



## COUNTERING EXTREMIST ACTIVITY: CASE STUDY 2



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*As Service members or Department of Defense civilian employees, we each take an Oath of Office upon entering into public service. The framers of the Constitution included the requirement to take an oath in the Constitution itself. While the specific wording of that oath may vary depending on the individual role in which you serve, all of our oaths include the commitment to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic, and to well and faithfully discharge our duties. Because we each took an oath to support and defend the Constitution, and to do our jobs to the best of our ability, we expect military Service members and DoD civilian employees to be guided in their actions by a professional ethic that prioritizes the team, the mission, and the Nation. You are essential to our success and we need you on our team.*

## ACTIVITY GOALS

- Explain the effects of extremist activities on unit climate and culture.
- Demonstrate extremist activities prevention and response strategies.

## PROCEDURES

1. Read Case Study and reference material (pg. 3-5)
2. Answer Part 2 Activity handout, (pg. 5)
3. You will have 30 minutes to read case study and individually answer questions.
4. You will identify a spokesperson who will brief their risk factors, protective factors, and prevention strategies.
5. Facilitator led group discussion, 30 minutes. Please share your thoughts and experiences with your group members.
6. Breaks will be taken as needed, 10 minutes on every hour is a guideline and not a requirement per guidance of the facilitator.



# Christopher Paul Hasson

- US Coast Guard Lieutenant
- Former USMC and Army National Guardsman
- Secret Clearance (Declined TS/SCI)
- No previous derogatory information
- Acquisitions Officer
- 49 years old and married with two children



## CDSE

Center for Development of Security Excellence

# CASE STUDY

## KINETIC VIOLENCE – A Positive Outcome

### WHAT HAPPENED

Christopher Paul Hasson was arrested on February 15, 2019, which prevented him from possibly carrying out acts of violence. His arrest followed a multi-year investigation that included monitoring the use of his U.S. Government automated information system. He pleaded guilty in October 2019, and on January 31, 2020, at the U.S. District Court in Greenbelt, MD, was sentenced to 160 months in prison on four federal counts, to include three felony weapons charges and one felony drug charge. Hasson owned a residence in Silver Spring, MD, and worked at the U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Hasson self-identified as a “White Nationalist” for over 30 years in writings advocating for “focused violence” in order to establish a white homeland. Review of Hasson’s email accounts, saved documents, text messages, and Internet searches revealed he was inspired by racist murderers, stockpiled assault weapons, studied violence, and intended to exact retribution on minorities and those he considered traitors. He admitted from at least March 2016 through early February 2019 that he used various email accounts, including an overseas encrypted e-mail account, to order the opioid Tramadol from various illegal Internet-based distributors.

Hasson prepared to take action and used his government computer to read the manifestos of mass murderers such as Norwegian terrorist Anders Breivik, Unabomber Ted Kaczynski, and Eric Rudolph, the 1996 Atlanta Olympics bomber. He performed Internet searches and developed lists of potential targets, including media personalities and current and former elected officials. He conducted attack and targeting research and planning, and operational cover support activities. He imitated actions contained in some of the extremist manifestos listed above such as purchasing steroids.

### INDICATO

- Associating with extremist group or with individuals’ espousing extremist views
- Expressing ill will toward U.S. Government
- Possessing illegal weapons and/or illegal drugs
- Misuse of U.S. Government automated information system

## IMPACT

The Christopher Paul Hasson case was an example of a positive insider threat outcome in that an insider threat hostile act was prevented by an effective insider threat program, which included user activity monitoring that identified attack and targeting research and planning and operational cover support. The case highlighted a holistic approach and the successful collaboration between the organization's insider threat program and other agencies. Had his activities not been detected or detected in time, he might have been able to carry them out against some of the same individuals whom he researched and placed on target lists. The result could have been devastating.

Lastly the Hasson case illustrates the complex and unpredictable nature of human behavior and the fact an individual's thoughts or ideations are not transparent to others, making it more challenging to detect and report questionable or anomalous behavior. In his case, while having researched and shown an interest in white nationalism and other racist ideology, some of his past performance evaluations characterized him differently, even to the point of being an advocate of equal opportunity. This case also raised the issue of balancing safety and security with First and Second Amendment protections.

## ADDITIONAL

Christopher Paul Hasson's performance evaluations characterized him more as an advocate of equal opportunity rather than a "White Nationalist." Hasson used his U.S. Government systems for many of his activities, to include research, purchases, and communications.

Consider the following questions:

- How can an insider threat program identify anomalous behavior?
- Why is User Activity Monitoring a part of an effective insider threat program?
- How do we balance the protection of First and Second Amendment rights with Safety and National Security?

Resources for further exploration:

- [Insider Threat Indicators in User Activity Monitoring](#)
- [Insider Threat Privacy and Civil Liberties INT 260.16 eLearning Course](#)
- [Insider Threat Potential Risk Indicators](#)

## IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!

Contact the appropriate POC to report any observed potential risk indicators:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency/Department: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: Supervisor/Security Officer/ITP Senior Official/ITP Manager

LEARN.  
PERFORM.  
PROTECT.



**ACTIVITY HANDOUT**  
**Develop Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Prevention Strategies for your domain.**

<b>PREVENTION STRATEGIES</b>	
<b>Primary Strategies:</b>	
<b>Secondary Strategies</b>	
<b>Tertiary Strategies</b>	

**Primary** prevention strategies are policies and programs designed to transpire prior to problematic behaviors.

**Secondary** prevention strategies are policies and programs designed to immediately respond after the occurrence of situation.

**Tertiary** prevention strategies include policies and programs designed for long-term responses to mitigate the lasting effects of problematic behaviors.

**SUMMARY**

- Recognize the types of extremist activities for Service members under DoDI 1325.06
- Identify behaviors that may qualify as active participation in extremist activities under DoDI 1325.06