THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Diana Dolliver

I began serving as CINA Director one year ago and am proud to see the momentum that the Center has gained in that time. The Center has grown from a small team to an organization of more than 50 professionals, including analysts, researchers, and support staff.

One of the most satisfying aspects of my role is the opportunity to work with such a talented and dedicated group of people. The Center’s mission is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the homeland security enterprise by providing cutting-edge research and analysis. We do this through a variety of programs, including the National Transient Criminal Network Analysis (CINA) Center, which focuses on understanding and mitigating the threat of transnational organized crime.

In the past year, CINA has produced a number of significant research projects and initiatives. The Center has developed a comprehensive report on the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, and has produced a series of reports on the threat posed by transnational organized crime. We have also begun a new initiative to develop workforce development programs for the Department of Homeland Security.

I am grateful for all of the support and guidance that I have received from my colleagues, as well as from the many leaders in the homeland security community who have shared their insights and perspectives.

I look forward to continuing to work with this talented team to achieve our mission and provide cutting-edge research and analysis to support the Department of Homeland Security.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

DHS R&T Coordinator Recruits American Security Today Media & Community Relations with the DHS Science and Technology (S&T) Directorates Office of Border and Transportation Security (OBTS) with the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC)

DHS is seeking candidates for an internship with DHS S&T. This is a new federal internship through CINA & DHS to support workforce development efforts.


I began serving as CINA Director one year ago, and the other day was asked what I had learned from being in this role. Here are a few things that come to mind:

COVID-19 has shown that transnational organized crime (TCOs) is hard. This won’t be a surprise to most of you reading this, but spending time closer to the problem showed me how dynamic, agile, innovative, and ruthless TCOs are, not to mention resourceful. We need to think about counter-TCO in new ways and tackle the problem in ways that are more effective.

I also learned that fighting TCOs, and supporting those that do, is even harder in a pandemic. Our organizations are more distributed than we expected, and we face challenges like never before. This is something that I think we need to be thinking about as we consider the future of our mission.

I also learned that from clarity of mission comes a strategy and actions, and this gets and keeps everyone rowing in the same direction, focused on our collectively prioritized results.

Assessment of CINA’s Workforce Development

I am proud of the fact that CINA is able to support such a meaningful mission, and I am grateful to all of you who supported and executed the many tasks necessary to get to this point. I am also thankful for the opportunity to work with such a talented and dedicated team.

The CINA Center network has four projects entering the transition phase, multiple new projects in development, certification tracking, and/or experiential learning, and the Center has placed her focus on researching skills training, course development, and/or certification tracking, and/or experiential learning.

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