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# Twenty-eight earn security master's degrees from NPS Center for Homeland Defense and Security

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# Twenty-eight earn security master's degrees from NPS Center for Homeland Defense and Security

 [chds.us/c/item/3678](http://chds.us/c/item/3678)

Twenty-eight professionals completed a Master of Arts in Security Studies during a ceremony at the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security March 25.

The graduates comprise professionals from law enforcement, fire safety, homeland security, local government, the military and public/environmental health (see attached list). The first program in the nation of its kind, CHDS provides a cutting-edge, multi-disciplinary curriculum in its 18-month master's degree program in homeland security. Graduates are required to write theses pertinent to their employing agencies.

"These graduates will join a national cadre of cohorts who are helping keep our nation safer," Woodbury said. "We are proud and look forward to their contributions to the homeland security enterprise in the coming years. They reflect the professionalism and dedication our nation deserves."

Four CHDS graduates earned special honors:

- Catherine Ventura, Immigration Officer (Fraud Detection and National Security), DHS – U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, earned the Outstanding Thesis Award as well as the Curtis "Butch" Straub award. Her thesis, "Flight Plight: An Examination of Contemporary Humanitarian Immigration from Honduras, Cuba and Syria to the United States with Considerations for National Security," won the honor based on overall academic rigor; quality of the literature review; impact of the study on homeland security strategy and future research implications; quality of analysis and conclusions; quality of organization, writing and overall presentation of thesis. The Straub Award is based on grades, thesis and classroom leadership. The award is in memory of one of CHDS' founders.
- Steve Heitman, Chief of the Mercer Island, Washington Fire Department, received Philip Zimbardo Award. This award honors a student who demonstrates the best understanding of the psychological aspects of terrorism. The honor is named after Stanford University psychologist and professor emeritus Philip Zimbardo, who formerly taught at CHDS.
- Raymond Bisogno, Analyst with the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management, and Joshua Shaughnessy, Detective Sergeant with the Indianapolis Police Department, received the Mark Carr Esprit De Corps Award. This award honors students whose actions instilled, sustained and created a spirit of unity and pride within the cohort. The Mark Carr Esprit De Corps Award is named in honor of Mark Carr, a former CHDS student who died in August 2014.

CHDS, located at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), is the nation's homeland security educator. Master's degree students develop critical thinking, leadership and policy skills during a rigorous 18-month program. Each graduate completes a thesis on a current issue facing his/her jurisdiction. These theses often translate into policy and practice. The CHDS is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), National Preparedness Directorate, within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). (For information, visit [www.chds.us](http://www.chds.us).)



ABOUT NPS: The mission of the Naval Postgraduate School is to provide unique advanced education and research programs in order to increase the combat effectiveness of the U.S. and Allied armed forces as well as enhance the security of the United States. For information, visit [www.nps.edu](http://www.nps.edu).

**Naval Postgraduate School**  
**Center for Homeland Defense and Security**

- Paul Arnett, Captain, Ninth Coast Guard District, U.S. Coast Guard
- Melanie Bates, Captain, Omaha (Nebraska) Fire Department
- Theodore Berger, Chief of Staff, city of Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications
- Raymond Bisogno, Analyst (Assistant Administrative Officer, Emergency Management Section), New Jersey Office of Emergency Management
- Suzanne Boccia Emergency Management Coordinator, Denver Dept. of Environmental Health
- Timothy Carroll, Lieutenant, Fire Department City of New York
- Gregory Favre Captain, Special Operations and Strategic Planning, St. Louis Fire Department
- David Green, Lieutenant, San Bernardino, California, Police Department
- Steven Heitman Fire Chief, Mercer Island, Washington, Fire Department
- Kelly Hildreth, Deputy Director Patrol Operations Command, Florida Highway Patrol
- Rodney Hyatt, Lieutenant, Louisiana State Police
- Catherine Jones Director, Risk Management Services, Kern County, California, Superintendent of Schools Office
- Joleen Jubela, Doctrine Program Specialist, Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Frank Leeb, Battalion Chief, Fire Department City of New York
- Ronald Lendvay Chief – Homeland Security / Narcotics and Vice, Jacksonville, Florida, Sheriff's Office
- Victoria Lester-Saura, Director, DHS – Office of Policy
- Monica Manzella, Assistant City Attorney, City of New Orleans
- Mike Neener, Assistant Federal Security Director, Federal Air Marshal Service
- Kathleen O'Reilly, Assistant Chief, New York City Police Department
- Zach Perron, Lieutenant, Palo Alto, California, Police Department
- Darren Price, Regional Operations Supervisor, Ohio Emergency Management Agency
- Calvin Shanks, Senior Director of Safety Services/Fire Marshal, Texas Tech Univ. Health Sciences Center El Paso
- Joshua Shaughnessy, Detective Sergeant, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department
- Brian Smith, Assistant Supervisory Air Marshal in Charge, FAMS Domestic Planning Unit, TSA – Federal Air Marshal Service
- Dominique Tarpey, Section Chief, Behavior Detection and Analysis, TSA – Office of Security Operations
- Catherine Ventura, Immigration Officer (Fraud Detection and National Security), DHS – U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
- Anthony Wright Supervisory Program Manager, Public Assistance Field Operations, FEMA Region IV

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