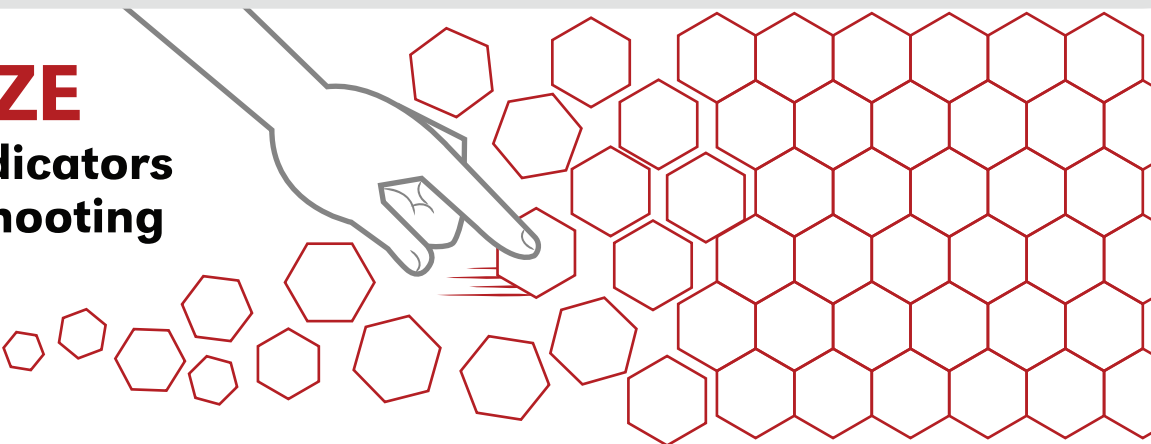


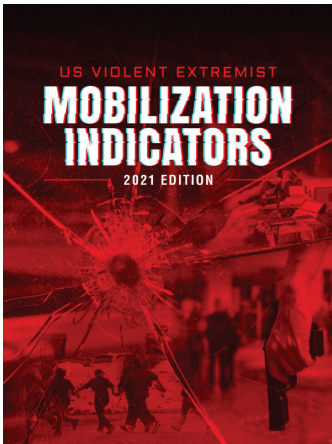
RECOGNIZE

Mobilization Indicators in the Buffalo Shooting



► Overview

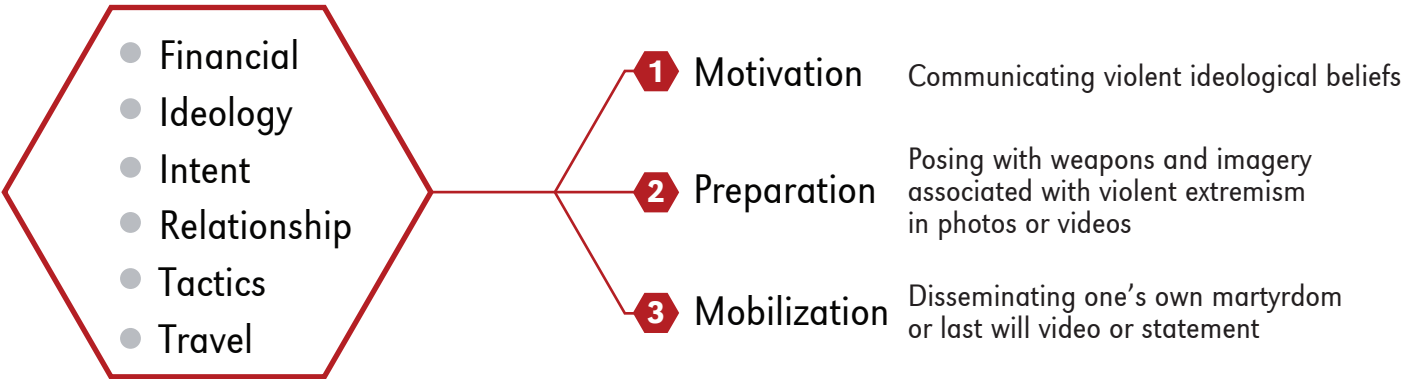
The federal government has identified observable behaviors that might show individuals or groups are pursuing ideologically-motivated violence. The 2021 U.S. Violent Extremist Mobilization Indicators booklet was jointly produced by the National Counterterrorism Center, FBI, and Department of Homeland Security. Using this booklet, NCITE has drawn connections to the domestic terrorism event in Buffalo, N.Y., on May 14, 2022. Ten people were killed; three were injured. Eleven victims were Black.



[CLICK TO READ THE FULL BOOKLET](#)

MOBILIZATION INDICATORS

BEHAVIORAL STAGES



The indicators are intended to provide the public, law enforcement, terrorism prevention practitioners, first responders, and community leaders with context on which behaviors may precipitate an imminent attack in the United States.

The suspect in the Buffalo shooting exhibited many mobilization indicators prior to the attack according to news reports, academic researchers, and in the suspect's alleged "Manifesto."

SEE SOMETHING? SAY SOMETHING. [CLICK HERE TO LEARN HOW](#)

► Mobilization indicators exhibited by the Buffalo suspect

<p>IDEOLOGY</p>	<p>Praising, or researching to emulate, past successful or attempted attacks or attackers.</p>	<p>Buffalo suspect referenced Brenton Harrison Tarrant, the shooter who killed 51 and injured 40 Muslim worshippers Christchurch, New Zealand in March 2019. Tarrant identified as a white supremacist and the suspect’s purported manifesto credits Tarrant as the reason the suspect started researching replacement theory prior to the attack. “I eventually found his [Tarrant’s] manifesto and I read it, and I found that I mostly agreed with him.”</p>	<p>SOURCE Manifesto</p>
<p>IDEOLOGY</p>	<p>Praising, or researching to emulate, past successful or attempted attacks or attackers.</p>	<p>The manifesto names other racially and ethnically motivated violent extremist white supremacists (RMVE-WS) shooters (e.g., Brenton Tarrant, Patrick Crusius, Anders Breivik, and Dylann Roof) as other “partisan/freedom fighters/ethno soldiers in which with he has ties.”</p>	<p>SOURCE Manifesto</p>
<p>IDEOLOGY</p>	<p>Increasing or extreme adherence to conspiracy theories as a justification of violence against ideological targets.</p>	<p>The Buffalo suspect’s alleged manifesto identified his motive for the attack: “To ensure that the peoples of the world remain true to their traditions and faiths and do not become watered down and corrupted by the influence of outsiders, they must be separate. The attack was to ensure a preservation of beauty, art and tradition.”</p>	<p>SOURCE Manifesto</p>
<p>INTENT</p>	<p>Disseminating one’s own martyrdom or last will video or statement (e.g., manifesto).</p>	<p>Media sources have reported the manifesto having been uploaded two days prior to the attack.</p>	<p>SOURCES (Click to read) Daily Star Mirror</p>
<p>INTENT</p>	<p>Expressing acceptance of violence as a necessary means to achieve ideological goals. Saying nonviolent means are ineffective or unavailable.</p>	<p>“I then found other fighters, like Patrick Crusius, Anders Breivek, Dylann Roof, and John Earnest. These men fought for me and had the same goals I did. It was there I asked myself: Why don’t I do something? Finally I felt awakened. It was there I started to think about committing to an attack. To commit to violence. I would follow Tarrant’s lead and the attacks of so many others like him. No longer would I just accept our replacement. No longer would I just accept our genocide. No longer will I willingly serve the people who are trying to end me and my race. I would have to take the fight to the replacers myself.”</p>	<p>SOURCE Manifesto</p>
<p>TACTICS</p>	<p>Unusual purchase of military-style tactical equipment in a manner that raises suspicion of planning violence.</p>	<p>In the Buffalo suspect’s alleged Discord chats with other users, he had messages which discussed ammunition he had purchased, posted a photograph of armor in his possession, and asked multiple questions about the quality of specific types of personal protective equipment (e.g., “wouldnt [sic] it hurt a lot being shot with any type of bulelt [sic] with armor on” and “what about something powerful like 30 06 [sic] or 12 gauge shotgun wouldnt [sic] it knock you down?”). The messages date back to August 2020.</p>	<p>SOURCE Discord</p>
<p>TACTICS</p>	<p>Surveilling potential targets.</p>	<p>Media has reported the suspect visited the grocery store on Friday – the day prior to the attack – disguised as a homeless person. The Tops store manager stated the suspect was “checking out the store.” Buffalo Police Commissioner Joseph Gramaglia said law enforcement know “he did some reconnaissance on the area and the store.”</p>	<p>SOURCES (Click to read) New York Daily News Mirror The Telegraph ABC News</p>
<p>TACTICS</p>	<p>Acquisition of weapons or ammunition for suspected criminal purposes.</p>	<p>The suspect’s alleged manifesto devotes pages to ranking weapon and armor manufacturers from best to worst, citing quality, resistance to overheating, precision needs for the nature of the intended attack, weight, and reliability.</p>	<p>SOURCE Manifesto</p>
<p>TRAVEL</p>	<p>Traveling, within the U.S. or abroad to carry out or participate in violent extremist activity.</p>	<p>The suspect is alleged to have traveled approximately 200 miles from his home in Conklin, N.Y., to the Buffalo, N.Y. Tops Friendly Markets grocery store.</p>	<p>SOURCES (Click to read) Associated Press CNN</p>