Criminal Investigations and Network Analysis
A DHS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

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THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Jim Jones

I began serving as CINA Director one year ago, and the other day was asked what I had learned in that first year. It turns out that fighting Transnational Criminal Organizations (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 the fact that they don't follow the rules.

I also learned that fighting TCOs, and supporting those that do, is even harder in a pandemic (also no surprise). Perhaps more useful is what I learned about the people working in this problem space. Working with the CINA team and spending time with the folks at DHS, other government and law enforcement organizations, our fellow COEs, the research community, and industry, I found them all to be mission-oriented, dedicated, and focused, and I found them all eager and willing to share their experience, knowledge, ideas, and problems.

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. The CINA Center network has four projects entering the transition phase, multiple new projects coming out of our Open RFP, a new Annual RFP, a robust communications and outreach capability, and we recently welcomed Deanna Austin, a new full-time person to lead and expand our workforce development efforts.

I am grateful to all of you who supported and executed the many tasks necessary to get to this point. I am proud of the fact that CINA is able to support such a meaningful mission, and I look forward to our continued mutual success going forward.

RESEARCH

CINA 2021 Annual RFP Open for Submissions

CINA's 2021 Annual RFP invites proposals that will address main challenges represented by the four research themes of the CINA Center: Criminal Network Analysis, Dynamic Patterns of Criminal Activity, Forensics, and Criminal Investigative Processes. White paper submissions will be accepted through January 29, 2021. Learn how to submit your proposal.

NEWS

National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

Today is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, recognized each year on January 11th. Throughout the day, the DHS Blue Campaign will host a social media campaign called #WearBlueDay. To raise awareness of human trafficking, we ask you to take photos of yourself, friends, family, and colleagues wearing blue clothing, and encourage you to share your photos on your own social media feeds, along with the #WearBlueDay hashtag. Thanks to the CINA team for your participation to support awareness for this important part of our mission.

Follow @DHSBlueCampaign on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and tag @CINAatMason so we can amplify your taking part of this important initiative.

DHS S&T Communicator Receives American Security Today Award

The CINA team would like to congratulate John Verrico, Chief of Media & Community Relations with the DHS Science and Technology Directorate for receiving American Security Today magazine recognition for Extraordinary Leadership in Homeland Security and Public Safety.

They noted, "John's career has been focused on helping government agencies tell their stories and share important news with the public. He takes special care to ensure government information is accessible and that complex issues are easily understood."

According to Verrico, "DHS S&T does amazing work in research and development of technology solutions to the nation's greatest challenges. I work with a great team of colleagues to ensure the public learns about this great work. This award really belongs to them." Verrico said. #dhsscitech has won multiple awards for their work in the past, including four awards this year from AST. Read about all of the awards.

George Mason Assistant Professor and retired FBI official, Steven Burmeister, discusses Nashville bombing investigation

Stephen Burmeister, a retired supervisory special agent for the FBI, joined CBSN to discuss what investigators have learned about the Nashville Christmas bombing and a possible motive.
Watch the interview.

Workforce Development Needs Assessment

CINA's new workforce development lead Deanna Austin has placed her focus on researching skills training, course development, certification tracking, and/or experiential learning for the Homeland Security Enterprise. Connect with her via email dausti@gmu.edu to share any specific training or coursework that would be of benefit to your team or to discuss details. Inquiries might include experiential learning development through workshops (i.e., analysis, briefing, Internet of Things), webinars, focus camps (i.e., summer cyber camp or open source research methods), or executive training through CINA.

Federal Internship through CINA & DHS Transportation Security Administration

CINA is seeking candidates for an internship with DHS Transportation Security Administration

extension to go throughout the summer of 2021. The deadline to apply is January 20. Read more and apply now.

COVID-19 Impact on the Economy, Security and Transnational Organized Crime

Save the date for our upcoming Distinguished Speaker Series event taking place on February 17, 2021, featuring Celina Realuyo, Professor of Practice, William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, The National Defense University.

Her presentation will focus on the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, security and transnational organized crime in the Americas.

Register Now

March 17: Cryptocurrencies and Criminal Investigations

Diana Dolliver, Associate Professor, Criminology and Criminal Justice, Academic Director, Joint Electronic Crimes Task Force, FBI Task Force Officer, FBI Cyber

Register now

April 14: Fighting Illicit Trade in the Forms of Trademark Counterfeiting and Copyright Piracy

Jeffrey Hardy, Director-General, Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade

Register Now

Visit our website's digital archive to view more research and past events hosted by CINA.

You're invited to submit articles, photos, videos, and story ideas to include in upcoming newsletters. Submit your ideas on our website contact form.

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Criminal Investigations and Network Analysis (CINA)
4400 University Drive, MS2A1
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Phone: 703-993-4409

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