



# **DOMESTIC EXTREMISM 101 FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT**



## Course Description

The public safety threat posed by domestic extremism has become undeniable. While some sectors of the population presume that this is a new phenomenon, in reality the threat of domestic extremism has been in existence for over a century without interruption. Violent extremists – both on the far right and on the far left – pose a direct and pervasive threat to the general public and public safety personnel. These groups can be found in every corner of the nation.

Violent extremists from the ideological far-right consist of white supremacist/ nationalist groups, for example the Proud Boys, militias, sovereign citizens, conspiracy movements such as QAnon, and anti-law enforcement groups such as the “Boogaloo Bois.” The tactics promoted by these groups can vary widely from racially-based activities to the intentional targeting of law enforcement personnel, up to and including targeting political leaders.

Violent extremists on the ideological left or “hard left” can include Anarchists, Antifa, single-issue extremists, and everything in between. Ideologies and goals run the gamut from violent overthrow of the government to ending animal breeding and even protesting the owning of pets. Tactics range from violent street protests to small group actions to lone-wolf strategies. Identifying the factions involved, the actors in those groups and their potential for violence or vandalism is the responsibility of law enforcement.

“Domestic Extremism 101 for Law Enforcement” gives students an understanding of homegrown extremist groups and enhances their investigative ability (in both pre-event intelligence and criminal investigations) to identify the characteristics of suspects, supporters and followers of domestic terror groups.

### **Upon completion of this class, attendees will be able to:**

- ✓ Identify diverse extremist groups on both the far-right and far-left
- ✓ Identify possible members and/or followers of extremist groups
- ✓ Recognize potential lone-actor extremists
- ✓ Anticipate a group’s possible future actions
- ✓ Understand the organization and structure of domestic extremist movements and groups
- ✓ Gain knowledge of the philosophical drivers of these movements
- ✓ Understand their history and ideology
- ✓ Identify potential targets of violence
- ✓ Identify potential targets of vandalism
- ✓ Explore and apply prospective mitigation actions

### Instructors

Lowell Smith, Ph.D.

Deputy Probation Officer (ret.) Matthew Bolton  
National Extremism Consulting & Training Services

[Click Here for Instructor Bios](#)

### UPCOMING CLASS:

**October 15, 2021 - Worcester, MA Police Department**

Register online: <https://communitystrategies.net/DomesticExtremismWorcesterOct2021>

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