 2016 for unsatisfactory performance





# ESTEBAN SANTIAGO-RUIZ

- Had his guns confiscated by the Police of Puerto Rico in March 2012
  - Guns were returned to him in May 2014
- Visited FBI field office in Anchorage in November 2016
  - Said the government was controlling his mind and making him watch ISIS videos
  - Stated he was being forced to join ISIS by the CIA
  - Heard voices in his head telling him to commit acts of violence
  - FBI Anchorage urged him to seek mental health treatment
  - FBI found no violation of law
- Alaska police seized his hand gun for 29 days
  - Returned on December 2016
- Attack committed on January 2, 2017





# ESTEBAN SANTIAGO-RUIZ

- Booked Flight from Anchorage to Fort Lauderdale with layover in Minneapolis
- Claimed checked 9mm semiautomatic handgun from baggage claim in Fort Lauderdale
- Fired 15 shots in the baggage claim area, killing five
- Diagnosed with schizophrenia after the attack
  - Found competent to stand trial

MENTAL HEALTH INDICATORS?





# CONTACT INFORMATION

## FBI SAN JUAN

MAIN TELEPHONE: 787-754-6000

ONLINE REPORTING: [HTTPS://TIPS.FBI.GOV](https://tips.fbi.gov)

**THE FBI DOES NOT TAKE THE PLACE OF 9-1-1.**

**FOR EMERGENCY OR CRISIS SITUATIONS  
CONTINUE TO CONTACT LOCAL POLICE PER  
STANDARD PROTOCOL, OR CALL 9-1-1.**



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## FBI SAN JUAN

**MAIN TELEPHONE: 787-754-6000**

**ONLINE REPORTING: [HTTPS://TIPS.FBI.GOV](https://tips.fbi.gov)**

## IA SHAUNA STOEGER

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**DESK: 787-759-1530**

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