

Summary of Proximal Warning Behaviors

Leakage warning behavior

The communication to a third party of an intent to do harm to a target through an attack.

Directly communicated threat warning behavior

The communication of a direct threat to the target or law enforcement beforehand. A threat is a written or oral communication that implicitly or explicitly states a wish or intent to damage, injure, or kill the target, or individuals symbolically or actually associated with the target.

Fixation warning behavior

Any behavior that indicates an increasingly pathological preoccupation with a person or a cause. It is typically accompanied by social or occupational deterioration. It is indicated by:

- increasing perseveration on the person or cause;
- increasingly strident opinion;
- increasingly negative characterization of the object of fixation and an angry emotional undertone;
- impact on the family or other associates of the object of fixation, if present and aware;

Identification warning behavior

Any behavior that indicates a psychological desire to be a “pseudo-commando”, have a “warrior mentality,” closely associate with weapons or other military or law enforcement paraphernalia, identify with previous attackers or assassins, or identify oneself as an agent to advance a particular cause or belief system.

Pathway warning behavior

Any behavior that is part of research, planning, preparation, or implementation of an attack.

Novel aggression warning behavior

An act of violence which appears unrelated to any targeted violence pathway warning behavior which is committed for the first time. Such behaviors may be utilized to test the ability of the subject to actually commit a violent act, e.g., a behavioral tryout.

Energy burst warning behavior

An increase in the frequency or variety of any noted activities related to the target, even if the activities themselves are relatively innocuous, usually in the days or weeks before the attack

Last resort warning behavior

Evidence of a violent “action imperative”, i.e., increasing desperation or distress through declaration in word or deed, forcing the individual into a position of last resort. There is no alternative other than violence, and the consequences are justified. Often triggered by a precipitating event, e.g., a loss in lover and/or in work.

Source: Meloy, J.R., Hoffmann, J., Guldemann, A. & James, D. (2012). The Role of Warning Behaviors in Threat Assessment: An Exploration and Suggested Typology. *Behavioral Sciences & the Law*, 30(3), 256-79.

Summary of Distal Warning Behaviors

Personal Grievance and Moral Outrage

- Combining of personal grievance and moral outrage concerning historical or contemporaneous religious or political events.
 - Personal grievance is a major loss in lover and/or work (anger, humiliation, and blame follow).
 - Moral outrage is vicarious identification, i.e., lone terrorist has not personally experienced the suffering of the victimized group.

Framed by an Ideology

- The presence of beliefs that justify the subject's intent to act. It can be a religious belief system, a political philosophy, a secular commitment, a one issue conflict, or an idiosyncratic justification.
- Beliefs are usually superficial and favorite phrases are selected to justify violence.

Failure to Affiliate with an Extremist Group

- The experience of rejecting or being rejected by a radical, extremist, or other group with which the subject initially wanted to affiliate.
 - Rejection further isolates and hardens the belief system and intent to be violent.
 - Often, a long pattern of interpersonal difficulties.
 - Will then turn to the internet in search of like-minded violent true believers.

Dependence on the Virtual Community

- Use of social media, chat rooms, emails, listservs, texting, tweeting, posting, searches, etc., for:
 - Virtual interaction: e.g., reinforcement of beliefs.
 - Virtual learning; e.g., planning and preparation.

Thwarting of Occupational Goals

- A major setback or failure in a planned academic and/or occupational life course.
 - Disillusioned with the social order.
 - Resentful of narcissistic wounding due to history of slights, rejections, failures.
 - "In-betweeners" (Ollson, 2005; Singer, 1995).

Changes in Thinking and Emotion

- Interpersonal communication becomes more strident, humorless, binary, or dogmatic, e.g., "don't think, just believe."
- Internal fantasies become violent and grandiose, goal to purify the environment by killing the unbelievers; an apocalyptic event which he will help accelerate, often sanctified by God.
 - Violence as a righteous act.
- Emotional change from just anger to contempt and disgust; e.g., equation of outgroup with vermin, or other toxic objects.

Failure of Sexual Pair Bonding

- Historical failures to maintain a stable and positive attachment with any sexual intimate.
 - Renunciation of actual sexuality.
 - Idealization in fantasy.
 - Erotic component of martyrdom (sexual fantasy).
 - Women are distrusted and need to be controlled.

Mental Disorder

- Evidence of a major mental disorder by history or in the present.
 - Ideology may provide a rationalization for symptoms of mental disorder, and intellectually buffer and help manage the anxiety of a decompensating mind.

Greater Creativity and Innovation

- Evidence of tactical thinking "outside the box." The planned act is creative, innovative (a major aspect has not been done before in contemporary times) and/or is imitated by others.
 - Absence of fear of failure.

History of Criminal Violence

- Evidence of instrumental criminal violence in the subject's past, demonstrating a capacity and a willingness to engage in predation for a variety of reasons, such as a history of armed robberies or planned assaults on others for material gain.

Source: Meloy, J.R. & Gill, P. (2016). The Lone Actor Terrorist and the TRAP-18. *Journal of Threat Assessment and Management*, 3(10), 37-52.