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DHS S&T Centers of Excellence (COEs)

ALERT – The [Center for Awareness and Localization of Explosives-Related Threats](#), led by Northeastern University.

CHC – The [Coastal Hazards Center of Excellence](#), co-led by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Jackson State University.

CREATE – The [National Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events](#), led by the University of Southern California.

CVADA – The [Center for Visualization and Data Analytics](#), co-led by Purdue University and Rutgers University.

NCBSI – The [National Center for Border Security and Immigration](#), co-led by the University of Arizona in Tucson and the University of Texas at El Paso.

NCFPD – The [National Center for Food Protection and Defense](#), led by the University of Minnesota.

START – The [National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism](#), led by the University of Maryland.

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EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

Registration Open for START's Free Online Terrorism Course

The University of Maryland awarded \$10,000 to [START to design and teach a free online course](#), "Understanding Terrorism and the Terrorist Threat," which will be offered through Coursera starting Jan 27, 2014. The course, which is open to the public, will explore the who, what, and how questions of terrorism and introduce students to cutting-edge research and the experts investigating these topics. Several START researchers will guest lecture. [Sign up online for the eight-week course](#).

Register to Attend CVADA/USCG-hosted 4th Annual Maritime Risk Meeting in November

CVADA-Purdue University will host the [National Strategic Maritime Risk Stakeholder Alliance Meeting](#) on Nov 20-21 in West Lafayette, Ind. This year's theme is Data-Driven Risk-Based Decision Making in the Maritime Domain. Among the guest speakers are Vice Admiral Robert Parker, Commander Atlantic Area, United States Coast Guard; Assistant Secretary Alan Cohn, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Strategy, Planning, Analysis, and Risk; and Rear Admirals Kevin Cook and Peter Brown. The event includes panel session discussions with subject matter experts, hands-on technology demonstrations, and a student poster competition. [Register](#) to attend the event.

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CURRENT EVENTS

DHS S&T and FEMA sign MOU to Formalize Partnership and Strengthen Collaborative Efforts

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Deputy Administrator Richard Serino and Science and Technology (S&T) Under Secretary (Acting) Dr. Daniel Gerstein signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Oct 24 to celebrate the working relationship between the two DHS components. The MOU formalizes the partnership between FEMA and S&T's Office of University Programs to strengthen links with academia through the DHS S&T Centers of Excellence (COEs) and better align COE-developed tools, technologies, knowledge products, training, and talent with operational requirements of FEMA and the emergency management community. Specifically, the new MOU will allow FEMA to strengthen its engagement with CHC. This new MOU strengthens the "whole community" approach to emergency management and represents FEMA and the DHS S&T Office of University Programs' commitment to ensuring academic collaboration will continue in the future.

START Annual Symposium Teaches End Users About START Datasets

This year's [annual START Symposium](#) was held on Sept 11 and focused on introducing end users to [START datasets](#) available to the public for use in analysis and research. The tools included the Global Terrorism Database, Big Allied and Dangerous dataset, Minorities at Risk Organizational Behavior dataset, and Transnational Illicit Trafficking Tool. More than 150 end users and attendees represented a variety of international embassies and federal agencies, including DHS, FEMA, the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO), the U.S. Secret Service, the National Security Agency, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

CHC Researcher Featured on New Science Program About Hurricanes and Storm Surge

Dr. Rick Luettich, Director of CHC-University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was featured on UNC-TV's new program, *North Carolina Science Now*. Luettich used the ADCIRC (Advanced CIRCulation) storm surge/flood model to demonstrate the dangers of storm surge during Hurricane Irene in 2011. [Watch Luettich's interview.](#)

NCBSI Participates in Immigration Roundtable

NCBSI-The University of Arizona Director Jay Nunamaker and Executive Director Elyse Golob participated in a [roundtable discussion](#) on immigration reform issues Sept 4 at Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of International Migration. The discussion focused on border security, immigrant outreach, future labor demands, and the impact of past immigration legalization programs in the United States.

DHS and Local First Responders Participate in CVADA Annual Meeting

[CVADA-Purdue University held its annual meeting](#) Sept 26-27 in Indiana. Panel participants included representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard, Transportation Security Agency, Indiana State Police, Cook County Sheriff's Police Department, Indiana Department of Corrections, Lafayette Police Department, Purdue Fire Department, Ohio State Highway Patrol, and Illinois State Police. Panel discussions centered on end-user needs in visualization, security, gang criminal analytics, and public safety.

CREATE Forum Features Research on Lone Wolf Terrorism

The growing threat of lone wolf terrorism was the focus of a [CREATE Lecture Forum on Sept 18](#). In his presentation, "The Growing Threat of Lone Wolf Terrorism," Dr. Jeffrey Simon discussed the backgrounds and motivations of lone wolf terrorists and why there have been so few female lone wolves despite the number of women who are in organized terrorist groups. He also discussed innovative strategies and policies that can be used to prevent and respond to this form of violence. Finally, Simon talked about how the Internet has become the perfect breeding ground for isolated individuals with terrorist tendencies, but how it may also prove to be their undoing.

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TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH TRANSITION

New START Study Identifies Characteristics Common among Violent Lone Actor Extremists

A [new study by START researchers](#) found that lone-actor extremists who have committed homicides were less likely to have participated in protests or rallies and found no evidence that lone actors rely more on extremist propaganda to "self-radicalize" than do other types of offenders. In addition, violent lone actors tend to possess prior military experience, struggle with mental illness prior to the attack, be younger in age, and have separated from a partner through divorce or death. [Read the full report online.](#)

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RESEARCH, INNOVATION, AND PARTNERSHIPS

CREATE to Develop Disaster Survivor Training for FEMA's Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

CREATE received \$175,000 in supplemental funds from FEMA's Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships to develop Disaster Survivor Initiative Training. The curriculum and training program will be used to educate FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance Teams on how to engage diverse houses of worship in disaster response. CREATE will also develop a course to train government personnel how to develop an actionable field strategy to effectively engage government officials and the religious community during disasters. This training was previously funded by a California State grant, and FEMA provided additional funds for CREATE to expand the initial course.

START to Investigate Illicit Radiological/Nuclear Networks for DNDO

[DNDO awarded START a \\$2.75 million contract](#) to conduct research to integrate and expand the scientific understanding of threats related to illicit radiological/nuclear trafficking, smuggling networks, and non-state actors within those networks. The effort will assist in centralizing and analyzing previous and new research in order to evaluate the current Global Nuclear Detection Architecture and adversary threats.

CREATE to Develop Framework to Assess Nuclear Detection Systems for DNDO

[CREATE received a \\$500,000 award from DNDO](#) to evaluate algorithms for detecting radiological/nuclear materials. CREATE will provide the expertise for developing and implementing an evaluation framework to assess nuclear detection systems. Experiment design experts from Rutgers University will work with the CREATE team.

NCFPD Signs MOU with the Chinese Academy of Inspection and Quarantine

[NCFPD formalized an international partnership](#) with the signing of an MOU with the Chinese Academy of Inspection and Quarantine (CAIQ) on July 25. CAIQ is a national public institute in China composed of 13 centers that conduct research and development of science and technology related to inspection and quarantine. NCFPD and CAIQ are exploring initiatives to improve the protection and defense of the food system through researcher exchanges, education opportunities, and collaborative research projects.

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AWARDS

ALERT Receives Award from TSA for Airport Security Technology

[ALERT researchers and personnel were recognized by Ohio Transportation Security Administration](#) (TSA) Federal Security Director Michael Young for their efforts in the Video Analytic Surveillance Transition (VAST) project. ALERT partnered with Siemens Corporate Research, TSA, and Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE) on the VAST project to develop video analytics methods at CLE to tackle existing airport security concerns. Young praised the collaboration between academia, industry, and TSA and presented the ALERT team with TSA Challenge Coins.

CREATE Transition Director Earns Doctorate for Research in Violent Extremism

Erroll G. Southers, Associate Director for Transition at CREATE, recently earned a Doctorate of Policy, Planning and Development from the Sol Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California. His dissertation, "[Homegrown Violent Extremism: Designing a Community-Based Model to Reduce the Risk of Recruitment and Radicalization](#)," explored morality, leadership, and group behavioral constructs capable of supporting a terrorism-resistant community model. The model is based on the capacity of the community to deter the threat of homegrown violent extremism. The thesis articulates that in addition to a security response, community support is vital to deterring homegrown violent extremism.

START Researchers Win Award for Novel Application of a Marketing Framework to Violent Extremist Organizations

A START research team from the University of Nebraska Omaha won Best Paper Award for its paper, "Applying a Marketing Framework to Violent Extremist Organizations (VEOs): How Notoriety Predicts Performance in Violent Groups," at the Annual Consumer Brand Relationships Conference in May 2013. Led by Dr. Gina Ligon in partnership with Dr. Mike Braezeale and three graduate students, the team found that VEOs use marketing vehicles in ways similarly used by for-profit organizations. The team showed that VEOs that gained attention from other VEOs (e.g., "Third Party Endorsements") and countries were able to acquire more diverse fundraising sources and talent. The notoriety VEOs gained through unusually cruel attacks and other promotional efforts was related to subsequent performance and capacity for violence. Early findings of the study are summarized in "The Organization and Leadership of Violence."

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For more information about the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) Office of University Programs and the DHS S&T Centers of Excellence (COEs), visit www.dhs.gov/st-centers-excellence.

For COE announcements and activities, visit the COE Collaboration Portal at www.hsuniversityprograms.org.

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