



"Charting a Course for Homeland Security Strategic Studies"

A Conference Sponsored by:

Department of Homeland Security

United States Coast Guard Academy

George Washington University

American Psychological Association

NORTHCOM HS/HD Education Consortium

University of California Irvine, Center for Unconventional Security Affairs

Naval Postgraduate Center for Homeland Defense and Security

National Academic Consortium on Homeland Security (NACHS—at Ohio State University)

National Defense University

Background

No national forum has been assembled to investigate and define what the future of HS education should be. To date, the primary emphasis of the multitude of national conferences and fora has been on technology, general homeland security policy and events with highly specific objectives that range the complete HLS training and education spectrum. These events have typically been co-sponsored by a federal agency within DHS and appropriate trade associations and interest groups, and have focused primarily on surveillance and communications technologies and first responder needs. Although the importance of these areas of inquiry cannot be overstated, it is only through integrated, well-focused educational programs that inform and exercise the national capability and its state and local components that meaningful and effective HS readiness will be achieved. The convening of "Charting a Course for Homeland Security Strategic Studies" will provide a coordinated and integrated approach to meet national HS Education needs is an essential first step.

Conference Purpose and Outcomes

Traditional strategic studies programs currently offered by academe or by senior military service schools draw their analytical methods from a variety of academic disciplines and teach the context, theory, and application of military power and the use of force.

Before the terrorist attacks of September 11, the Armed Forces focused on deterrence, stability, and warfighting missions arising in overseas theaters. The U.S. homeland was regarded as a rear area, not a front line, and the job of securing it was primarily a task for civilian law enforcement agencies at the Federal, state, and local levels. The attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and the bioterrorist acts that followed, have prompted a review that reaffirms the Constitutional role of the Federal Government as protector of the states against foreign aggression and restores defense of the American homeland as the primary mission of the Department of Defense (DOD).

Of course, with the passage of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, the creation of the Department of Homeland Security instituted a parallel structure with the mandate to protect the homeland. The debate over the differences between Homeland Defense and Homeland Security, though not the focus of this conference, inform the spectrum of military and civil law enforcement options and approaches the nation possesses to combat asymmetric threats. These options, and those responsible for carrying them out require a full appreciation of that spectrum when making critical security decisions. Homeland security should not be viewed as exclusively or even primarily a military task. Securing the "domestic battlespace" – a highly complex environment –requires Federal departments and agencies, state and local governments, the private sector, and individual citizens to perform many strategic, operational, and tactical level tasks in an integrated fashion. These actions must be synchronized with others that are being taken on the international front to prosecute the war against global terrorism. The challenges and demands associated with this undertaking are immense. Success will depend largely upon the Nation's ability to achieve unity of effort at all levels of government.

Unfortunately, current strategic studies programs have yet to settle on how best to address the recent changes in the security environment with curriculum and policy research programs that prepare both military and civilian leaders to effectively decide on the optimal courses of action when faced with a terrorist threat. Once more, the distinctions between a law enforcement-centric or military response have become increasingly blurred since September 11 and now require a rethinking of what a more responsive strategic studies program curriculum would look like, one that factors in the potential for an active domestic battlespace.

Accordingly, the conference co-sponsors, along with our academic, military and private-sector partners, are committed to a national dialogue on the future of Homeland Security Strategic Studies. The conference's purpose is to establish a forum in which to discuss this important issue and to provide a framework for the direction of Strategic Studies for senior decision-makers from all sectors to consider. The outcome of this Conference will be the development of a list of recommendations and strategies concerning education curricula for strategic studies. The resulting body of work from this conference will also inform the discussion of future HS education and training planning.