UAM in the DOD: Behavioral Trends and Responses

DEFENSE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY AGENCY

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The Results Are:

- Inconsistency in types of tools used
- Inconsistency in triggers applied
- Inconsistency in systems monitored
- Inconsistency in the data available for analysis
  - Thus, any trend discussions are only approximations, not hard data

General Findings

- Human reporting seems to be more productive than technical means
  - Frequently used to clarify human reporting

- Unclassified and internal chat systems seem to be the most productive from an insider threat perspective

- Three emerging behavioral trends from UAM results:
  - Threatening Communications
  - Pornography
  - Suicidal Ideation

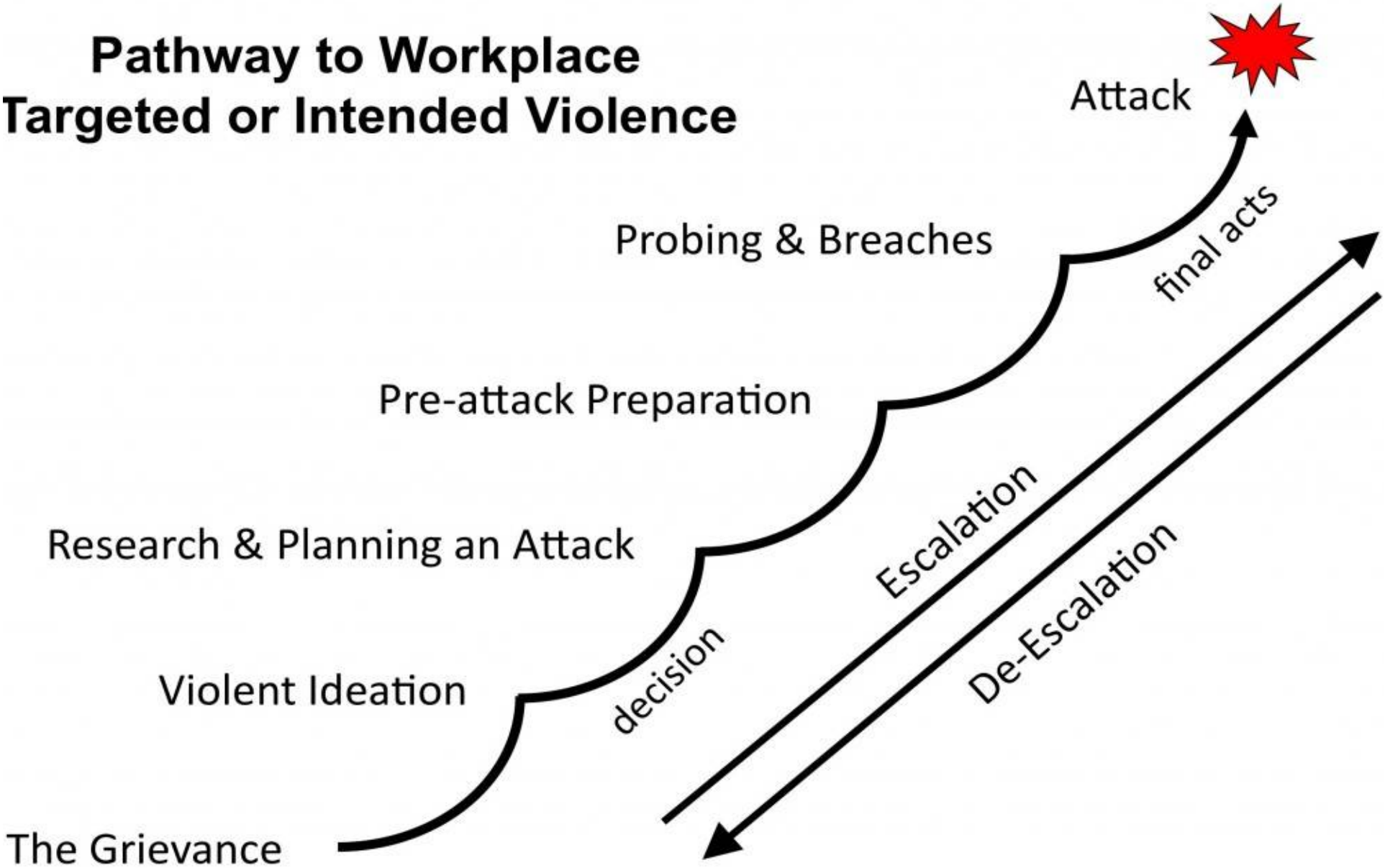
Threatening Communications Response

- Prevention, Assistance and Response (PAR) Teams
  - All major installations
  - Formed in response to threat of potential violence
  - Team called together to assess threat, break down silos and guide command
  - Coordinate with Insider Threat and other relevant resources
  - At a minimum, typically consists of Legal, HR, Security, Behavioral Science

Threatening Communications Response

- Reachback Capability (in development)
  - Nationally certified threat assessment experts made available upon request of components, commands and PAR teams
  - Offer requestor world-class threat management expertise
  - Knowledge of the latest threat theory and research
  - Access to comprehensive array of databases (via DITMAC)
  - Expertise with and licenses to employ key threat management tools
  - Threat focused psychological evaluations
  - Rapid, actionable, scientifically based and legally defensible guidance

Pathway to Workplace Targeted or Intended Violence



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Pornography Response

- Immediate controversy
  - What is the definition of pornography?
  - Does this violate privacy rights?
  - Is this our business?
  - Is this about morality or risk?

Pornography Response

- How is it an Insider Threat
  - Judgement
  - Compulsion
  - Correlate to other concerning, exploitative and illegal behavior
  - Compromise of systems
  - CI Concern
  - Bellwether behavior

Pornography Response

- Pre-decisional Guidelines under consideration
  - Any pornography on government system
  - Violation of the law
  - Producing, supporting the production of, seeking, procuring, storing or displaying pornographic material that has exploitative content
    - i.e. non-consenting partners (child, rape, revenge…)
  - When use of pornographic material has become so frequent, or occurs in situations so inappropriate to the context, that it may be reflective of a compulsive process
  - When associated with other behaviors of concern
    - E.g. Indecent acts / Indecent exposure

Suicidal Ideation Response

- Controversy
  - Is this a security issue?
  - Are we creating a stigma?
  - Isn’t this a medical/psychological matter?
  - How is insider threat qualified for this?

Suicidal Ideation Response

- Threat Logic
  - Everyone is a resource
  - Impact on readiness
  - Compromised judgment during period of crisis
  - Contagion effect
  - Possible link to other behaviors of concern
- Mitigation
  - Care, support and provision of resources

Suicidal Ideation Response

- Success stories
  - Leadership embraced suicide prevention as an outcome variable

- Explore Link to Violence?
  - Similar pathways
  - Assumptions vs science (both are right depending on the directionality of the data)

- Teaming
  - Defense Suicide Prevention Office
  - New resources / may not be seen any other way
  - Joint InT / DSPO guidance in coordination

Conclusion

- UAM is a useful reporting channel, but has limitations
- There is great variability in how UAM is used across the DOD
- UAM tends to reveal human rather than technical challenges
- More time and data is needed before firm conclusions can be reached

Questions???

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