THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Jim Hayes

On August 15, 2020, I shared CINA’s summer research team news “How Human Trafficking During a Global Pandemic Changed the Terrain.” In the past year, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Center on Innovation and National Challenges (CINA) have continued to navigate through a time of unexpected change, and we have learned that the only constant is (unexpected) change.

My two big takeaways from this last year are (1) the only constant in life is (unexpected) change, and (2) a good organization and team sees the opportunities in such a dynamic environment.

During the summer of 2020, I had the opportunity to manage both the Virtual Events and Research Office (CINA-RO) and the Center on Homeland Security Studies (CHS). This unique opportunity allowed for the successful execution of the second COE Summit, positioned three research projects for transition, launched a running COE project on cartel smuggling, moved our Distinguished Speaker Series and other events online, produced a white paper, and supported three MSI Summer Research Teams, all while managing a director transition and the effects of the pandemic.

The changes put forth during this time also allowed us to assess the impact of the pandemic on criminal networks and investigate the evolving threat environment. As a result of this challenge, we held our second annual CINA Annual Meeting, which allowed us to reflect on the last 12 months during which we helped plan and execute the second COE Summit, positioned three research projects for transition, launched an ongoing COE project on cartel smuggling, moved our Distinguished Speaker Series and other events online, launched a white paper, and supported three MSI Summer Research Teams, all while managing a director transition and the effects of the pandemic.

CINA is seeking white papers presenting research ideas intended to increase research project agility and timeliness, continued a multidisciplinary research project on human trafficking, and investigated the impact of the pandemic in the evolving threat environment.

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Fairfax, VA | 22030 US
4400 University Drive

www.cina.gmu.edu
September 2020

the strongest predictors of gang violence.

banking ecosystem’s risk and compliance controls by setting up fake online businesses and discuss how credit card transactions have increasingly become a conduit for money

Speakers

Wednesday, October 14, 2020, 12:00pm-1:30pm

Payment Ecosystem

Laundering and the Facilitation of

Virtual Event/Transaction

trafficking organization.

walkthrough that describes how data analytics, AI, and collaboration with

Speaker

Online Commercial Sex Ads

Virtual Event/ Finding Trafficking Networks in

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Summer Research Team (SRT) Program for Minority

and students

Omar Camarillo

these criminal organizations.

Over a recent summer, a faculty-student research team from Eastern

CINA Summer Research Team

and Nancy Hirst Endowed Chair at George Mason University Schar

Foreign Relations

The Evolution of Human Trafficking During

events.

 Researchers about human trafficking during a global pandemic.

The Annual Meeting reflected on the last 12 months during which we helped plan and

updates from the CINA and OUP teams, and a look at the emerging challenge landscape

with live Q&A sessions for each, an excellent keynote address from William Bryan and

academia, view-ahead video presentations from 15 different research teams complemented

On August 4, 2020, we held our CINA Annual Meeting under these “new normal”

conditions. We were able to produce a robust meeting with over 150 registrants, presenters, and attendees.

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execute the second COE Summit, positioned three research projects for transition, launched a

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CINA’s mission is to pursue a wide range of research projects that provide an opportunity to improve homeland security, to strengthen relations between academia, industry, and government, and to bridge the knowledge gap between the academic community and the public sector.

For more information on our upcoming events and research projects, please visit our website at www.cina.gmu.edu.

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