

## Colleges Can Prevent and Disrupt Violent Extremists' Pursuit or Targeting of Unmanned Aircraft Programs

College programs in unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) are susceptible to potential penetration or attack plotting by violent extremists. Enhanced information and operational security practices can reduce the likelihood of a violent extremist infiltrating UAS programs or planning an attack against students and faculty. There are potential indicators that a student or faculty member may possess ulterior motives for their interest in unmanned aircraft.

\* The purpose of this publication is to raise awareness about steps colleges with UAS programs can take to reduce their public footprint, safeguard their students and faculty, and identify potentially suspicious activity. This is not an exhaustive list, and not all factors may apply to every college.

\* Certain behaviors of students and faculty members may indicate involvement with violent extremist activities, triggering the need to alert authorities. However, it is important to stress that a behavior-based approach to identify suspicious activity requires that race, ethnicity, national origin, and religious affiliation not be the factors creating suspicion. In addition, activities associated with free speech or individual expression should not be the basis for deeming an individual's behavior as potentially criminal or otherwise suspect—rather it is important for authorities to articulate a basis for considering a person's behavior as suspicious, taking the full context into account.

### Colleges can enhance the information and operational security practices of their UAS programs by:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Protecting the identities of students and faculty associated with UAS programs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sanitizing online student profiles and faculty biographies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Conducting background checks on prospective students and faculty
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Curtailing discussions about UAS programs with news agencies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Removing descriptions and addresses of UAS facilities on the Internet
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Avoiding depictions or explanations of UAS operational areas
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Renaming programs and courses of study, if posted on the Internet
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Limiting the distribution of UAS-related publications
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reducing UAS research project details posted on the Internet
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not posting their standard operating procedures on the Internet
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not publically identifying industry and government partners
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not listing the types of aircraft in their fleet on the Internet
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not publically announcing the dates and locations of UAS summits, conferences, or other events

### Campus public safety officials or local law enforcement authorities should be notified of suspicious conduct by individuals who:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Express undue interest in improvised explosives or equipping unmanned aircraft with improvised explosives
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Show interest in aerial dispersal devices for chemical or biological substances that are not related to their field of research
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Conduct flight tests in a deceptive manner, to avoid detection, or in the vicinity of sensitive locations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Espouse violent extremist rhetoric
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Display an unusual interest in the number of casualties or potential building damage a UAS could cause
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ask atypical questions about vulnerabilities that will bring down or disable unmanned aircraft