Contents of this Month's Update

CINA, DHS, and/or its federal partners are currently facing, or are expected to face, a range of challenges that will require consideration in upcoming research efforts. The primary areas of focus include:

• Cyber Extremism and Violence: With our partner COEs and other stakeholders, we are developing white papers on key questions, challenges, and possible ways forward. Vigilance to detect and thwart terrorist acts...but how do these extremist views develop and gain traction in the first place, and what are the influences and circumstances that lead an individual or group to plan and carry out such attacks in the first place. A common thread among domestic and international terrorists is adherence to extremist views that contribute to their motivation and willingness to conduct attacks. In an effort to spur research into this question, CINA continues to welcome paper submissions that will be presented at the upcoming 2021 COE Summit in Fairfax, Virginia, with the goal of advancing our ability to identify and monitor such activities across the U.S. homeland security and transnational organized crime in the Americas.

• Illicit Trade: We continue to focus on understanding the economic, social, and environmental losses that illicit trade can cause. Hear Dr. Jeffrey Hardy, Distinguished Professor of Economics and Director of the Center for Studying the Effects of Illicit Markets (CSEM), and Deanna Austin, Director of the Digital Archive: CINA Virtual Distinguished Speaker Series, as they discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, as well as the strategies that can be employed to mitigate these losses.

• Intellectual Property: If counterfeiting and copyright piracy are a concern for your organization, be sure to check out this month’s update. CINA continues to focus on enhancing workforce development and offering opportunities to become part of the applicant matching process to connect your organization with CINA-staffed students who can offer knowledge, skills, and abilities along with an eagerness to become part of the applicant matching process to connect your organization with CINA-staffed students who can offer knowledge, skills, and abilities along with an eagerness to.

• Cybersecurity: This month’s update includes a segment on the role of cybersecurity in safeguarding government agencies and technology companies, featuring a recent panel discussion with experts on the topic. This seminar’s discussion focused on the hack’s impact and research aimed at preventing similar cyber-attacks. Questions discussed include the impact of the attack, the methods used to exploit vulnerabilities, and strategies for improving cybersecurity practices to prevent future attacks. The panelists emphasized the importance of collaborating with government agencies and private sector organizations to develop effective solutions to address the growing threat of cybercrime.

• Internships: We continue to offer micro-internships and virtual internships as opportunities for students and recent graduates to gain hands-on experience in the field. The paid, professional, short-term internship is structured to allow for collaboration with government agencies and technology companies, is relevant research priorities.

• Innovation: As we continue to move forward with our mission of advancing the state of the art in homeland security, we also remain committed to fostering innovation and collaboration. Our recent webinar, hosted by the DHS Centers of Excellence (COE), offered a unique opportunity for COE researchers to connect and network with DHS components, federal, state, and local stakeholders, as well as industry partners. The webinar featured a range of speakers from different sectors, each sharing their insights on the latest trends and challenges in the field.

If you have any questions, please contact cina@gmu.edu.