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Twenty-nine earn master's degrees in Security Studies at the Naval Postgraduate School

Center for Homeland Defense and Security

Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California

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Twenty-nine earn master's degrees in Security Studies at the Naval Postgraduate School

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CHDS Graduating Class, December 19th 2014

Twenty-nine professionals who work in the homeland security field were awarded a [Master of Arts in Security Studies](#) December 19 from the Center for Homeland Defense and Security at the Naval Postgraduate School.

The graduates comprise professionals from law enforcement, fire safety, homeland security, public health and agencies under the Department of Homeland Security.

“These graduates bring great credit to themselves and their professions and will join the expanding network of homeland security leaders who are shaping the future of our nation,” said CHDS Director Glen Woodbury.

Three graduates earned special honors:

- Senior Special Agent James Ricciuti of the Department of Homeland Security-Federal Protective Service earned the Outstanding Thesis award for his thesis, *“Groupthink: A Significant Threat to the Homeland Security of the United States.”*
- Ms. Angela English, Texas Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities, earned the Curtis H. “Butch” Straub Achievement Award. The award is in honor of one of CHDS’ founders and is based on grades, thesis and classroom leadership.

In addition, English earned the honor of Graduating with Distinction, a designation that goes to no more than 10 percent of the students earning a master’s degree within each individual degree program.

- Assistant Chief Trevor Richmond, Los Angeles Fire Department, was the winner of the Philip Zimbardo Award. This award honors a student who demonstrates the best understanding of the psychological aspects of terrorism and whose performance in the master’s program best embodies the highest levels of academic achievement. The honor is named after Stanford University psychologist and professor emeritus Philip Zimbardo, who also formerly taught at CHDS.

Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security Master's Degree Graduates

- Colonel Lee Smithson, Mississippi Army National Guard; Jackson, Mississippi
- Chief Kenneth Adcox, Laporte (Texas) Police Department
- Chief Richard Boudreaux, West Baton Rouge (Louisiana) Fire District,
- Sergeant Jay Bowen III, Philadelphia Police Department,
- Mr. Leroy Brush, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Washington, D.C.
- Captain Benjamin Burns, Florida Department of Agriculture, Pensacola, Florida
- Ms. Louise Byrne, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Washington, D.C.
- Mr. Brent Cotton, Transportation Security Administration; Washington, D.C.
- Supervisory Special Agent Stephen Cyrus, Federal Bureau of Investigation; Washington, D.C.
- Ms. Angela English, Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities; Austin, Texas
- Assistant Special Agent In-Charge Julie Ferrell, United States Secret Service; Washington, D.C.
- Chief Steven Goble, Henderson (Nevada) Fire Department
- Ms. Deanne Harwood, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Washington, D.C.
- Captain Bruce Hiorns, Massachusetts State Police, Northampton, Massachusetts
- Mr. Vladimir Ibarra, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Providence, Rhode Island
- Ms. Souzan Kermani, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Laguna Niguel, California
- Mr. Nicolas Klem, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Charlotte, North Carolina
- Chief Deputy Douglas Lee, Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, California
- Mr. Tedric Lindstrom, United States Coast Guard, Seattle, Washington
- Special Agent In-Charge Edward Lowery, United States Secret Service, Washington, D.C.
- Sergeant Mark Mac Donnell, New York City Police Department
- Cabinet Secretary Gregory Myers, New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- Captain John O' Kleasky, Richmond (Virginia) Police Department, Virginia
- Mr. William Pilkington, Public Health Authority of Cabarrus County, North Carolina
- Mr. Aaron Reynolds, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Seattle, Washington
- Senior Special Agent James Ricciuti, U.S. Federal Protective Service, Boston
- Assistant Chief Trevor Richmond, Los Angeles Fire Department
- Captain John Romero, Los Angeles Police Department, California
- Mr. Christopher Toms, United States Coast Guard; Washington, D.C.