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CHDS Graduates Ninth Homeland Security Class

Center for Homeland Defense and Security

Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California

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CHDS Graduates Ninth Homeland Security Class

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Thirty two of the nation's top homeland security leaders received their master's degree at the Naval Postgraduate School's (NPS) Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS) September 26, 2008. This marks the ninth commencement ceremony of the program that to date has produced over 200 graduates from around the country. The 18 month program is conducted in partnership with NPS and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), National Preparedness Directorate, FEMA.

"Homeland security is a dynamic and ever-changing environment. These graduates have learned how to approach the issues with a global strategic perspective. They have a network of over 200 senior leaders who are experts in their fields to assist them in their daily challenges," said CHDS Director, Glen Woodbury. The goal of the Center is to provide local, state, tribal, federal and military leaders with a neutral educational forum to develop the strategies, policies and organizational elements to prevent, deter, and defeat terrorism. The program requires participants to complete a thesis that proposes solutions to current homeland security policy and strategy challenges within their agencies. Several of the theses have become best practices and are used as national models. For example:

- Sacramento Police Department Chief Rick Braziel's thesis, "[Impact of Homeland Security Communities of Learning: Developing a Strategy for Training and Collaboration](#)," was recently used as the framework for a \$3.1 million DHS training grant. The Northern California Regional Public Safety Training College was successfully awarded the three year Competitive Training Grant by DHS to train intelligence analysts.
- U.S. Coast Guard LCDR Michael Andre Billeaudeau's thesis entitled "[Leveraging Citizens and Cultivating Vigilance for the Force Multiplication in the Maritime Domain](#)," was the concept for the Citizen's Action Network (CAN) which is being implemented by the U.S. Coast Guard across the nation. The CAN portal (<http://www.pacnwest.org>) hosts a copy of the thesis which has been downloaded nearly 1,000 times over the past 11 months. Billeaudeau's research is gaining international exposure: the London England Police Department are requesting information regarding the CAN Program.

January 2008 marked the five-year anniversary of the Center. Since its inception, CHDS has grown to become the nation's premier provider of homeland security graduate and executive level education. The Center has developed and delivered a cadre of graduate education programs and resources which have been shared with other academic institutions around the country to facilitate the emerging discipline of homeland security and a national network of related academic programs. CHDS is nationally recognized for offering the first master's degree program for homeland security in the country and graduates 90 senior officials every year. The Mobile Education Team (MET) has conducted more than 100 seminars for governors and mayors and their homeland security teams. More than 2800 senior officials have participated in the MET program.

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