



Physical Security & Counterterrorism

Part of Flashpoint's Global Intelligence Team, the Physical Security & Counterterrorism Team is dedicated to empowering decision makers with the intelligence and raw data needed to protect an organization's people, infrastructure, and other assets.

TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

Leveraging Flashpoint's widespread collections across the deep and dark web, encrypted chat services, and surface-web platforms, the Physical Security & Counterterrorism Team's primary responsibilities include:

- **Tracking Physical Threat-Actor Group Dynamics:** Physical threat-actor groups have varying levels of coordination and sophistication, and in many cases, the operational dynamics of these groups are in constant flux. To help defenders understand what they're up against, the team provides ongoing reporting on major developments related to physical threats, such as changes in how actors communicate or the geographic scope of a group's operations.
- **Reporting on Evolving Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs):** In addition to monitoring for high-level structural shifts in threat-actor groups' operations, the team also monitors and reports on trends shaping the TTPs of these groups and autonomous threat actors, such as the adoption of low-level cybercrime and fraud activities among some violent extremists as a means of funding their operations.
- **Threat-Actor Profiling:** In cases where a specific individual or group poses a physical threat to an organization, industry, or region, our analysts can glean insights about the threat actor across multiple aliases and online communities, searching for indicators of their identity, location, motive, targeting methods, TTPs, and any history of violence.
- **Sentiment Analysis:** To help customers understand the risk posed by an individual or group of threat actors and inform physical security measures, the team monitors threat-actor discussions to gauge sentiment toward particular organizations, countries, individuals, or other entities.

USE CASES

The finished intelligence produced by our Physical Security & Counterterrorism Team can help customers address a wide range of challenges, including:

- **Assessing Executive Exposure:** It is crucial for organizations to be aware of any potentially damaging or sensitive information available online pertaining to their executives. However, since personal data may be spread across various social media platforms, web archives, and in some cases, illicit dark web communities, assessing such exposure can be a challenge. In one instance, a customer needed to assess the online exposure of a newly appointed executive. Flashpoint analysts were able to find the executive's date of birth, phone number, immediate family members, current and past addresses, email addresses, and political affiliation across a variety of open-web and dark-web sources. This information enabled the customer to take measures to protect the safety and privacy of the executive and their family.
- **Combating Online Propaganda:** As extremist groups increasingly leverage various online platforms to spread propaganda and recruit new members, many organizations are faced with the challenge of combating such activity. Flashpoint's finished intelligence is a valuable resource for such efforts. In one instance, following an international law-enforcement crackdown on jihadist propaganda being spread online, Flashpoint reported the crackdown did not appear to have made an impact on such activity. This information prevented organizations invested in efforts to thwart online propaganda distribution to continue exploring other tactics.
- **Event Security:** During high-profile events such as conferences, sporting events, and parades, physical security teams must proactively safeguard physical assets in a manner that is tactful and unintrusive. This requires understanding of what potential threats may be present. In one instance, a company with a large presence at the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia needed to assess risks to its people and assets during the event. Flashpoint provided the company with an in-depth report detailing organization-specific risks that could arise during the event, as well as broader assessments to inform situational awareness. This intelligence enabled the company to allocate its security resources appropriately.
- **Business Travel:** Ensuring the safety and security of employees during business travel abroad requires a thorough and up-to-date understanding of regional and local risks. In one instance, a Flashpoint customer was planning to send a group of executives to a country experiencing political tensions and needed a briefing on potential threats to inform security and travel arrangements. Our Physical Security & Counterterrorism Team provided a report detailing recent instances of violence in the country, specific areas of elevated risk, potential operational security risks, and recommendations for how to mitigate these risks during travel. This intelligence helped the customer protect its executives during the trip.

TEAM BACKGROUND

The Physical Security & Counterterrorism Team's subject-matter experts have extensive experience studying, analyzing, and taking action against a range of physical security threats. Highlights include:

- Years of professional experience assisting law-enforcement and intelligence agencies in terrorism prosecutions, testifying in trials, advising private-sector organizations on physical and cyber security, tracking extremist groups through electronic communication, conducting counterterrorism operations within the U.S. military, and consulting with organizations such as the U.S. Dept. of Justice, the FBI, the U.K. Crown Protection Service, the Australian Federal Police, the Swiss Federal Public Prosecutor, and others.
- Access to the Flashpoint Global Intelligence Team's collective proficiency in 20-plus languages, including Arabic, French, Farsi, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Hungarian, Ukrainian, and Serbian.
- Regular commentary on the latest terrorism developments for *NBC News* and *MSNBC* broadcasts, as well as articles in publications such as *The New York Times*
- Academic backgrounds in disciplines such as global affairs, transnational security, political science, religious studies, and government.

ABOUT FLASHPOINT

Flashpoint is the globally trusted leader in risk intelligence for organizations that demand the fastest, most comprehensive coverage of threatening activity on the internet. From bolstering cyber and physical security, to detecting fraud and insider threats, Flashpoint partners with customers across the private and public sectors to help them rapidly identify threats and mitigate their most critical security risks.

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