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United States Department of State

Bureau of Counterterrorism

2022 Annual Report

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INTRODUCTION

Today's terrorist threat is more ideologically and geographically diffuse than that of two decades ago. Al-Qa'ida (AQ) and ISIS branches and affiliates remain resilient and determined. Iran and its proxies engage in destabilizing activity in the Middle East and beyond. The transnational dimensions of racially or ethnically motivated violent extremism (REMVE) are evolving and growing. The counterterrorism mission is clearly far from over, and the United States and the international community remain committed to sustaining effective counterterrorism pressure against these adversaries.

As reflected in the Biden-Harris Administration's National Security Strategy, how the United States confronts terrorism within the context of broader national security priorities is entering a new phase. More than twenty years after 9/11, the United States is shifting from a "U.S.-led, partner-enabled" military-centric approach to a "partner-led, U.S.-enabled" model that prioritizes diplomacy, multilateralism, and building our partners' civilian capacity. Striking a new balance between military action and civilian counterterrorism efforts leverages the full range of tools needed to address terrorism.

Under this new framework, the Department of State's efforts to protect the United States and U.S. citizens and facilities overseas are taking on increased importance. The Bureau of Counterterrorism (CT) – in close coordination and collaboration across the Department and with other federal agencies – will play a critical role in advancing the United States' efforts to promote counterterrorism cooperation, strengthen partnerships, and build our partners' civilian capacity to address terrorist threats.

In 2022, CT prioritized efforts to enhance international partners' commitment and contributions to the counterterrorism fight. CT helped partner nations develop and sustain their own capabilities to counter terrorism within and across their own borders. CT also engaged with multilateral organizations, civil society, and other non-government stakeholders to ensure and build a whole-of-government and whole-of-society counterterrorism approach.

While the global terrorism challenges remain varied and formidable, there is reason for optimism. The United States and the international community remained committed in the fight against terrorism, and we have made important gains in countering terrorism around the world. This annual report captures some of CT's most important achievements in 2022 to keep the United States and U.S. citizens safe and secure from terrorist threats abroad.

The **introduction** provides an overview of CT's key successes in 2022, as well as CT's assessment of the terrorism threat landscape the United States faced during this time period.

The **first section** summarizes how CT leveraged its full range of counterterrorism tools to address specific terrorist threats that pose the greatest risk to the United States: AQ and ISIS (Chapter 1); Iran and its proxies (Chapter 2); and REMVE (Chapter 3).

The **second section** highlights CT's key thematic areas of activity to address the full spectrum of these terrorist threats, including through strengthening partners' border security (Chapter 4); building partners' civilian counterterrorism capacity (Chapter 5); countering violent extremism (Chapter 6); and leveraging multilateral institutions (Chapter 7).

The **third section** emphasizes CT's additional initiatives to counter emerging terrorist threats and to calibrate efforts against receding threats (Chapter 8), and to promote outreach with domestic and foreign allies, as well as the broader American public (Chapter 9).

2022

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ➔ CT obligated \$327.9 million of FY 2021 foreign assistance funding to build the civilian counterterrorism and counter violent extremism (CVE) capacity of critical frontline partners, enabling them to successfully manage terrorism threats within and across their borders.
- ➔ CT led the 85-member Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS (D-ISIS), raising more than \$330 million in pledges coupled with nearly \$110 million in U.S. contributions to support stabilization projects in Iraq and Syria; mobilizing the international community on the humanitarian and security challenges associated with ISIS detainees and family members who remain in Syria; and increasing global focus on ISIS threats in Africa and Afghanistan.
- ➔ CT led U.S. government support for more repatriations of ISIS-linked foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) and associated family members from detention facilities and displaced persons camps in northeast Syria to their countries of origin in 2022 than in the three previous years combined.
- ➔ Through CT, the Secretary of State completed 27 total terrorism-related designation actions, including one against a REMVE individual and ten against AQ-linked individuals and entities.
- ➔ In May, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice, CT launched the first-ever Counterterrorism Law Enforcement Forum (CTLEF) in Berlin, Germany, to improve information sharing and international coordination on countering REMVE globally.
- ➔ CT led diplomatic engagement to counter Hizballah in the Western Hemisphere, Europe, Asia, and Africa, and convened the first-ever regional Law Enforcement Coordination Group (LECG) meeting on Hizballah's terrorist and illicit activities in Africa.
- ➔ With CT leadership and funding, the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ) trained over 450 criminal justice practitioners across Asia, Africa, and the Middle East on critical counterterrorism issues such as REMVE, battlefield evidence, prosecutions, mutual legal assistance, and juvenile justice.
- ➔ With CT leadership, the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) adopted a REMVE Toolkit that provides the international community with whole-of-society principles, policies, and programs to address the transnational dimensions of this evolving threat.
- ➔ CT's Personal Identification Secure Comparison and Evaluation System (PISCES) for border management and traveler screening expanded to operate at 237 sites in 23 countries.
- ➔ The Secretary of State appointed a new Special Representative for Guantanamo Affairs to lead the Department's efforts related to the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, including negotiating transfers of eligible detainees out of the facility. CT successfully facilitated the transfer of four detainees out of Guantanamo and participated in the Periodic Review Board's (PRB) positive determination of transfer eligibility for eight additional Guantanamo detainees.



TERRORIST THREAT OVERVIEW

In 2022, the United States and the international community confronted a terrorist threat landscape that is more dynamic, complex, and fast moving than ever before. Terrorist groups remained a persistent and pervasive threat to the United States and U.S. citizens and facilities abroad.

AQ and its affiliates remained resilient and determined, even following the death of its leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in August. Senior AQ leaders continued to oversee a global network to target the United States and U.S. interests, particularly in Africa and the Middle East. In East Africa, al-Shabaab (AS) sustained de facto control over significant portions of south-central Somalia and moved freely in neighboring countries. AS also maintained the capability to conduct high-profile attacks in the region, including against U.S. citizens and infrastructure, and aspired to coordinate attacks against the U.S. homeland and Europe. In West Africa, Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) intensified attacks in the Sahel, increasingly threatening capital cities and U.S. facilities in the region, and expanded operations in the northern border regions of Coastal West Africa. Across the Middle East, al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and other AQ elements remained intent on conducting terrorist operations in the West and against U.S. interests in the region.

ISIS maintained an enduring global enterprise, promoting a large-scale terrorism campaign across the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. While the death of ISIS' leader Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi in February marked an important milestone against the terrorist group, ISIS remained capable of conducting large-scale attacks. In 2022, ISIS maintained a significant underground operational structure and conducted terrorist operations throughout Iraq and Syria. Approximately 10,000 ISIS fighters, including 1,800 Iraqis and 2,000 ISIS fighters from outside Syria and Iraq also remained in detention facilities controlled by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). Additionally, 18,000 Syrians, 26,000 Iraqis, and roughly 10,000 third country nationals from over 60 countries remain in al-Hol and al-Roj displaced persons' camps in northeast Syria. In West Africa, ISIS affiliates increasingly expanded across borders and coordinated asymmetric attacks, including a July prison break near the U.S. Embassy in Abuja, Nigeria. Additionally, ISIS expanded its recruitment and operations across key regions, growing its global network to approximately 20 branches and affiliates. ISIS leveraged its network, operatives, and propaganda to inspire homegrown terrorist attacks in the West, including a June attack by an ISIS supporter in Oslo, Norway, that killed two and injured 21.

In Afghanistan, ISIS, AQ elements, and regionally focused terrorist groups remained active in the country and coordinated attacks in the broader region. ISIS-Khorasan (ISIS-K) conducted terrorist attacks against Afghan civilians and the Taliban, particularly members of the Shia community. In 2022, ISIS-K expanded cross-border attacks in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Pakistan and maintained ambitions to attack the West. AQ and its affiliates, particularly AQ in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), also remained intent, but lacked the capability, to directly attack the United States from Afghanistan. While the Taliban committed to preventing terrorist groups from using Afghanistan to conduct attacks against the United States and others, its ability to prevent AQ elements, Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP), and ISIS-K from mounting external operations remained unclear.

Iran remained the leading state sponsor of terrorism, facilitating a wide range of terrorist and other illicit activities in the United States and globally. In 2022, Iran increasingly encouraged and plotted attacks against the United States, particularly former U.S. officials, in retaliation for the death of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force (IRGC-QF) Commander Qasem Soleimani. In August, an Iran-based IRGC member was charged with attempting to arrange the murder of a former U.S. National Security Advisor in the U.S. homeland. Regionally, Iran supported acts of terrorism through proxies and partner groups, such as Hizballah, Hamas, and al-Ashtar Brigades, in Bahrain, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen. Globally, the IRGC-QF and the Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) remained Iran's primary actors involved in supporting terrorist recruitment, financing, and plotting across Africa, Asia, Europe, and North and South America. Iran also maintained a near global procurement network, illicitly obtaining cutting-edge technology from companies around the world to bolster its terrorist and military capabilities.

Racially or Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremism (REMVE) constituted a growing and transnational threat to the United States and our allies. Violent white supremacists, anti-government, accelerationist, and like-minded individuals promoted violent extremist narratives, recruited new adherents, raised funds, and conducted terrorist activities in the United States and worldwide. The October shooting at a LGBTQI+ bar in Slovakia that left two dead and one injured, demonstrates how individuals are becoming increasingly inspired by U.S.-based REMVE attacks and the broader REMVE movement. The perpetrator posted an online so-called manifesto that pointed to previous REMVE attacks worldwide, including the recent U.S.-based attacks in Buffalo and El Paso, and the 2019 attacks in Christchurch and Poway. The November school shootings in Brazil carried out by a teen wearing neo-Nazi symbols, that left four killed and 13 injured, further exemplified the growing and far-reaching influence of REMVE globally.



Under Secretary for Political Affairs Nuland addresses the Defeat ISIS Coalition in Marrakesh in May.

CHAPTER 1

Countering ISIS and AQ Safe Havens and Expansion

As AQ and ISIS networks have grown more decentralized and geographically dispersed in recent years, CT's role in countering these groups has continued to increase. CT has prioritized efforts to prevent the expansion or strengthening of AQ and ISIS and its most dangerous branches and affiliates, particularly in Africa and Central Asia.

Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS (D-ISIS): CT also led the Department's efforts to counter ISIS in Iraq and Syria ("the Core") and globally through its leadership of the 85-member D-ISIS Coalition. In May, the United States and the Kingdom of Morocco co-hosted the Coalition ministerial meeting in Marrakesh, the first to be held in Africa. The Department of State's Under Secretary for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland co-led this meeting with Morocco's Foreign Minister. In December, the United States and the Kingdom of the Netherlands also co-hosted the Political Directors Small Group Meeting in the Hague. At these meetings, the United States helped advance the Coalition's collective efforts to prevent an ISIS resurgence in the Core, while also increasing activities to counter ISIS affiliates around the world.

- ➔ **Iraq and Syria:** In 2022, D-ISIS Coalition members raised more than \$440 million in stabilization pledges – including a U.S. pledge of \$107 million – to support infrastructure and other critical projects in Iraq and northeastern Syria. In November, the United States and the United Kingdom co-hosted a donors' conference with fourteen governments, and numerous UN and humanitarian organizations, to discuss steps to improve security measures and humanitarian services at the al-Hol displaced persons camp in northeast Syria.
- ➔ **Africa:** CT led the Coalition's increased focus on countering ISIS branches in the Sahel and across central and southern Africa. In 2022, the Coalition welcomed Benin as its 85th member and 13th member from sub-Saharan Africa. In March, the Coalition's Africa Focus Group (AFFG), which was established in 2021 to address the growing ISIS threat in sub-Saharan Africa, convened its first working-level meeting in Rome and met again in May on the margins of the D-ISIS ministerial in Marrakesh. In October, the AFFG co-chairs, Niger, Morocco, Italy, and the United States, also met to identify programmatic gaps and deconflict existing partner efforts in the region. The AFFG will continue to leverage existing coordination mechanisms and enhance African members' counterterrorism capacities.
- ➔ **Afghanistan:** CT also strengthened the Coalition's efforts to counter the ISIS-K threat emanating from Afghanistan. In October, on the margins of the Coalition's FTF Working Group meeting, CT held a special session to assess the threat, discuss opportunities, and develop initiatives to counter ISIS-K activities in Afghanistan and the South and Central Asia region. CT also supported the Coalition's increased engagement with Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan on initiatives to counter ISIS-K through enhanced border security assistance and information sharing to stop the flow of FTFs into and out of the region.

- ➔ **Working Groups:** CT facilitated the Coalition's four thematic working groups and their various initiatives to counter ISIS' evolving threat around the world. The Communications Working Group expanded counter messaging programming into the Sahel. The Stabilization Working Group increased its focus on addressing the security and humanitarian crises in the al-Hol camp. The Counter ISIS Finance Group worked with partners to better disrupt ISIS' financial flows into and out of Africa, preventing hundreds of thousands of dollars from reaching ISIS. The FTF Working Group remained focused on preventing the flow of FTFs from entering Iraq and Syria, and broadened its scope to address ISIS members detained in the Core and those entering Africa and Central Asia.

Sanctions and Rewards for Justice (RFJ): In 2022, CT completed 27 total terrorist designation actions, including ten against AQ-linked individuals and organizations. Additionally, the Department of State's RFJ program, which is administered by the Diplomatic Security Service and provides rewards for information that protects Americans and furthers U.S. national security, offered rewards to individuals who furnish information leading to the disruption of terrorist activities and financial networks.

- ➔ **Syria-based Group:** In March, the Department of State designated the Syria-based group Katibat al Tawhid wal Jihad (KTJ) as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT). KTJ was also added to the United Nations Security Council ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qa'ida Sanctions List, requiring all UN member states to implement an assets freeze, a travel ban, and an arms embargo against the group.
- ➔ **Al-Shabaab:** In October, the Department designated five AS leaders as SDGTs, including individuals responsible for planning the group's attacks in Somalia and Kenya. This action was taken in conjunction with the Treasury Department's designation of a network of nine AS financial facilitators. A month later, the Department of State increased three RFJ offers to up to \$10 million each for information leading to the identification or location of three AS key leaders and offered a reward of up to \$10 million for information leading to the disruption of AS's financial mechanisms. This announcement marked the first time that the State Department has offered a reward for information on AS's fundraising and financial facilitation networks.

- ➔ **AQIS, TTP, and ISIS-K:** In November, the Department designated three AQIS leaders and one TTP leader as SDGTs. These designations furthered U.S. efforts to ensure Afghanistan does not again become a platform for international terrorism. In February, the Department of State offered an RFJ reward of up to \$10 million for information leading to the identification or location of ISIS-K leader Sanaullah Ghafari and an RFJ reward of up to \$10 million for information leading to the arrest or conviction of those responsible for the August 26, 2021, terrorist attack at the Kabul airport.

Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility (Guantanamo) Closure: The Biden-Harris Administration remains committed to responsibly closing the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay and to repatriating, resettling, or prosecuting, as appropriate, individuals detained in connection with the armed conflict with AQ and associated forces.

- ➔ **New Special Representative:** In 2022, the Department of State appointed a new Special Representative for Guantanamo Affairs to oversee all efforts to identify suitable transfer locations for transfer-eligible detainees and conduct transfer negotiations with bilateral partners, including obtaining security and humane treatment assurances.
- ➔ **Continued Progress:** CT also led the State Department's participation in the National Security Council's policy review process to facilitate the closure of Guantanamo, including by expediting the Periodic Review Board (PRB) process and transferring eligible detainees without delay. In 2022, CT supported the repatriations of four detainees from Guantanamo – reducing the number of detainees to 35 – and served as a key participant in the interagency PRB process, which increased the number of transfer-eligible detainees to 21 individuals. In close coordination with the

**REWARD UP TO \$6 MILLION
FOR INFORMATION ON ABU UBADAH (DIRIYE)**

Abu Ubaidah, also known as Ahmed Diriye, is the leader of the al-Shabaab (AS) terrorist group. Under his leadership, AS terrorists have conducted attacks in Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, and Djibouti that have resulted in the death of hundreds of individuals.

If you have information about him, text us at the number below over Signal, Telegram, or WhatsApp, or contact us on our Tor-based tip line. You could be eligible to receive a reward.

ne5dybnt7sr6cm32xt77pazmtm65flqy6irvtftrugfcSep7elodiad.onion

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Department's Office of the Legal Adviser, CT continued to address the cases of detainees who have been charged via the military commissions process.

FTF Repatriation Efforts: As of the end of 2022, the United States repatriated a total of 39 U.S. citizens from Syria and Iraq and it advocated for other countries to repatriate their citizens as well. In 2022, the Acting CT Coordinator also served as the Acting D-ISIS Detainee Coordinator – a position established by Congress in the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act. CT also established the interagency al-Hol Working Group to coordinate the United States' effort to address the security and humanitarian crisis in the al-Hol displaced persons camp and detention facilities in northeast Syria. Additionally, in 2022, over 3,000 fighters and family members were repatriated to 14 different countries of origin, more than 2020 and 2021 combined. CT worked closely with the SDF and partner governments, as well as the Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Department of Defense (DoD) on these engagements. Notable repatriation efforts, with CT support ranging from diplomatic advocacy to arranging the facilitation of U.S. logistics with DoD, included:

- ➔ In 2022, Iraq conducted six repatriation operations totaling 200 fighters, nearly 2,400 family members, and the entire population of over 200 Iraqi youth detainees.
- ➔ In May, Kosovo and Albania conducted a joint mission to repatriate 15 nationals (two fighters, four women, and nine children) from Syria.
- ➔ In October, Canada repatriated four nationals (two women and two children) from Syria.
- ➔ In November, Germany and the Netherlands each conducted missions to repatriate a total of 45 nationals (13 women and 32 children) from Syria.

Leveraging Battlefield Evidence: In 2022, CT trained various foreign partners to use battlefield evidence to successfully prosecute and convict ISIS-affiliated FTFs. Key successes included:

- ➔ **Kosovo:** In March, the Pristina Basic Court convicted two FTFs for their participation in ISIS and al-Nusra Front, both U.S. designated terrorist organizations. With CT support, DOJ's Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance, and Training (OPDAT) provided case-based mentoring to the prosecutor, helping the court identify and use battlefield evidence to convict the defendants. In May, a court also convicted an FTF for his participation in ISIS and sentenced him to three years' imprisonment. CT funded DOJ/OPDAT support to Kosovan officials in locating the individual's registration form to join ISIS, among other critical assistance.
- ➔ **North Macedonia:** In 2022, CT-funded DOJ/OPDAT assisted North Macedonia with successfully convicting all ISIS-affiliated FTFs who were repatriated the previous year. In January, two of the FTFs received 10-year prison sentences, one of the longest prison sentences for Balkan FTFs to date. CT-funded DOJ/OPDAT Resident Legal Advisors helped prosecutors develop evidence that these individuals leveraged social media to promote ISIS propaganda and recruit new followers in the region, which contributed to the longer sentences.



Law enforcement officials from Bahrain, Israel, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, and the UAE participate in a battlefield evidence training.

CHAPTER 2

Countering Iran-Backed Proxies

U.S. government efforts to counter the threat of Iran-backed terrorism continued to be a key CT line of effort. CT successfully built international political support to constrain Iranian-linked groups' finances and increase the capacity of partners to investigate and prosecute Iran's global terrorist and illicit activity.

Diplomatic Engagements against Hizballah: The Department made notable gains in a high-level diplomatic campaign against Hizballah. Through CT-led diplomatic efforts, 14 countries have now used their national authorities to designate, ban, or otherwise restrict Hizballah over the past several years. In June, the United States and Europol convened the Ninth Meeting of the Law Enforcement Coordination Group (LECG) to bolster international coordination and information sharing on countering Hizballah's terrorist and criminal activities. More than 30 governments across the Middle East, North, South and Central America, Europe, Africa, and the Indo-Pacific discussed how law enforcement and financial tools can be used to disrupt Hizballah's operating environment. This meeting was also an opportunity for countries considering taking national action against Hizballah to hear from other governments on how they have used their legal tools to counter the terrorist group. In December, the United States also convened the LECG's first-ever regional meeting on Hizballah's activities in Africa. Nearly a dozen African governments and organizations – along with the United States, Israel, and Europol – explored what national-level actions can be taken to disrupt Hizballah's efforts to undermine the rule of law and the integrity of the financial system in the region.

Building Capacity to Target Iran and Hizballah's Terrorist Activity: In 2022, CT's technical assistance for countering Iran-backed terrorism achieved successful results. Through these programs, CT built partner capacity to identify, interdict, and prosecute Iranian and Hizballah's terrorist activities, as well as other illicit activities and targets. Notable successes included:

- ➔ **Albania:** In April, with support from CT-funded DOJ/OPDAT's case-based mentoring, Albania's Special Prosecution Office charged Iranian citizen Bijan Pooladrag with terrorism and other offenses related to spying on the People's Mujahedin of Iran. Albanian prosecutors charged Pooladrag, who allegedly worked on behalf of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), for his participation in a terrorist organization, illegal interception of electronic communications, and misuse of computer equipment. In December, Albania's Special Court on Corruption and Organized Crime successfully convicted the defendant on these terrorism-related charges and sentenced him to ten years' imprisonment.
- ➔ **Argentina:** In September, CT-funded DOJ/OPDAT hosted a conference in Puerto Iguazu, using real world case studies on trade-based money laundering, cryptocurrency, and other mechanisms of terrorism financing for more than 100 prosecutors, investigators, judges, and analysts from the TBA. In November, CT also sponsored a study tour for Argentine police, prosecutors, and judges in Washington, D.C., where they met with counterterrorism experts from the FBI, DOJ/OPDAT, and the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), as well as Federal U.S. judges and the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department. The study tour allowed the Argentines to interact with their U.S. counterparts, learn about the United States' perspective related to international cooperation and countering terrorist financing, and better understand United States' whole-of-government approach to countering Hizballah.
- ➔ **Bahrain:** In September, CT partnered with DOJ/OPDAT and the Bureau of Diplomatic Security's Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) program to train Bahraini law enforcement officials through a practical scenario involving a hypothetical car bombing perpetrated by Hizballah. Through a combination of lectures and hands-on exercises, participants learned about explosives, post-blast investigation, surveillance, interrogation, evidence collection, search and seizure, and other important skills needed for investigating complex terrorism cases linked to Hizballah.



Deputy Coordinator Ian Moss speaks at the first annual Counterterrorism Law Enforcement Forum on Countering REMVE.

CHAPTER 3

Mitigating Racially or Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremism

The Secretary of State designated the CT Coordinator as the State Department's lead to counter REMVE globally in 2021, and CT supported the White House's first-ever National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism. To advance U.S. efforts to counter the transnational threat of REMVE, CT leverages the full range of counterterrorism tools— including diplomatic outreach, public diplomacy, tech sector engagement, building foreign partner capacity, preventing terrorist travel, and designations. In 2022, CT expanded the Department of State's work with the Intelligence Community, DOJ, FBI, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and foreign partners to mitigate the growing international REMVE threat.

Launch of Counterterrorism Law Enforcement Forum (CTLEF): In May, CT, in partnership with DOJ, launched the first-ever Counterterrorism Law Enforcement Forum (CTLEF) to improve information sharing and international coordination on countering REMVE. The CTLEF, which was co-hosted in Berlin, by the United States and the Government of Germany, brought together more than 100 criminal justice practitioners, financial regulators, and security professionals from over 30 countries and multilateral organizations. The inaugural meeting increased the United States' and our partners' collective understanding of REMVE networks, groups, and individuals, including transnational linkages between REMVE actors.

Comprehensive Study on REMVE Social Networks: In July, the RAND Corporation published the CT-funded "Mapping White Identity Terrorism and Racially or Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremism: A Social Network Analysis of Online Activity." The study provided a groundbreaking comprehensive analysis of global REMVE social networks and bolstered understanding of how REMVE actors use social media platforms to strengthen their collaboration and advance their ideologies.

IJJ Roundtables to Implement Practitioner's Guide for Addressing REMVE: After finalizing the Criminal Justice Practitioner's Guide for Addressing REMVE in 2021, the IJJ developed a series of CT-funded workshops to educate international law enforcement, criminal justice, and counterterrorism policy practitioners on these recommendations. In October, the IJJ held the first regional workshop in London, which focused on addressing potential vulnerabilities to REMVE radicalization.

GCTF Initiative on the REMVE Toolkit: In February, the United States and the Government of Norway launched the REMVE Toolkit Initiative to address gaps in the international community's understanding of international REMVE threats and challenges. Building upon previous GCTF and multilateral efforts— including the IJJ's Criminal Justice Practitioners Guide to Addressing REMVE, the initiative focused on promoting a whole-of-society approach in countering REMVE. The co-leads hosted two exploratory workshops to develop useful recommendations and operational guidance and introduced the final GCTF REMVE Toolkit at the Coordinating Committee in September.

International Exchanges on REMVE: In 2022, CT engaged current and emerging foreign leaders through the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), City Pair Program exchanges, and the Strong Cities Network (SCN), to counter all types of violent extremism, including REMVE. In April, the SCN held a REMVE dialogue between local U.S. and Nordic leaders such as mayors and police chiefs and other stakeholders in Helsinki, Finland. Representatives from Nordic countries then visited the United States in December for a follow-up dialogue hosted by Denver Mayor Michael Hancock and the University of Denver. In June, Savannah Mayor Van Johnson led a delegation of local policy makers and practitioners from Georgia to Germany as part of a City Pair Program with the cities of Halle and Rostock. In November, the SCN also organized a REMVE-focused workshop in Bratislava, Slovakia, for more than 100 local stakeholders from Central and Eastern Europe.

Other Engagements on REMVE: In September, the State Department played a key role in the White House’s United We Stand Summit, designed to counter the effects of hate-fueled violence on democracy and public safety. Also in September, CT participated in the Eradicate Hate Global Summit in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, recognized as the most comprehensive anti-hate conference in the world. The summit, born out of the Tree of Life synagogue attack in 2018, brought together hundreds of global experts and leaders to identify and implement effective solutions to prevent and counter REMVE. In September, CT also partnered with the IJ and GCTF to host an UNGA side event on countering REMVE. The side event highlighted how governments can leverage various criminal justice tools, in coordination with civil society organizations, to prevent and counter REMVE. In November, CT helped lead the Council of Europe’s (CoE) “International Conference on the Transnational Terrorist Threats from Emerging and Re-Emerging Violent Extremist Movements,” held in Strasbourg, France. In 2022, CT also partnered with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and CoE to address REMVE threats to soft targets and critical infrastructure, promoting the United States’ risk-based approach to building more secure and resilient infrastructure by engaging with government, industry, academia, international partners, and civil society. Additionally, the CT-supported, UAE-based Hedayah addressed the growth of REMVE narratives, publishing a series of reports and research articles on the rise of REMVE actors in key locales, such as Australia and Europe.

Using Sanctions Tools: In 2022, CT pursued designations against REMVE individuals and entities. In June, the Department of State designated Swedish citizen Anton Thulin as an SDGT. In 2016, Thulin traveled to St. Petersburg and received paramilitary training, including bomb-making, from the Russian Imperial Movement (RIM), an ultranationalist, white supremacist group based in Russia that was designated as an SDGT in April 2020. After serving prison time in connection with the detection of a powerful homemade bomb near a refugee residential center in Gothenburg, Sweden, Thulin sought additional paramilitary training in Poland, before he was expelled by Polish authorities who cited the “serious, real, and current threat to security and public order” that he posed. In coordination with Thulin’s designation, the Treasury Department designated two individuals with ties to RIM in June.

Building Capacity to Mitigate REMVE in the Balkans: In 2022, CT’s technical assistance for countering REMVE achieved notable results. CT-funded DOJ/OPDAT case-based mentoring helped prosecutors to reach a plea agreement in a REMVE case in Bosnia-Herzegovina in March. According to the initial indictment, the individual used social media to transmit hateful messages and incite violence against “Jews, migrants, Roma, Serbs, Croats, Blacks, libertarians, and the LGBTQ community.” The defendant pleaded guilty to one count of provoking ethnic, racial and religious hatred, discord, and intolerance pursuant to the country’s criminal code. In April, CT-funded DOJ/OPDAT trained more than 40 investigators and prosecutors from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Serbia to leverage social media evidence in prosecutions, including REMVE-related cases. In October, CT also participated in the Atlantic Initiative conference in Sarajevo with several European governments to discuss how law enforcement and criminal justice tools can be used to counter terrorist threats in the Balkans, including REMVE.



Acting CT Coordinator Chris Landberg speaks at an INTERPOL workshop on countering terrorist travel.

CHAPTER 4

Strengthening Border and Aviation Security

CT made significant progress to improve international counterterrorism information sharing, signing new arrangements with key partners, increasing implementation of existing arrangements, and contributing to international efforts that raised the global baseline for aviation, maritime, and border security.

Homeland Security Presidential Directive-6 (HSPD-6): CT and the Terrorist Screening Center (TSC) explored new and expanded HSPD-6 arrangements with foreign partners that enable the United States and these HSPD-6 partners to exchange terrorist screening information to identify known and suspected terrorists and thereby stop terrorist travel. These arrangements also improved compliance with UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2396, which includes international obligations for countries to collect and screen on such information to prevent terrorist travel and encourages them to improve internal and external information sharing.

Personal Identification Secure Comparison and Evaluation System (PISCES): As of the end of 2022, PISCES was deployed in 23 countries, providing real-time border security for partners across the globe. In 2022, CT completed 21 visits to foreign partners to conduct system updates, reduce the support backlog resulting from COVID-19 travel restrictions, and re-constituted the PISCES program at ports of entry in Yemen. Two countries – Colombia and Eswatini – signed a Memorandum of Intent (MOI) in 2022 to establish PISCES programs in their countries. Additionally, CT identified new opportunities to support partner nations using remote engineering and expanded the use of host nation and third country engineering teams to provide critical and timely technical support for systems in need.

Watchlisting Assistance and Support Program (WASP): In partnership with DOJ's International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (DOJ/ICITAP), CT's WASP helps foreign governments improve the identification, screening, tracking, and interdiction of known and suspected terrorists (KSTs) through creating or consolidating a national level watchlist enterprise. CT's watchlisting advisors worked with partner nations and prepared for expanding field-based work in 2023 to additional high-priority partners. In 2022, WASP advisors were active through a series of engagements in over ten countries. These engagements included establishing preliminary understandings of WASP with host governments, technical consults and assessments, and subject matter expert (SME)-led workshops.

Visa Waiver Program (VWP): CT supported outreach to all VWP member and aspirant countries regarding DHS's new Enhanced Border Security Partnership (EBSP) requirement for VWP membership. State and DHS also worked closely with partner governments to improve information sharing and strengthen law enforcement cooperation to prevent terrorist and other mala fide travelers from entering the United States. These efforts resulted in significant progress and ensured partner governments' ongoing participation in the VWP. Additionally, CT and DHS worked closely with

aspirant countries seeking to join the VWP. In July, Israel and the United States signed a Preventing and Combatting Serious Crimes (PCSC) agreement, a key step in Israel's aspiration to join the VWP.

UNSCR 2396 Obligations and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Standards: CT collaborated with U.S. interagency partners and multilateral bodies on watchlisting, information sharing, collection and use of biometric data, collection and use of Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) data, and other screening tools in furtherance of UNSCR 2396 obligations regarding the detection and prevention of terrorist travel and ICAO's PNR Standards and Recommended Practices. In partnership with DHS's Customs and Border Protection (DHS/CBP), CT further expanded the procurement and implementation of CBP's Automated Targeting System – Global (ATS-G) as a key tool to support countries' collection, use, and analysis of API/PNR data by procuring new equipment to deploy and/or funding training or Passenger Information Unit (PIU) study tours for Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Paraguay, Senegal, and Somalia. CT partnered with DHS and the DOJ/ICITAP to facilitate Greece's hosting of PIU study tours and workshops for several countries in the region, including a PIU study tour for members of Ukraine's State Border Guard Service. Further, in 2022, CT funded a CBP mentor to work with Brazil to help the Federal Police better analyze its PNR data using ATS-G.

Building Border Security Capacity: Through targeted foreign assistance, CT worked with partners overseas to improve an array of critical border security capabilities that will help prevent terrorist transit across international borders and protect the U.S. homeland.

- ➔ **INTERPOL:** CT partnered with INTERPOL Washington, the U.S. National Central Bureau, U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ/USNCB), and the INTERPOL General Secretariat (IPSG) to extend access to INTERPOL's criminal police databases to member countries and enhance their ability to share information through INTERPOL channels, such as stolen and lost travel document (SLTD) records. CT support also enabled training on the use of INTERPOL tools and databases and supported the modernization of INTERPOL National Central Bureaus. In 2022, CT enabled INTERPOL-related assistance in Indonesia, Iraq, the Kyrgyz Republic, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Somalia. As of 2022, CT integrated INTERPOL's I-24/7 network with PISCES in 11 countries to improve information sharing and help meet their UNSCR 2178 and 2396 obligations to constrain terrorist travel worldwide.
- ➔ **Central Asia:** In coordination with DoD and State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, as well as with the UK and other international partners, and with implementation by ATA and DOJ/ICITAP, CT helped Tajikistan better secure high-risk areas of its 843-mile border with Afghanistan. In 2022, ATA led multiple border-focused trainings and provision of equipment to law enforcement partners augmenting security along the Tajik-Afghan border. This included training on, and delivery of, several tactical unmanned aerial systems (UAS). In December, a CT-funded DOJ/ICITAP Law Enforcement Attaché deployed to Dushanbe to advance border security and investigations assistance. Similarly, in June, accompanied by officials from the Uzbek Border Guards, National Guard, and Customs, a CT-led interagency team traveled along the Uzbek-Afghan and Uzbek-Tajik borders. The team visited five border crossing points and two international airports, informing the final design of specific security assistance plans to further reinforce Uzbekistan's airports and its 89-mile border with Afghanistan.
- ➔ **West Africa:** In June 2022, at CT's direction, ATA conducted the second West African Joint Exercise (WAJO II), near Dakar, Senegal, with tactical police officers participating from Mali, Niger, and Senegal. The 10-day training event focused on cross-border cooperation among personnel responsible for border security. ISIS affiliates increasingly cross West African borders in the Sahel region and have coordinated numerous internal and cross-border attacks in Mali and Niger. CT and ATA are supporting Senegal in strengthening its border security, particularly along its 304-mile border with Mali. ATA also has continued to implement strong border training programs in Niger and a counterterrorism training relationship with Mali.

- ➔ **Western Balkans:** In 2022, CT partnered with the Hellenic Passenger Information Unit in Greece to sponsor study tours, trainings, and ongoing mentorship with regional Western Balkan PIUs to share best practices in information sharing and border security. Greece remained a strong partner in implementing key border programs, such as ATS-G and remains seen as a regional mentor and partner in the Western Balkans.

Strengthening Aviation Security Capacity: In collaboration with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), ATA, DOJ/ICITAP and private sector partners, CT raised the aviation security baseline at select airports around the world, with emphasis on last point of departure (LPD) airports that operate direct flights to the United States. These programs promote a safe and secure global aviation ecosystem that keeps the traveling public safe; preserves the freedom of operations for legitimate pursuits; counters threats to civil passenger and cargo aviation; and constrains terrorist travel.

- ➔ **Global Aviation Security:** In 2022, through a CT-funded global aviation security program designed to enhance capacity and equipment at LPDs, TSA teams conducted site surveys at Murtala Muhammed International Airport in Lagos, Nigeria, in January; Viracopos International Airport in Campinas, São Paulo State, Brazil, in March; and Lomé-Tokoin International Airport in Lomé, Togo, in April. TSA reviewed current checkpoint configuration, infrastructure requirements, standard operating procedures, and passenger volumes, and recommended tailored approaches to design, integrate, operate, and maintain advanced screening technologies. TSA teams consulted with their counterparts to identify equipment and training needs and to make recommendations for further securing areas used for direct flights to and from the United States.
- ➔ **Kenya:** In February, CT's long-standing partnership with Kenya reached a milestone with the installation and training of computed tomography technology at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) for its direct flight to John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City. As a result, Kenya Airport Authority now operates one of the most technologically advanced gate screening checkpoints in the world. CT's strategic investments in strengthening security at JKIA helped it attain LPD status in 2018 and, following an assessment in 2022, TSA reported that it had achieved full compliance with ICAO and TSA standards.
- ➔ **West Africa:** In May and June 2022, CT and ATA provided five weeks of airport security training in Dakar, Senegal, for 24 aviation security professionals from eight West African nations with an emphasis on TSA-designated LPD airports authorized for direct flights to the United States. The training was attended by airport representatives from Cabo Verde, Cote D'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, and Togo. The instruction reflected TSA and ICAO standards and included train-the-trainer components, enabling participants to conduct their own aviation security training in their home countries.



Officials from nine West African nations participate in an aviation security training in Dakar.

- ➔ **Libya:** With CT support, Libya made substantial strides in its path toward meeting ICAO standards. From robust interagency coordination to the implementation of its National Civil Aviation Security Plan, Libya improved its training, operating, and security procedures at nine domestic airports, including Sabha in the south. Notably, in 2022, Libyan aviation officials demonstrated increased capacity to train their staff; assess, inspect, audit, and secure their airports; and procure, operate, and maintain selected screening technologies. In May, for the first time in eight years, EgyptAir resumed direct flights between Benghazi and Cairo. In August, EgyptAir resumed flights between Mitiga and Cairo, and, in September, Medsky Airways re-opened routes between Misrata and Malta for the first time in ten years.
- ➔ **Philippines:** Through dedicated support from CT, TSA focused on strengthening security at Manila’s Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA). During a site visit in April, TSA observed the use of advanced imaging technology (AIT) and explosives trace detector (ETD) scanners, procured with CT funds, in terminals that service direct and secondary flights to the United States. In October, a TSA technical team visited NAIA to perform a follow-on monitoring report to validate future CT-funded program plans. TSA continues to work with the Government of the Philippines, NAIA officials, and interagency partners to ensure that effective security measures are maintained at NAIA.

CHAPTER 5

Improving Counterterrorism Capacity

In 2022, CT focused heavily on increasing the professionalism and capacity of partner nations to identify, deter, prevent, disrupt, apprehend, investigate, prosecute, and convict terrorists and their supporters. Here are some selected highlights:

- ➔ **Bangladesh:** Drawing on extensive training and equipment from ATA, Bangladeshi bomb disposal units (BDU) dismantled multiple improvised explosive devices (IEDs). In November, recent ATA graduates with Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) BDU responded to an IED found at a local college. RMP BDU safely detonated the improvised hand grenade using ATA equipment and training techniques. Following the successful detonation of the device, the team conducted a post-blast analysis, applying skills from their recent CT-funded post-blast investigations course. The scene and evidence were turned over to the RMP Detective Branch for further investigation.
- ➔ **Jordan:** In February, King Abdullah visited the Public Security Directorate’s Forensic Laboratories Department funded by CT. King Abdullah highlighted the importance of using the latest technologies in delivering justice and commended efforts to date. In December, the lab leveraged CT-provided training, advice, and equipment to support the successful investigation and interdiction of a group of suspected terrorists.
- ➔ **Paraguay:** With CT funds, DOJ/OPDAT-mentored Paraguayan prosecutors yielded several significant successes. In June, two OPDAT-mentored prosecutors from the country’s Corruption, Money Laundering, and Counter Terrorism Finance Unit convicted the former national police commander on corruption charges of illicit enrichment. CT-funded DOJ/OPDAT also provided intensive case-based mentoring to a Paraguayan prosecutor on a related case involving charges of contraband smuggling in the TBA. In November, members of this same unit successfully prosecuted three high-profile cases of corruption, resulting in convictions of the former Minister and Vice-Minister of Agriculture, the former mayor of Lambaré, and two former Anti-Narcotics Ministers. While these specific cases were not directly tied to terrorism, these prosecutorial successes demonstrated bolstered capacity, which they are also applying to terrorist financing cases that frequently involve significant corruption.
- ➔ **Senegal:** In October, with CT support, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducted a crisis simulation exercise in Saraya to promote a whole-of-society approach between government officials and community stakeholders



Kenyan law enforcement officials participate in a workshop focused on countering improvised explosive devices.

in countering terrorism. The training included the Senegalese Border Police, firefighters, the National School of Administration, the Inter-Ministerial Counterterrorism Prevention & Response and Coordination Task Force, and the Emergency Health Operations Center – as well as the local community, the Red Cross, women’s associations, and community radio stations. Participants engaged in crisis simulations, emphasized the importance of their respective roles in countering terrorism, and committed to promoting more community engagement and awareness to improve coordination and collaboration.

- ➔ **Somalia:** Somali law enforcement had numerous tactical successes in countering al-Shabaab, applying CT-funded capacity building expertise across a wide range of counterterrorism activities and operations. With technical assistance from DOJ/ICITAP, the FBI, and other implementing partners, CT-funded Somali Police Force (SPF) units successfully disrupted and neutralized IED threats; processed evidence for further forensic investigations; identified explosives materials and corroborating evidence; interdicted and arrested dozens of KSTs; interviewed and interrogated suspects; and responded to and investigated dozens of terrorist attacks. In 2022, SPF investigators developed sufficient evidence and referred cases to prosecutors who charged defendants with terrorist activity and secured multiple convictions throughout the year. CT’s technical assistance in Somalia expanded to key regions of the country facing acute terrorism challenges. CT-funded programs also strengthened Somalia’s institutional, investigative, and prosecutorial capacity against terrorist financing.
- ➔ **Tunisia:** With training from the FBI, ATA, and DOJ/ICITAP, CT-trained security forces took active measures to counter terrorist activity in Tunisia. In December, Tunisia’s National Guard disrupted a terrorist plot targeting a security patrol and a religious establishment in the governorate of Sfax. The counterterrorism operation resulted from an investigation led by the Public Prosecutor’s Counterterrorism Unit and led to the arrest of one suspect who admitted his affiliation with terrorist organizations.
- ➔ **Cyber:** CT sponsored several notable cyber-related capacity building projects in 2022 that strengthened counterterrorism law enforcement investigations and operations. In January, with CT funds, ATA delivered a five-day cyber consultation to 12 members of the Sylhet Metropolitan Police Counter Terrorism Cyber Unit in Bangladesh, a newly formed unit capable of identifying, collecting, and preserving digital evidence during an investigation. In February, ATA cyber mentors worked with the Sylheti cyber units and other cyber units to establish satellite labs in the country. In February, CT-funded ATA delivered a course on terrorist use of technology for 13 Kyrgyz law enforcement and security officers, who developed an organizational plan to conduct cyber security investigations. In August, with CT funds, TSA held a regional training event in Singapore on the “Foundations of Aviation Cybersecurity Leadership and Technical Management.” Instruction focused on potential terrorist attempts to gain control of an aircrafts’ avionics system via a remote device, with participants from the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia all successfully passing the final exam.
- ➔ **Explosive Ordnance Disposal:** CT sponsored explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) units that were trained, equipped, and mentored by ATA. These units conducted notable operations in Bangladesh (described above), Kenya, the

Philippines, and Thailand. In Kenya, al-Shabaab makes frequent use of IEDs targeting residents and government officials in border areas; in addition, Kenyan farmers often uncover decades-old, unexploded ordnance from colonial-era military operations. In the Philippines, the Philippine National Police successfully responded to and investigated several bus bombings in the southern Mindanao region; numerous live devices were rendered safe, and evidence was collected to accurately identify terrorist suspects. Philippine EOD teams also helped secure sites for the November 2022 visit by Vice President Kamala Harris. In Thailand, EOD units responded to several deadly bombings to render the sites safe. Highlighting the danger of such operations, an EOD team in April responded to a blast in the southern province of Pattani that killed a local fisherman. EOD technicians discovered a second explosive device and began to render the device safe when it was remotely triggered, seriously wounding one of the EOD officers. In 2022, CT and ATA granted an increasing number of specialized EOD robots to help lessen the risk for officers responding to bombing sites.

- ➔ **Women, Peace, and Security:** In 2022, CT and DOJ/ICITAP's Engaging Multinational Policewomen on Equality and Rights (EMPoWER) program supported women as they take on challenging roles, including senior leadership positions, in counterterrorism law enforcement efforts. In March, DOJ/ICITAP held its first regional symposium in Croatia. The week-long event included notable female leaders in law enforcement who shared their own experiences while simultaneously providing leadership training. In June, with support from several U.S., UK, and Kenyan partners, approximately 70 security and law enforcement professionals from eight countries attended EMPoWER's second symposium in Nairobi, Kenya, co-organized by ATA and focusing on Sub-Saharan Africa.
- ➔ **International Executive Program (IEP):** With CT support, the IEP promoted international coordination and collaboration between the FBI and partner nations' law enforcement partners to combat terrorism and transnational organized crime threats. In 2022, the IEP convened mid to high-level executive delegates from key partner nations to develop trust and common objectives to counter terrorist and related transnational threats regionally.
- ➔ **West Africa:** A week-long IEP session in March in Niamey, Niger, brought together law enforcement officials from Niger, Mali, Mauritania, and Senegal. The Deputy Director of the FBI discussed with participants the importance of trust, a shared vision, and common goals for countering terrorism and related criminality. In October, an IEP session



CT and DOJ co-host the first ever regional EMPoWER symposium in Croatia in March.



Takij border guards and Ministry of Internal Affairs officers receive crisis response and tactical trainings.

in Dakar, Senegal, explored innovative solutions to local and regional counterterrorism challenges. Additionally, senior-level officials from the Senegalese Customs Agency and Gendarmerie led seminars for fellow IEP participants.

➔ **Western Hemisphere:** The FBI brought together IEP alumni from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru for a June conference in Washington, D.C. Senior officials from CT, the FBI, and Paraguay's Assistant Attorney General for the Specialized Unit for Economic Crimes delivered remarks at the event, which included a visit to Quantico. In October, the FBI met with IEP partners in Lima, Peru, and in January the IEP met in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Participants from last year's IEP were part of the training team and provided presentations on the Financial Action Task Force and cyber crimes with a presentation and tabletop exercise conducted by the Naval Postgraduate School that focused on anti-money laundering/countering the financing of terrorism.

CHAPTER 6

Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism

CT led efforts to counter violent extremism, aiming to reduce the ability of terrorists and violent extremists to radicalize, recruit, and mobilize to violence, as well as inspire acts of violence. CT partnered with local and national government officials, international organizations, community leaders, religious figures, and other local stakeholders who have the standing and credibility to partner in countering violent extremism. CT also represented the State Department and the U.S. Government on the board of CVE-focused multilateral GCTF-inspired institutions, such as Hedayah and GCERF.

Countering Terrorist Use of the Internet: In 2022, CT engaged with foreign partners bilaterally and through multilateral organizations, including the United Nations, to prevent and counter the use of the internet for terrorist purposes, while promoting respect for human rights, such as freedom of expression, and promoting the free flow of information. CT also engaged with technology companies and non-governmental organizations to improve information sharing and to encourage them to voluntarily enhance and enforce their terms of service to prohibit terrorism and violent extremism on their platforms. Notable efforts include:

➔ **Christchurch Call to Action:** In 2022, the United States supported the Christchurch Call to Action to Eliminate Terrorist and Violent Extremist Content Online (CCTA), an international partnership between governments, private sector technology companies, and civil society organizations to address terrorism and violent extremist content online. Under this framework, CT and other stakeholders developed new multilateral solutions to address terrorist and violent extremist content online in response to the live-streamed 2019 REMVE attacks in Christchurch, New Zealand. In October, CT supported U.S. participation in the 2022 CCTA Leaders' Summit, closely coordinating with the White House and interagency partners to engage with governments, tech companies, and civil society in the forum's workstreams to better ensure that online platforms are not exploited for terrorist or violent extremist purposes, while

respecting our commitments to human rights such as freedom of expression and an open, interoperable, secure, and reliable internet. CT also worked with State's Office of Global Women's Issues and other State Department bureaus and offices, the White House, and CCTA leadership to emphasize the importance of addressing gender-based violence and violent extremism in the Leaders' Communique, which is now a new CCTA priority and workstream.

➔ **Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT):** In July, CT, along with the White House and interagency partners, participated in the GIFCT Global Summit, held in Silicon Valley, and engaged with several technology companies to improve how counterterrorism and CVE issues are addressed. GIFCT partners, and CT works closely, with the NGO Tech Against Terrorism, which focuses on assisting smaller tech companies. CT also represented the United States in important GIFCT working groups in 2022. The GIFCT Working Group on Technical Approaches: Tooling, Algorithms & Artificial Intelligence, which produced plans for a pilot project to better understand the impact of recommender algorithms; and the GIFCT Working Group on Red Teaming: Assessing Threat and Safety by Design. CT also participated with DHS in the GIFCT Working Group on Blue Teaming: Alternative Platforms for Positive Intervention.

➔ **Invent 2 Prevent (I2P):** CT supported the participation of French and UK universities in the "I2P: Countering Hate and Intolerance" program, which empowers university students to design and launch messaging campaigns against violent extremist narratives on their campuses and in their communities. Five teams gathered in Paris, in September, to present the results of their campaigns, including two teams that focused on countering narratives by so-called "incel" violent extremists. This program promotes digital and media literacy and several alumni have received grants to sustain their work.

Support for International CVE Platforms: CT supported international CVE efforts through platforms and initiatives for local CVE programming in targeted localities. These efforts were supported by substantial funding from international donors and delivered real results that equipped government, civil society, and community leaders to identify, prevent, and address terrorist radicalization and recruitment.

➔ **Hedayah:** In 2022, CT directly supported Hedayah's CVE work in Tunisia and Tajikistan. Notable accomplishments included training religious leaders on violent extremist counter-messaging and developing a youth "tech hub" focused on strategic messaging called "Tech2Protect." In May, CT participated in Hedayah's annual research conference in Granada, Spain, which showcased the latest cutting-edge research on CVE, including returning FTF family members and countering REMVE. In September, on the margins of the UN General Assembly High-Level



Tunisian officials discuss best practices to repatriate, rehabilitate, and reintegrate FTFs and their family members.

week, Hedayah hosted an event on Rehabilitation and Reintegration (R&R) to urge countries to repatriate their citizens from al-Hol and Roj displaced persons camps in northeast Syria. In October, Hedayah showcased their CVE efforts in Tunisia by hosting workshops highlighting their work on R&R, strategic messaging, and religious leader training. Hedayah continues to attract international donor funding, with annual pledges of support from Australia, Japan, Spain, United Arab Emirates, UK, the United States, and the EU.

- ➔ **Global Community Engagement Resilience Fund (GCERF):** In 2022, CT continued its leadership role as a founding GCERF board member, funding and supporting GCERF’s mission, as well as encouraging increased commitments from donor partners to advance GCERF’s grassroots community engagement CVE efforts. In October, GCERF launched its Replenishment Campaign, led by former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, and co-chaired by the President of Switzerland and the President of Niger. Through this campaign, GCERF raised more than \$75 million to provide alternatives for millions of people directly at risk of radicalization and recruitment to violence, and to build a safety net among 10 million other people in their communities. Since its inception, GCERF has expanded its work to more than 20 countries and has raised more than \$160 million from 18 government partners.
- ➔ **Strong Cities Network (SCN):** The SCN grew to more than 160 cities around the world, with 10 new members in 2022. This included the Slovak cities of Bratislava and Zilina in April, which became the first SCN members from Central Europe. The network also launched a Western Balkans Regional Hub in November, which aims to engage more municipalities in the region on CVE efforts within their respective communities. With support from CT and other governments, the network also conducted training programs in Indonesia, the Maldives, and other countries in South and Southeast Asia. Also in November, the SCN held a mayoral dialogue in The Hague for more than 100 local leaders from Europe and the United States. At this event, a mayoral compact against hate was unveiled, which has been endorsed by more than 40 cities and which outlines measures that signatories will take to counter hate-motivated violence and promote social cohesion in their cities.

Countering Violent Extremism Programs: CT supports a range of global CVE programming that supports work with communities at risk of terrorist recruitment and radicalization and promotes the rehabilitation and reintegration of former terrorists and their family members back into community life. Highlights include:

- ➔ **Paraguay:** In May, a DOJ/OPDAT-mentored prosecutor foiled a potential Uvalde-style copycat school shooting in Paraguay. Acting on a lead from the FBI about Instagram postings from a Paraguay-based individual who expressed support for the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, Paraguayan officials quickly located the suspect – a minor – and placed that individual under the care of mental health experts.
- ➔ **Saudi Arabia:** In January, with CT program support, the Government of Saudi Arabia approved the launch of a virtual teacher training course to integrate good CVE practices into their texts and classrooms, including how to prepare students to resist violent extremist messaging. Training participants included teachers, teacher trainers, Ministry of Education personnel, and other relevant stakeholders working on curriculum development and student counseling. The initial training consisted of 21 participants, with a high number of women participating.
- ➔ **Somalia:** The CT-funded Counter al-Shabaab Communications and Messaging Project strengthens the capacity of the Federal Government of Somalia to counter al-Shabaab propaganda by delivering a joint communications campaign designed to reduce AS’ recruitment activities, encourage defections, and undermine AS’ morale. Over 1,061 defectors have entered official FGS rehabilitation since the project began, representing an average increase in the defection rate of 335% compared to the year before project initiation. Calls to the Defector Rehabilitation Programme’s defection hotline, an integral aspect of this project, saw the sharpest increase to date in 2022, indicating this effort continues to expand its impact.



Deputy Coordinator Greg LoGerfo meets with government representatives, UN officials, and civil society actors in New York.

CHAPTER 7

Leveraging Multilateral Institutions

CT worked with multilateral institutions to advance priority counterterrorism issues and initiatives, including preventing/countering terrorist travel, rehabilitation and reintegration of FTFs and associated family members, use of battlefield evidence, and addressing REMVE. CT increased international and multilateral engagement in global and regional counterterrorism initiatives and urged like-minded partners to enhance their burden-sharing efforts through financial and in-kind contributions to the international fight against terrorism.

United Nations: The United States sustained strategic engagement with the UN on counterterrorism, ensuring that international counterterrorism norms demonstrate respect for the rule of law and international law, including human rights obligations. Undersecretary for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland represented the United States in the Security Council in December, calling on Member States to do more to ensure that terrorism sanctions are not obstructed and to warn states against using counterterrorism operations as a pretext for violating the human rights of their citizens. The Assistant to the President for Homeland Security also delivered remarks to the Security Council in November, drawing the Council's attention to the growing terrorism threats in Africa and calling on Member States to work more collaboratively to counter the metastasizing threats. Notably, the Acting CT Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator for Terrorism Prevention and Detention delivered remarks during UNGA High Level Week on FTF repatriation; preventing and countering violent extremism; REMVE; counterterrorism efforts in Africa; and participated in side-events on countering the use of the internet for terrorist purposes. In 2022, CT also provided more than \$16.8 million in FY 2021 foreign assistance funding to support an array of UN counterterrorism capacity building efforts implemented by members of the UN's Global Counterterrorism Compact. The United States additionally co-drafted UNSCR 2664 with Ireland, which significantly reformed UN targeted sanctions by providing exceptions for humanitarian activities across sanctions regimes. The adoption of this resolution represented a historic step to easing the delivery of food, medicine, and humanitarian aid, while upholding robust sanctions that counter terrorism and other threats to international security.

➔ **UN Terrorism Sanctions Regimes:** CT supported the negotiation of several important UNSCRs that strengthened sanctions efforts, including UNSCR 2665, which renewed the mandate of the 1988 Sanctions Regime's Monitoring Team and UNSCR 2662, which renewed the newly named Al-Shabaab Sanctions Regime. In 2022, the United States supported the listing of an entity, Katibat al Tawhid wal Jihad (KTJ), by the Security Council's 1267/1989/2253 ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee. The addition of KTJ to the 1267 sanctions list brings the total number of ISIS affiliates listed at the UN since 2019 to nine. The United States also supported the work of the Committee to ensure the integrity of the sanctions list by conducting regular reviews and by endeavoring to remove those individuals and entities that no longer meet the criteria for listing. Eleven individuals and entities were de-listed, and eight were amended during the year, supporting the UN 1267 Committee's priority to ensure due process and accurate listings.

- ➔ **UN Counter-terrorism Committee (CTC) Executive Directorate:** In 2022, the CTC held a plenary meeting in New Delhi and issued a declaration on emerging issues, specifically focused on countering the use of internet, virtual assets, and unmanned aerial systems for terrorist purposes. CT and the Bureau of International Organization Affairs (IO) led the effort to ensure that the declaration and the related Presidential Statement of the Security Council adopted in December reaffirmed that Member States must comply with obligations under international law and underscored the importance of whole-of-society approaches that reflect the views of civil society when addressing these emerging challenges.
- ➔ **United Nations Office of Counterterrorism (UNOCT):** CT worked with the Department's Bureau of International Organization Affairs and the U.S. Mission to the UN to report on U.S. implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS). In February, CT provided USG expert speakers for the launch of UNOCT's UN Global Program on the Protection of Vulnerable Targets, which supports Member States' enhancement of capacities to prevent and counter threats against major sports events, religious sites and places of worship, urban centers and tourist venues, and threats associated with unmanned aerial systems. In May, CT also participated in the UNOCT High-Level International Conference on Human Rights, Civil Society, and Counterterrorism in Malaga, Spain. In October, the High-Level Conference on International and Regional Border Security and Management Cooperation to Counter Terrorism and Prevent the Movement of Terrorists met in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, where participants discussed the border security challenges and needs of Central Asian States; identified current trends, threats, and risks in border management; shared experiences; and outlined avenues for improvements.
- ➔ **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC):** The United States participated in consultations to inform the UNODC's New Global Program on Preventing and Countering Terrorism. In July, CT participated in the event that launched the UNODC Manual on Prevention of and Responses to Terrorist Attacks on the Basis of Xenophobia, Racism and Other Forms of Intolerance, or in the Name of Religion or Belief (XRIRB). In 2022, CT also supported UNODC efforts to bolster the capacity of partner nations to expeditiously obtain and coordinate the sharing and use of electronic evidence in terrorism investigations and prosecutions.

Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF): Celebrating eleven years of accomplishments, the GCTF held the first in-person Coordinating Committee and Ministerial since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The GCTF is a multilateral platform built to strengthen civilian-led counterterrorism cooperation to which CT contributed \$1.5 million in U.S. foreign assistance in 2022. The GCTF strengthened international counterterrorism by mobilizing partners and resources and developing useful tools, including more than 40 GCTF framework documents that outline good practices and action plans to assist countries and practitioners with their counterterrorism efforts. The GCTF has proven to be a nimble, apolitical engine in the development of international norms and standards, and also supporting implementation of UN counterterrorism commitments and obligations. Notable efforts where CT held a leadership role in 2022 included: s.

- ➔ **Maritime Security and Countering Terrorist Travel Initiative:** Under CT's leadership, the United States led a GCTF maritime security initiative under the auspices of the GCTF's FTF Working Group with Jordan. This initiative included two thematic and one Africa-specific virtual workshops, raising awareness of terrorists' current and potential misuse of the maritime sector for travel, promoting discussion of national approaches to counter terrorists' exploitation of the maritime sector, and sharing local, national, regional, and international experiences and expertise. These workshops raised awareness of the addendum to the New York Memorandum on Good Practices for Interdicting Terrorist Travel

(New York Memorandum), which provides additional recommended practices for government and private sector partners to address and prevent potential terrorist misuse of the maritime sector.

- ➔ **Counterterrorism Watchlisting Toolkit Implementation:** To promote implementation of the 2021 GCTF Counterterrorism Watchlisting Toolkit – developed by initiative co-leads the United States and UNOCT – CT hosted two workshops promoting the practical use of the Toolkit in combination with the maritime security initiative. The Toolkit offers nineteen recommendations for developing country-specific procedures and practices related to developing national level watchlists for preventing KST travel. CT also hosted a regional workshop for partners in the Western Balkans on this toolkit.
- ➔ **Returning Families of FTF Initiative:** CT supported the Returning Families of FTF Initiative with co-lead Jordan under the GCTF FTF Working Group. The Working Group held two virtual workshops to address the GCTF Good Practices on Addressing the Challenge of Returning Families of Foreign Terrorist Fighters: one in June focusing on Northern Africa, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East; and another in October addressing Central Asia. Each workshop focused on raising awareness among affected partner nations and communities to address the challenge of returning families of FTFs, while strengthening the capacity of local communities and stakeholders to better understand, support, and operationalize relevant GCTF good practices and interventions.
- ➔ **Gender and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) Initiative:** At the Coordinating Committee and Ministerial in New York City in September, GCTF Member representatives supported the launch of the Gender and P/CVE Policy Toolkit. Additionally, the United States contributed feedback and subject matter expertise during consultations with a forthcoming Gender and Identity Factors Platform for Countering Violent Extremism and Counterterrorism that is co-sponsored by Canada and UNODC.
- ➔ **Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (C-UAS) Initiative:** In September, the United States and the UK introduced a new initiative at the Coordinating Committee meeting in New York to operationalize the Berlin Memorandum on Good Practices for Countering Terrorist Use of Unmanned Aerial Systems. This new initiative is aimed to increase cooperation among governments and the private sector to share information and promote international community efforts to counter UAS and through whole-of-government efforts to protect against terrorist misuse of UAS.

International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IJJ): CT's partnership with the IJJ over the past nine years has raised the level of substantive counterterrorism capacity globally, reinforcing U.S. norms and approaches. Through U.S. leadership, the IJJ has developed into a premier international hub for criminal justice capacity development, training over 8500 practitioners from around the world. In 2022, non-U.S. donors contributed a record amount of over \$4.2 million to the IJJ, including France, Germany, Kuwait, the United Kingdom, and the European Union. Just through U.S. funding, the IJJ trained over 450 criminal justice practitioners in 2022 on critical issues such as REMVE, battlefield evidence, counterterrorism prosecutions, mutual legal assistance, and juvenile justice. Notable highlights included:

- ➔ In September, CT partnered with the IJJ to convene a dialogue regarding battlefield evidence from Afghanistan. The event brought together 50 military, law enforcement, and criminal justice practitioners and policymakers from the United States, the European Union, and select countries to discuss practical steps for successfully sharing and using battlefield evidence to enhance border security and support criminal justice proceedings and international accountability efforts.



Acting Principal Deputy Coordinator Hillary Batjer Johnson participates in an IIJ battlefield evidence workshop.

- ➔ In September, CT and the IIJ co-hosted a conference on the importance of repatriations to international counterterrorism efforts. More than a dozen countries and non-governmental organizations across Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and the Americas shared best practices and lessons learned to advance safe, structured, and secure repatriation efforts.
- ➔ Finally, in November, the United States and other members of the IIJ's Governing Board of Administrators appointed a new Executive Secretary, who brings a wealth of experience, such as previously serving as the Director for Global Criminal Justice and Multilateral Affairs at the United States' National Security Council, the chief legal advisor to the NATO Secretary General, and as Counselor for Legal Affairs at the United States Mission to the United Nations in New York.

G7 Roma Lyon Group (RLG): CT co-led the U.S. delegation to the first in-person meetings of the G7 RLG Heads of Delegation (HoD) since 2019. CT successfully encouraged Germany in its capacity as Chair to maintain the group's dialogue on issues such as REMVE and the situation in Afghanistan, and to address emerging threats such as voluntary foreign fighters in and out of Ukraine, the use of UAS for terrorist purposes, and the trafficking of small arms and light weapons in the context of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. CT also continued its advocacy for a greater emphasis on counterterrorism-related issues to balance that of the group's focus on transnational crime.

NATO: CT maintained robust efforts to support implementation of the NATO Counterterrorism Action Plan. With CT's support, NATO brought together its own experts to meet with those from various UN offices, INTERPOL, the EU, the Council of Europe, and the IIJ focusing on civilian-military cooperation and communication in support of the collection and use of battlefield evidence. At the NATO Center of Excellence for Stability Policing in Vicenza, Italy, NATO conducted three iterations of institutional-level battlefield evidence training for participants from Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Tunisia, and the UAE. Together with the DOJ and DoD, CT worked closely with NATO Allies at multiple meetings of the NATO Battlefield Evidence Working Group following the 2020 approval of the first-ever NATO policy on battlefield evidence. In July, CT participated in a CVE-focused meeting to exchange lessons learned and develop ways to strengthen NATO and national resilience to monitor, prevent, and counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism. CT also contributed to ongoing NATO Resilience Committee efforts to strengthen national and collective resilience and civil preparedness against military and non-military threats.

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE): CT underscored U.S. commitment to counterterrorism efforts that conform to international law, including human rights law, and support whole-of-society approaches at several OSCE counterterrorism conferences in 2022. In March, the OSCE, UNOCT, and the Government of Uzbekistan hosted the "High-level Conference on Regional Cooperation among Central Asian States within the Framework of the Joint Plan of Action for the Implementation of the UN GCTS." In October, the OSCE, UNOCT, UNRCCA, Tajikistan, the EU, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar hosted the "International and Regional Border Security and Management Cooperation to Counter Terrorism and Prevent the Movement of Terrorism" conference. During the sixth annual OSCE-UNOCT Seminar on Passenger Data Exchange in October, the United States urged all OSCE participating States to establish robust PNR systems based on ICAO standards



Acting CT Coordinator Chris Landberg and Deputy Coordinator Greg LoGerfo meet with EU officials in December.

and recommended practices. The United States underscored the UN's Counter Terrorist Travel Programme as an effective tool and resource to ensure a country's legislative measures are in line with international human rights law.

Council of Europe (CoE): With significant U.S. advocacy, the CoE Counterterrorism Committee passed the Battlefield Evidence Legal Recommendations in November. The CoE leveraged the Recommendations by developing good practices to advance effective prosecution and accountability efforts for terrorists and other criminals.

Organization of American States Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (OAS/CICTE): In September, Secretary Blinken led the U.S. delegation to a Meeting of Consultation of States Parties to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism. The Convention, adopted shortly after 9/11, was one of the first efforts to combat terrorism in a systematic, strategic way. At the meeting, States endorsed a declaration and recommendations intended to enhance coordination and information sharing, support capacity building, and increase resilience and preparedness. In June, CT also participated in an OAS/CICTE-organized event to commemorate as the Inter-American Day Against Terrorism and a virtual training course for OAS member states, "Introduction to the Prevention of Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism."

ASEAN and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF): CT concluded a series of regional workshops co-hosted by Australia and the Philippines for Southeast Asian partners in Manila in May 2022 on best practices for aviation security, information sharing, and watchlisting to counter terrorist travel in line with UNSCR 2396 obligations.

Bilateral and Multilateral CT Dialogues: In 2022, CT continued to lead the U.S. government's efforts to build international counterterrorism partnerships through participation in high-level strategic bilateral dialogues. These included:

- ♦ Egypt
- ♦ India
- ♦ Indonesia
- ♦ Iraq
- ♦ Greece
- ♦ Kuwait

- ♦ Tajikistan
- ♦ Uzbekistan
- ♦ Trilateral (with Australia and Japan)
- ♦ Quad (with Australia, India, and Japan)

CHAPTER 8

Addressing Emerging & Receding Terrorism Threats

CT coordinated with the interagency and foreign partners to address emerging terrorism threats, particularly countering terrorist use of UAS, IEDs, and weapons of mass destruction. CT also led efforts to address receding terrorism threats, including the State Department's statutorily required review of Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) designations every five years to determine whether the circumstances that were the basis of the designation have changed in such a manner as to warrant a revocation.

Countering Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-UAS): In 2022, CT worked with colleagues from the U.K. Embassy to create the DC-based Five Eyes (FVEY) C-UAS Policy Forum with representatives from the Embassies of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand. Allied nations shared best practices and lessons learned to increase safety and security around critical infrastructure, transportation, and other potential terrorist targets. CT also led the Department's efforts under the Indo-Pacific Counterterrorism Quadrilateral (Quad) Working Group with Australia, India, and Japan to discuss best practices in countering UAS. The United States and its Quad partners committed to developing regular policy and technical forums to share information and establish a framework to "export" C-UAS best practices to priority partner nations across Asia.

Countering Improvised Terrorist Threats: In October, CT participated in an Indo-Pacific Quadrilateral Counterterrorism Tabletop Exercise in Sydney, Australia, to share best practices for countering established or emerging threats such as terrorist use of improvised chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive materials and weapons of mass destruction. The United States, Australia, India, and Japan exercised scenarios involving a terrorist assault on a large-scale venue with hostages; the use of drones to "livestream" the event; and a threat scenario involving use of an improvised chemical device. This forum allowed partners to discuss domestic and international counterterrorism challenges related to improvised terrorist threats.

Cooperative Counterterrorism Research and Development (R&D): CT and DoD co-chaired semi-annual meetings with allies and partners engaged in CT R&D under bilateral cooperative agreements with the UK, Canada, Australia, Israel, and Singapore. During the meetings with each nation, CT reviewed the progress of over 170 ongoing R&D projects jointly funded to produce new technologies and capabilities for counterterrorism practitioners, especially to benefit first responders and special operations forces. CT also contributed subject matter expert reviewers and evaluators for the annual DoD Irregular Warfare Technical Support Directorate business cycle. Under this annual process, interagency and international partners proposed and evaluated new projects to address technical requirements and capability gaps for the operational counterterrorism community.

Crisis Response Partnerships: CT assisted the Consulate General in Hamilton, Bermuda with reinforcing the United States' and UK's close security cooperation by completing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that enables the United States to assist Bermuda in a crisis quickly. The MOU provides a framework for cooperation in the event of a security threat or serious risk to public health or safety in Bermuda. Through this MOU, the UK, in consultation with the Government of Bermuda, may request emergency U.S. assistance, including security support, crisis response communication, and technical capabilities.

Mandatory Review of FTO Designations: In 2022, the Department of State reviewed and maintained the FTO designations of AQ, AQAP, the Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and Hamas. Additionally, as part of the statutorily required five-year review of all FTO designations, the Department revoked the FTO designations of Basque Fatherland and Liberty, Aum Shinrikyo, Mujahidin Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem, Kahane Chai, and Gama'a al-Islamiyya. In addition to these five FTO revocations, the Department also revoked the SDGT designations of six now deceased individuals: Abu al-Wardah, Mohad Moalim, Farah Mohamed Shirdon, Musa Abu Dawud, Aliaskhab Kebekov, and Ibrahim al-Rubaysh. Revoking FTO designations and the delisting of deceased individuals ensures U.S. terrorism sanctions remain current, credible, and consistent with the statutory requirements, and does not reflect any change in policy towards the past activities of any of these terrorists or of the organizations in which they were members.



Former Acting CT Coordinator Tim Betts provides keynote remarks at a think tank event.

CHAPTER 9

Outreach and Digital Engagement

CT focused on informing and engaging the public through timely communication and accurate information both at home and abroad. CT outreach prioritized information sharing with Congress, journalists, academics, think tanks, international partners, and the broader American public. Engagement with domestic and foreign allies through press briefings, speeches, and statements was a key component of CT's communication strategy.

Congressional Engagement: Congress remained highly focused on counterterrorism issues in 2022, and Congressional interest came from not only the Department's traditional oversight committees – House Foreign Affairs Committee, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, House Appropriations Committee, and Senate Appropriations Committee – but also from House and Senate leadership, the House and Senate Committees on Homeland Security, Armed Services, Judiciary, and Intelligence. Congressional interest in 2022 focused on a wide range of counterterrorism-related issues, including but not limited to: REMVE; the repatriation of FTF and associated family members from northeast Syria; Guantanamo resettlements and associated assurances; CT's role in DoD programs, such as 10 U.S.C. § 127e; CT-led efforts in constraining Hizballah; terrorist designations; counterterrorism efforts in Africa and Central Asia; the Visa Waiver Program; and CT's budget and strategic priorities.

Public Engagement: In 2022, CT released more than 38 statements and media notes announcing terrorist designations; condemning terrorist attacks; raising awareness about key CT priorities, including efforts to counter REMVE; encouraging repatriations from northeast Syria; and transferring detainees from the Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility. To promote clear and trustworthy messaging about the State Department's counterterrorism efforts, CT also posted and promoted 12 sets of remarks from CT leadership and published four DipNote blogs. Notable engagements included:

- ➔ In May, the Under Secretary for Political Affairs co-hosted the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS Ministerial in Marrakesh, drawing significant international media attention. Through coordination with the Dubai media hub, CT staff supported more than a dozen media engagements with regional and international media outlets to promote U.S. leadership and policy priorities, culminating in a joint press conference with U/S Nuland and the Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- ➔ In June and July, CT helped raise awareness of the urgent need to repatriate FTFs and associated family members in northeast Syria through the promotion of a series of international conferences focused on identifying long-term solutions. Efforts included multiple on-the-record interviews and a background briefing with a new outlet.

Social Media Engagement: CT's Twitter account maintained steady engagement throughout most of the year, generating nearly a million impressions. The account's top tweet – which highlighted the graduating class of the International Executive Program delegates from Argentina, Brazil, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru – generated more than 27,000 Twitter impressions.

