



CENTER FOR HOMELAND DEFENSE AND SECURITY HOMELAND DEFENSE INNOVATION LAB

In partnership with Department of War Domestic Preparedness Support Initiative

“GOOD GOVERNMENT IN ACTION”

About the Homeland Defense Innovation Lab

The Homeland Defense Innovation Lab (the Innovation Lab) at the Center for Homeland Defense and Security and the U.S. Department of War are working together in a unique partnership through the Domestic Preparedness Support Initiative (DPSI), leveraging CHDS master's students' expertise as senior homeland security officials to bridge a “crucial homeland defense gap,” and apply proven innovation techniques to homeland defense and security challenges.

Integrating Department of War innovation with first responder expertise to strengthen resiliency and homeland defense.

The Innovation Lab builds a collaborative space for Department of War technologists and homeland security practitioners to co-design tools and technologies that improve the quality of services provided to citizens and protect our national territory, domestic population, and critical infrastructure. In doing so, the Domestic Preparedness Support Initiative and the Center for Homeland Defense and Security are bridging a crucial homeland defense gap in a unique way, by applying cutting-edge innovation techniques to homeland defense and security challenges. Students of the CHDS Master's Program with a professional background in homeland security interact directly with national security and defense technology developers to explore ways to adapt already developed Department of War technologies to the needs of the American territory, bridging this important homeland defense gap.

The transfer of Department of War technology to homeland security entities such as law enforcement, firefighters, emergency managers,

public health professionals, and others is in alignment with the National Defense Strategy by reducing reliance on the Department of War in a major crisis if an adversary attacks during a disaster.

In 2025, the Innovation Lab dedicated its entire effort to counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems, responding to the fast-growing drone threat and shifting from previous years' mixed project portfolios to a fully unified mission. Small, low-altitude UAVs now enable smuggling, disruption, and potential attacks, exposing critical gaps in detection, authorities, and response. Students confronted these challenges from multiple angles, applying real-world operational expertise to defense-driven problems.

This year, **10 Innovation Lab teams partnered with the DOW** to advance emerging counter-UAS solutions. Projects spanned drone detection, compliance, and intelligence-sharing, as well as field-ready tools such as mobile situational-awareness platforms, non-lethal deterrence options, and geofencing policy approaches. Together, the teams delivered practitioner-driven recommendations to strengthen preparedness and help first responders integrate defense technologies into homeland operations.

Key Student Accomplishments

- Conducted research at the Southern Border involving the tactical deployment of drone technology in border security.
- Unified all teams under a single counter-UAS mission
- Advanced solutions in detection, certification, and mitigation gaps
- Provided unique, frontline insights shaping real-world UAV defense efforts

SINCE INCEPTION 2022

PROJECTS
38
PARTICIPANTS
250

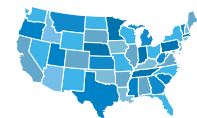
PARTNERS

Department of War (DOW)
Assistant Secretary of Defense
for Homeland Defense and
Hemispheric Affairs
DOW Domestic Preparedness
Support Initiative

AGENCIES

Participants represent
155 agencies nationwide
Local, State, Territorial,
Federal, Military, Private,
and Tribal

NATIONAL REACH



60% of U.S. States
and Territories
Represented

Stephanie Koeshall, former Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense Integration and Defense Support of Civil Authorities in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (OUSDP), called the DPSI partnership a “very valuable tool for DOW to gain insight into technology we are actively engaged in,” adding that the goal is to “focus on strengthening homeland resilience through increasing our partners' capacity and capability.”

LEARN MORE ABOUT DPSI

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