CENTER FOR HOMELAND DEFENSE AND SECURITY
NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL

Building the Knowledge and Networks that Safeguard the Nation | In Partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security | chds.us

EXECUTIVE LEADERS PROGRAM

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

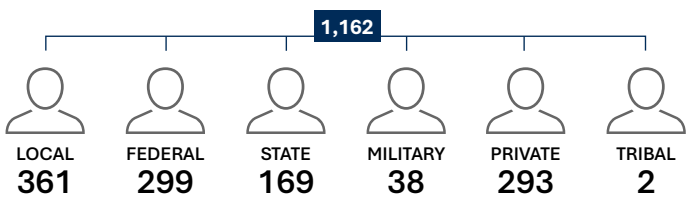
The Executive Leaders Program (ELP) is a graduate-level, non-degree educational experience designed for senior leaders responsible for advancing the homeland security and homeland defense missions of the United States. This is a strategy and policy education program focused on critical thinking, offering participants the rare opportunity to engage in candid, cross-sector conversations with peers and senior decision-makers across government, military, and the private sector. Through facilitated dialogue and peer exchange, participants gain a broader, more global perspective on national security and the evolving risks facing the nation.

ELP is not a leadership development program, it is a *leaders program*, intended for those already serving in key decision-making roles across the federal government, state and local agencies, tribal nations, territorial governments, the military, and the private sector. Together, participants examine security challenges through a multidisciplinary lens, considering foreign and domestic threats, across domains ranging from cyber and critical infrastructure to public health, and artificial intelligence. Special emphasis is placed on homeland defense, intergovernmental complexity, and the evolving nature of risk in a globally connected world.

Participants gain insights from respected faculty and national experts, while also learning from one another through sustained dialogue, case studies, and collaborative problem-solving. The program fosters deep connections and trust across organizations and jurisdictions, which are essential outcomes for enhancing coordination in the real world.

COHORTS 2025		SINCE INCEPTION AUGUST 2006	
COHORTS	4	COHORTS	41
PARTICIPANTS	114	ALUMNI	1,162

ALUMNI BY JURISDICTION



PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Provide strategic frameworks and policy tools to develop innovative approaches that strengthen the national security of the United States.
- Enhance participants' capacity to assess and respond to complex and emerging threats with clarity, consistency, and foresight.
- Deepen understanding of homeland security and homeland defense issues, evolving risks, and intergovernmental policy debates.
- Build enduring networks that improve collaboration across local, state, tribal, territorial, federal, military, and private sector domains.

CURRICULUM

The Executive Leaders Program focuses on strategic, policy, and organizational aspects of homeland security, emphasizing critical thinking and cross-sector dialogue. Led by experts and senior officials, seminars cover foundational issues, emerging threats, and actionable knowledge. Participants engage in discussions, fireside chats, exercises, and case studies. Signature activities like "Walk and Talk" and "What's On Your Mind" foster reflection, peer learning, and leadership development. The curriculum broadens understanding of homeland security and equips participants with insights to enhance strategy and decision-making.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- Each cohort consists of 25-30 senior-level leaders selected through a competitive national application process.
- Participants attend three in-person sessions, two at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, and one at the Bolger Center in Potomac, Maryland, typically scheduled quarterly.
- Instruction is seminar-style and dialogue-driven, combining presentations by expert faculty and interactive discussion with peers and guest speakers.
- Designed for experienced executives, the program respects the time demands of senior leaders while maintaining academic rigor appropriate for a graduate-level educational environment.

COST

All participant costs (tuition, course materials, travel, lodging on campus, etc.) for the ELP in Monterey, CA, are covered for public-sector participants. Private sector participants must pay for travel and lodging, but do not have to pay for tuition and course materials.

ANNUAL APPLICATION DEADLINES

May 1st, Fall Start | December 1st, Spring Start

Apply Now www.chds.us/elp

chds-elp@nps.edu | 831-656-3829 | www.chds.us