

APEX

2025 | ALUMNI PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE

February 18-20, 2025
Monterey, California



CENTER FOR HOMELAND
DEFENSE AND SECURITY
NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL



Lovers Point Beach,
Pacific Grove, CA

APEX

2025 | ALUMNI PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE

February 18–20, 2024

Monterey, California

Continuing Education Workshop
Barbara McNitt Ballroom, Herrmann Hall
Naval Postgraduate School

We'd like to welcome you all back to the Center for Homeland Defense and Security at the Naval Postgraduate School for APEX 2025. It's incredible to see so many CHDS alumni return to Monterey, CA, for this year's annual Alumni Professional Exchange Continuing Education Workshop.

APEX continues to play an integral part in our ongoing mission to educate our nation's leaders in the homeland security enterprise on the complex and dynamic threats we face and underscores the fundamental importance of collaboration and innovation in our community.

We have another exciting line-up of expert speakers and presentations on a range of national and international security issues over the next three days.

Of course, none of this would be possible without our CHDS partners, including NPS, DoD-DPSI, FEMA, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and we'd like to thank them for their continuing support.

Most of all, we'd like to thank all of you for your attendance and your ongoing dedication to the nation's preeminent homeland security educational institution. We couldn't do this without you.

Here's to an engaging and thought-provoking APEX 2025!

DR. GREGORY BERNARD, DIRECTOR
CENTER FOR HOMELAND DEFENSE AND SECURITY



**CENTER FOR HOMELAND
DEFENSE AND SECURITY**
NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL

THE NATION'S HOMELAND SECURITY EDUCATOR | WWW.CHDS.US
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Dr. Gregory Bernard is the Director of the Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS) at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA.

Bernard is a CHDS alumnus and graduated in 2012 with a Master of Arts degree in Security Studies. His CHDS Master's thesis was titled "Whistleblowing in a Wikileaks World: A Model for Responsible Disclosure in Homeland Security." He was also a co-founder of the CHDS Homeland Security Experimental (HSx) program.

Before taking the helm at CHDS, Bernard worked for the National Security Innovation Network (NSIN), a component of U.S. Department of Defense's (DOD) Defense Innovation Unit (DIU), where he served as the Talent Portfolio Director. He also previously served as Acting Managing Director for the organization. As NSIN Talent Portfolio Director, Bernard led a team responsible for changing the way the DOD solves problems by building a diverse network and delivering innovation programming designed to solve national security problems by matching them with non-traditional problem-solving communities, primarily in venture and academia.

Bernard has worked with the U.S. government since 2003 when he joined the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP) as a contractor working on the Homeland Security Grant Program. He left his contracting firm in 2005 and joined ODP as a federal program manager. His last post at DHS was as the Acting Innovation Officer and Acting Chief of Strategic Analysis for the National Risk Management Center within the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

Bernard received a Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) in Civil Security, Leadership, Management, and Policy in 2016 from New Jersey City University. His dissertation was titled "Who is Professor Plum: A Framework for Defining Non-State Adversaries."

A native of Maryland, Bernard currently lives in Monterey, CA, with his wife and two daughters.

2025 Networking Reception

Black Horse/Bayonet Golf Club

Tuesday, February 18th • 5:30pm–8:00pm

Networking Reception hosted by the CHDS Association

New CHDS Merch • Cash Bar • Appetizers • Chats/Laughs
All alumni and guests, speakers, faculty, and staff are invited



Black Horse/Bayonet Golf Club
1 McClure Way,
Seaside, CA 93955
(831) 899-7271

Day One | Tuesday, February 18th

- 8:00 a.m. **Doors Open and Coffee**
Coffee Service
- 8:30 a.m. **National Anthem**
• **Velvet Piini**, CHDS Staff
- Welcome**
• **Dr. Gregory Bernard**, Director,
Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS)
- Opening Remarks**
• **Vice Admiral Ann E. Rondeau**, USN (Ret.),
President, Naval Postgraduate School (NPS)
- Workshop Overview**
• **Heather Hollingsworth**,
Director, Strategic Communications (CHDS)
- 8:50 a.m. **The Speed of Technology: Perspectives on Adoption**
• **Justin Fanelli**, Chief Technology Officer (Acting), U.S. Navy
- 10:00 a.m. **Morning Break**
- 10:20 a.m. **Homeland Security and the Economy of 2025 and Beyond**
• **Owen West**, Marine, (frmr) Asst. Sec Defense,
Goldman Sachs Energy Trading Partner (ret.)
- 11:40 a.m. **Lunch (NPS on Campus Dining Options)**
- 1:00 p.m. **Putin's War: Beyond Ukraine**
• **Alex Finley**, Author, CIA officer (ret.)
- 2:15 p.m. **Afternoon Break**
- 2:35 p.m. **Alumni Short Talk: Creative Mind as a Force Multiplier**
• **Shruti Dhapodkar**, Director, San Mateo Department of
Emergency Management
- 4:00 p.m. **Adjourn**
-

► **Evening Event:** ***All alumni and guests, speakers, faculty, and staff are invited***

- 5:30-8:00 p.m. • **Networking Reception** (Hosted by the CHDS Association)
Black Horse/Bayonet Golf Club | Seaside, CA

Vice Adm. Ann E. Rondeau, (Ret.), was appointed as President, Naval Postgraduate School on January 29, 2019. She brings to the assignment an unparalleled record of leadership and achievement within the military and academia in the areas of education, training, research, executive development, change management, and strategic planning. Prior to her appointment, Adm. Rondeau served as the sixth president of the College of DuPage. Her most recent military position was as the President of the National Defense University, a consortium of five colleges and nine research centers in Washington, DC. Rondeau has extensive leadership experience in significant military and educational roles. In 1985, she was selected and served as a White House Fellow in the Reagan Administration and went on to serve as the Deputy Commander of the U.S. Transportation Command in Illinois, Pentagon Director/Chief of Staff for the U.S. Navy Staff, Commander of the Navy Personnel Development Command in Virginia, Commander of the Naval Service Training Command at Great Lakes, Ill., Pacific Fleet Staff Chief of Staff in Hawaii, Commanding Officer of Naval Support Activity in Tennessee and other staff and commanding responsibilities with policy, support and student service. Rondeau retired from the U.S. Navy as a three-star admiral in 2012 and was the second woman to have achieved that rank in the Navy. She then served as a partner and later an independent consultant with the IBM Watson group. Rondeau holds a B.A. from Eisenhower College (NY), an M.A. from Georgetown University (DC) and an Ed.D. from the College of Education at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. She also holds an honorary Doctorate in Public Service from Carthage College (Kenosha, WI) and an honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science (Chicago, IL).

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Register today! www.chds.us/selfstudy

Newly Released Courses:

- 1. Human Trafficking and the Homeland Security Enterprise: A Primer
- 2. Human Trafficking and the Homeland Security Enterprise for Practitioners
- 3. Insider Threats

Do You Teach?
Email Strategic Communications Data Analyst **Cristian Ramirez** to get on the distribution list and receive updates on collaboration opportunities with other CHDS alumni who teach!

► cristian.ramirez.ctr@nps.edu

Day Two | Wednesday, February 19th

- 8:00 a.m.** **Doors Open and Coffee**
Coffee Service
- 8:30 a.m.** **Day Two Overview**
• Elaine Jennings, President, CHDSA
- 8:45 a.m.** **The State of the Center - Opportunities and Information for Alumni**
• Dr. Gregory Bernard, Director, CHDS
- 10:15 a.m.** **Morning Break**
- 10:35 a.m.** **Cascading Global Crisis: A Triple Weather and Climate Catastrophe Scenario Overview - Panel Discussion**
• **Facilitator: Dan O'Connor**, Field Operations Director, FEMA
• **Katelin Wright**, Adjudication Officer, USCIS
• **Troy Christensen**, External Affairs Officer, FEMA
- 11:45 a.m.** **Lunch (NPS on Campus Dining Options)**
- 1:00 p.m.** **Alumni Short Talk: Untangling Polycrisis: Public Leadership and Complex Crisis Analysis in a Modern World**
• **Judy Boyd**, U.S. Coast Guard, Senior Fellow, The Arctic Institute
- 2:15 p.m.** **Afternoon Break**
- 2:35 p.m.** **Interoperability Considerations for Mass Gatherings/Special Events**
• **Charlie Guddemi**, Statewide Interoperability Coordinator, Readiness and Response Coordination Bureau, Division of Operations & Intelligence, DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency
- 4:00 p.m.** **Adjourn**
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How are you using your education?

Let us know how you are using your CHDS experience in the real world.

Send us your testimonials, promotions, and examples.

It's easy!

Please send your story to Heather Hollingsworth at hissvora@nps.edu

What makes us unique is how you network and collaborate.

Thank you!



Refer a friend or colleague!

SEND US RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHDS PROGRAMS | HISSVORA@NPS.EDU

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APPLICATION DEADLINES
MAY 1, 2025 AND DEC. 1, 2025

EXECUTIVE LEADERS PROGRAM

APPLICATION DEADLINES
MAY 1, 2025 AND DEC. 1, 2025

EMERGENCE PROGRAM

APPLICATION DEADLINES
MAY 1, 2025 AND DEC. 1, 2025

RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

APPLICATION DEADLINE
DEC. 1, 2025

RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM EARLY CAREER

APPLICATION DEADLINE
DEC. 1, 2025

PACIFIC EXECUTIVE LEADERS PROGRAM

DEC. 15, 2025

▶ SEND US THREE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OUR PROGRAMS TO HISSVORA@NPS.EDU

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AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES

 @hslibrary

Stop by the HSDL table in the lobby and say hello!

Day Three | Thursday, February 20th

- 8:00 a.m. **Doors Open and Coffee**
Coffee Service
- 8:30 a.m. **Day Three Overview**
• **John Flynn**, Vice President, CHDSA
Presentation of CHDSA Christopher Bellavita Educator Award
Presentation of the CHDS Alumni Service Award
• **Elaine Jennings**, President, CHDSA
- 8:45 a.m. **The Future of Border Security and Generative AI**
• **Rodrigo Nieto-Gomez**, Faculty, Naval Postgraduate School
- 10:00 a.m. **Morning Break**
- 10:20 a.m. **The Impact of CHDS Alumni 20 Years Later**
• **Facilitator: Dave Brannan**, Senior Faculty, Program Manager
CHDS
• **Cathy Lanier**, Senior Vice President Security,
National Football League
• **Pat Miller**, Instructor, CHDS
• **Joe Pfeifer**, Senior Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School –
Adjunct Associate Professor & Director of Crisis Leadership
at Columbia University
• **GB Jones**, Chief Safety and Security Officer,
FIFA World Cup 2026
- 11:45 a.m. **Lunch (NPS on Campus Dining Options)**
- 1:00 p.m. **The Future of Warfare**
• **John Robb**, Global Guerillas
- 2:15 p.m. **Afternoon Break**
- 2:35 p.m. **Alumni Short Talk: Emergency Management, The Impossible
Task of this Century**
• **Brock Long**, Executive Chairman, Hagerty Consulting
Former FEMA Administrator
- 4:00 p.m. **Adjourn**
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▶ Please take a moment to complete our survey

Thank you for attending this year's APEX!



CHDS Live Network

CHDS has a real-time collaborative Slack channel that addresses breaking homeland defense/security issues. The goal is to have a way for our community to help one another with the incredibly powerful perspectives represented amongst our staff, faculty, students, and alumni. The key is that it is faster and more efficient for us to talk when news breaks and we need to share smart practices.

Sign up today!

To access the CHDS Slack space, scan the QR and follow the prompts to enter and verify your email.



CHDS Live Network
chdsnps.slack.com



Center For Homeland Defense & Security Association (CHDSA)

Board of Directors

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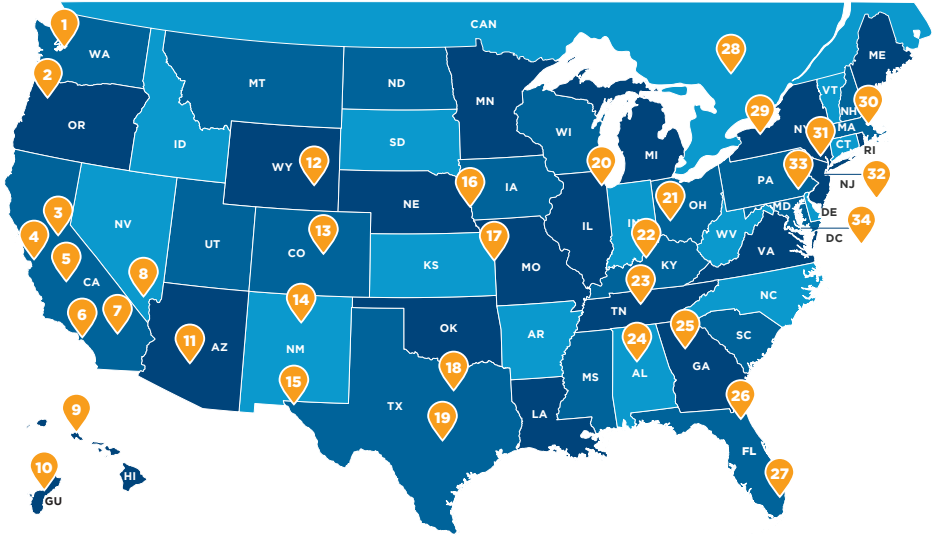
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SUPPORTING THE EDUCATION OF OUR
HOMELAND SECURITY LEADERS | www.chdsa.org

Regional Alumni Chapters

CHDS education programs promote collaboration, communication, and information sharing among leaders both during and after their CHDS programs. In order to keep in touch and create a national network of homeland security professionals, 34 regional chapters have been established by alumni throughout North America and United States territories.



- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. WASHINGTON
SEATTLE | 12. WYOMING
CASPER | 23. TENNESSEE
NASHVILLE |
| 2. OREGON
PORTLAND | 13. COLORADO
DENVER | 24. ALABAMA
HUNTSVILLE |
| 3. CALIFORNIA
NORTHERN | 14. NEW MEXICO
ALBUQUERQUE | 25. GEORGIA
ATLANTA |
| 4. CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE | 15. TEXAS
EL PASO | 26. FLORIDA
NORTHERN |
| 5. CALIFORNIA
BAKERSFIELD | 16. NEBRASKA
OMAHA | 27. FLORIDA
SOUTHERN |
| 6. CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES | 17. MISSOURI & KANSAS
KANSAS CITY | 28. CANADA
ONTARIO |
| 7. CALIFORNIA
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DALLAS | 29. NEW YORK
WESTERN |
| 8. NEVADA
LAS VEGAS | 19. TEXAS
AUSTIN | 30. MASSACHUSETTS
NEW ENGLAND |
| 9. HAWAII
HONOLULU | 20. ILLINOIS
CHICAGO | 31. NEW YORK
NEW YORK CITY |
| 10. GUAM
WESTERN PACIFIC | 21. OHIO
DAYTON | 32. NEW JERSEY
NEWARK |
| 11. ARIZONA
PHOENIX | 22. KENTUCKY
LOUISVILLE | 33. PENNSYLVANIA
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