CA Homeland Security Consortium Receives $2 Million Grant

The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) took progressive steps toward improving local and national Homeland Security (HLS) concerns by pursuing for and receiving a $2 million grant to develop and manage the California Homeland Security Consortium (CHSC).

The CHSC will leverage multi-disciplinary capabilities of Monterey area groups and collaborate with California-based higher education, military, law enforcement, and community-related institutions to improve the response to, and manage the effects of HLS incidents in their communities. CHSC, under the leadership of Dr. Leonard Ferrari, expands further upon Rep. Sam Farr’s (D-17th District) Team Monterey concept. Together, federal, organizational, and civic leaders will work to solve national security issues facing the world.

“The CHSC will initiate research, education and industry efforts to begin the process of establishing best practice-based guidelines to communities to support their HLS efforts resulting in solutions for both HLS and NPS Prof. Tom Housel, CHSC Executive Director. “The core mission of the Consortium is to involve community, education, first responders, state agencies, universities, federal agencies operating within the state and privately-held businesses while we reinforce collaborative activities among each entity with the goal of securing the homeland,” Housel explained.

“Our research will focus on Science and Technology or S&T.” Housel continued. “Where some other HLS programs center primarily on focus on policy, law and ethics, and while we do care about these issues, our primary focus is S&T. CHSC plans to facilitate the creation of community college, undergraduate and Ph.D. level HLS curricula for colleges and universities. CHSC will help consortium and community colleges develop a series of undergraduate S&T degrees with an emphasis on S&T, develop an Associate of Arts degree for people in the Transportation Security Administration. The Consortium will also spearhead the creation of numerous other residential learning and distance learning opportunities in HLS. “We need industry to participate because they can produce the products that our first responders will need,” said Housel. “However, technology is not enough to solve all HLS problems. Citizens must become empowered to participate in their own defense and recovery from terrorist incidents and natural disasters. “The federal government can’t do it all, as the Katrina experience demonstrated,” explained Housel. “We need the involvement of every citizen as well as industry, which operates about 80% of our national infrastructure, to ensure smooth operations of our supply chains during recovery efforts. Industry can help empower the populace by providing the kinds of self-service opportunities that make businesses great, within the context of disaster recovery.”

The CHSC will also focus on how to prevent these incidents from escalating into major disasters. Again, citizens can play a key role in being the sentinels for prevention of terrorist activities in the first place.

While many HLS organizations and centers focus on theoretical applications, the CHSC will test current technology and leading edge concepts in field studies. The Consortium will have access to Camp Roberts, Fort Ord and Fort Hunter-Liggett for field trials that will be focused on HLS-related challenges. In addition, Consortium membership can leverage the ongoing maritime and port security field experimentation currently being conduct by NPS with the U.S. Coast Guard in nearby San Francisco Bay.

“One of the things NPS brings to this effort is the capability to do field experimentation, it is our core competency,” said Housel. “Not many cities, states, universities, or anywhere else for that matter, can move aircraft carriers, direct unmanned aircraft and utilize underwater robots in conjunction with a group of professional officers - our students - to get out there and perform hands-on operations to truly test technology and concepts. NPS is unique in that competency.”

“We are working to coordinate efforts to use Monterey County as the model county to test and implement concepts. Housel added. A unique aspect of CHSC is that best practices based on experiments, studies and actual field work will be templateized for use by other cities, counties, state and federal organizations. These templates will be made available to any organization that would benefit in using them.

“We are able to export everything we learn and do, present lessons learned and make it available to the world to use,” said Housel. “We are going to take what the students are doing and leverage it to the benefit of anyone who wishes to be educated in homeland security.”

The Department of National Security Affairs (Security Stud) has received a top ten ranking in the category of International Affairs and Development based upon the Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index™ (FSP Index) released by Academic Analytics, LLC. Academic Analytics, LLC, evaluates doctoral programs at research universities — as defined by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education rankings — based on a set of statistical data. The FSP Index is unique in its focus on concrete data. The faculty scholarly productivity, measures the annual productivity of faculty on several factors including publications, citations of journal publications, federal research funding, and awards and honors. Modeled on the approach used by the United States National Research Council, the top ten rankings for International Affairs & Development were given to Columbia, Johns Hopkins, the University of California, San Diego, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of California, Berkeley.

Dee Thrallmurry, GSBBP Innovation Chair, and Anita Salem, NPS Business School, facilitated a workshop on Innova- tion and Technology Adoption at the 2008 Homeland Security S&T Stakeholders Conference West in mid-January. The conference, “Putting First Responders First,” was pre- sented by the National Defense Industrial Association with subject matter support provided by the Science & Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security. The State of California’s Office of Homeland Security was also a key participant in the event.

In brief

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• Seminars are being held each Wednesday in Glasgow East 117 from 1-4 p.m. that explore topics of interdisciplinary interest, not only to inspire students to consider pursuing a Ph.D. at NPS, but also to help them acquire the skills, knowledge and abilities to succeed in that endeavor. For a list of scheduled topics, see the Calendar section of Update NPS. All Ph.D. and Master’s students, faculty and staff are cordially invited to attend.
Tenure-Track Faculty
Robert Hixson, Ph.D., a recipient of: Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Individual Distinction Award, and described as "a figure of close to $250K. Immediately following the storm's unprecedented winds, the Plunge pool building had its roof blown off. The initial NPS media reported in several areas of Herrmann Hall that included additional damage throughout the campus. Water intrusion and debris that littered the campus landscape, NPS sustained blocked by several fallen trees and limbs.

As you know, one of the most crucial priorities for the Naval Postgraduate School is the recruitment and retention of world-class faculty. Our mission of research and education is fueled by the intellectual vitality and contributions of our faculty. As a result, we must consider, as an institution, those factors that are most important to attracting and retaining the best faculty. How we can turn our attention to the strengthening of our intellectual community should be a central and visible feature of our strategic plan.

Defining the necessary resources to "ensure continuous improvement in the quality and relevance of our graduate education and research" (NPS Strategic Plan, Goal 1) must include consideration of support for ongoing professional orientation and development. It needs to involve sponsorship of academic seminars and workshops, creation of spaces for collaborative work and informal dialogue, as well as support for social events to build a sense of campus community.

Over the past few months, I visited a number of other universities: the University of California-Davis, the University of California-San Diego, the University of San Diego and San Diego State University. I had the opportunity to meet with leadership of all institutions and hear about their plans and priorities. If there was one unifying message from those visits, it was the obvious institutional commitment to support and energize intellectual vitality and a sense of community. Whether through creating resource support for faculty recruitment opportunities or attention to detail in constructing or renovating academic spaces, the active engagement of faculty was clear. I hope you will agree these compelling ideas to invigorate our work together in 2008.

Faculty Notes
On Jan. 11, the Management Accounting Section of the American Accounting Association presented its "Distinguished Contributions to Management Accounting Award" posthumously to former GSBBP Visiting Professor John K. Shank during the annual research conference in Long Beach, Calif. John's widow, Diane Shank, received the award and his son, University of Minnesota Professor J.B. Shank, spoke about his father's professional contributions.

NPS Distinguished Prof. Thomas Buneau received a 2007 Outstanding Academic Title Award from Choice, one of the most prestigious annual reviews of academic libraries. He received the award for the book he co-edited with Scott Tolleson titled, Who Guards the Guardians and How: Democratic-Civil-Military Relations. Following a rigorous evaluation procedure, Dr. Wei Kang has been chosen from among a select group of recipients to be elevated to the prestigious position of Fellow by the Board of Directors of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. Kang was recognized for his contributions to the industrial applications of nonlinear control systems.

Dr. Peter Denning recently published an article in the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Intranet titled, "Getting to 'We': Solidarity, not software, generates collaboration," in which he describes how the article can be downloaded from lanl.gov: gan-edu.cn/psd/PUBS/CAC/ Molds/jan0607.pdf


Public Works Team Coordinates Rapid Clean-Up
A turbulent weather pattern helped ring in the New Year as the most devastating storm the peninsula has experienced in over a decade — rated an 8.5 out of 10 — made landfall on Jan. 4. Sustained winds from 52 to 67 six inches of rainfall were recorded throughout the area, and power outages occurred for over 78,000 PG&E customers. NPS closed the campus at 10 a.m. that day, because of health and safety concerns. At various times campus roadways were blocked by several fallen trees and limbs.

Besides the power outage, the three large wind-fallen trees and debris that littered the campus landscape, NPS sustained additional damage throughout the campus. Water intrusion was reported in several areas of Herrmann Hall that included the Tower Room, the Terrace Room, the passage way outside the La Novia Room, the Quarterdeck stairwells and the out-bound stairwells below the Flag Administration Office. One of the Saturn II 60,000-pound vehicles located on campus was totaled, while two other vehicles incurred minor damage. The Roman Plunge pool building had its roof blown off. The initial NPS damage estimate ranged from $200K-$400K with an updated figure close to $200K. Immediately following the sewage aftermath, Public Works Monterey team, composed of station Seabees, staff, the National Institute for the Severely Handicapped, the contractor which Hope Custodial people fall under, and the city quickly responded to remove the fallen trees, to clean up the wind debris and to initiate the building repairs.