



DOMESTIC EXTREMISM 101 FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT



NATIONAL EXTREMISM
CONSULTING & TRAINING SERVICES

Instructors

Lowell Smith, Ph.D. became a nationally-recognized expert on white supremacist gangs/groups, Sovereign Citizens, and anti-government movements during his 27-year law enforcement career as a deputy probation officer. Lowell was a member of the Anti-Defamation League's Law Enforcement Advisory Board for the Los Angeles Region and is an advisory board member for California State University San Bernardino's Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism. He has practical experience working directly with individuals associated with criminal white supremacist gangs, national hate groups, sovereign citizens, and militia groups. In addition to frequent media interviews, Lowell was featured on the television show "Gangland" (Public Enemy Number 1) and Frontline's Documentary "Documenting Hate" examining the alt-right protest at Charlottesville.

Deputy Probation Officer (ret.) Matthew Bolton spent 27 years in county law enforcement in Southern California. Matthew worked a variety of assignments from institutional corrections to sex crimes to intelligence/violent extremism. He was a canine handler for 9 years and was involved in thousands of narcotics searches from street level possession to DTO operations. For 11 years Matthew worked domestic terrorism cases, specializing in white supremacists, hate crimes, sovereign citizens, and animal/environmental terrorism. Matthew also studied the anarchist/antifa movements and their interactions with animal/environmental terrorism. A member of the Anti-Defamation League's Law Enforcement Advisory Board for the Los Angeles region, Matthew has conducted hundreds of interviews with domestic extremists, gang members, drug traffickers and sex offenders.

Course Description

The public safety threat posed by domestic extremism has become undeniable, most recently illustrated by the 2020 riots and the attack on the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021. 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



UPCOMING CLASS:

October 15, 2021

Worcester, MA Police Department

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

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