

areas will contribute significantly to the Department's ability to enhance homeland security and the safety of our citizens from both natural and man-made threats.

The criteria for designation for this new Center of Excellence (COE) for the Study of Maritime Island and Extreme/Remote Environment Security is demonstrated expertise in conducting fundamental research into the issues and challenges of global maritime domain security technology and policy. In addition this COE will conduct research on maritime and security interests in U.S. islands, territories, and extreme environments (e.g. Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Alaska). Research results will support DHS, other Federal, and state and local agencies' missions to secure national maritime borders and the U.S. maritime interests. This COE will collaborate closely with the S&T Directorate's Borders & Maritime Division which manages a full-spectrum research and development (R&D) program from fundamental research to advanced technologies. The COE for the Study of Maritime, Island and Extreme/Remote Environment Security will provide enabling basic research that will advance the technical tools and information that S&T's customers will need in the future to defend maritime commerce and the global supply chain, minimize damage and expedite recovery from attacks or catastrophic events impacting the maritime domain, and protect maritime-related population centers, critical infrastructure and other national maritime interests. This COE will develop relevant educational curricula for both matriculated students and career professionals.

The Center of Excellence for the Study of Maritime, Island and Extreme/Remote Environment Security will conduct basic and transformational research on maritime security issues in the following areas:

1. Maritime Domain Awareness. Specifically the COE will research the best ways—with full regard to legal and international frameworks, sensitivity to privacy, effectiveness, and affordability—of maintaining necessary and appropriate surveillance over the U.S. and global maritime domain and its users, ports of entry and maritime infrastructure. In addition, the COE will develop improvements in our ability to screen and scan cargo, vessels, passengers, the maritime workforce and the boating public, so that contraband does not enter the U.S.

2. Marine Transportation System Security, Critical Infrastructure Protection, Resiliency and Recovery. Research will develop effective and

feasible ways to imbed security practices that will enhance supply chain transparency and protect against intentional acts of terrorism. Research will assess the risk and vulnerability of extreme environments for terrorist attacks and catastrophic events and methods to mitigate the consequences of these events on people, commerce, and critical infrastructure should they occur. Research will evaluate the resiliency of the maritime transportation system to aid in maritime system recovery planning.

3. Maritime Risk Management, Policy Analysis, & International Governance. Research will develop new technologies and improved risk assessment methodologies to prioritize protection efforts, and best leverage public and private layered security efforts to protect critical maritime infrastructure. Policy and legal analysis will be conducted to enhance cooperation among nations and international organizations that share common interests regarding the security of the maritime domain.

4. Maritime Enforcement, Operational Analyses, & Command, Control, and Communications. In particular the COE will develop approaches that allow for multiple layers of security and diverse forms of surveillance, interdiction, and enforcement to be effectively integrated. Research will also facilitate the timely communication of information and analysis generated by surveillance and screening systems.

Announcement of Funding Opportunities and Competition

In February 2007, the Department established a competitive process and requested white papers and proposals from universities that wished to be designated as DHS Centers of Excellence in: 1. Explosives Detection Mitigation and Response, 2. Explosives Detection, Mitigation and Response, 3. Border Security Immigration, or 4. Maritime, Island and Extreme/Remote Environment Security. The funding opportunity announcements for these four Centers of Excellence were published at <http://www.grants.gov> on February 4, 2007, as required by the Office of Management and Budget. In the area of Maritime, Island and Extreme/Remote Environment Security DHS received 8 white papers and evaluated them through a peer-review panel process that included scientific expertise from the federal government, peer-institutional faculty, and the private sector. Following the white paper review, DHS received 4 full proposals by the closing date of July 30, 2007. The 4 full proposals were reviewed by subject matter experts

external to DHS S&T. Two full proposals were referred to an internal review panel of S&T subject matter experts for evaluation, who recommended site visits at both sites. Based on information collected on these site visits, DHS selected University of Hawaii and Stevens Institute of Technology to be Research Co-Lead Institutions for the Maritime, Island and Extreme/Remote Environment Security Center of Excellence.

Stevens Institute of Technology and its partners will conduct basic and transformational research on maritime related issues including Maritime Domain Awareness; Marine Transportation System Security, Critical Infrastructure Protection, Resiliency and Recovery; Maritime Risk Management, Policy Analysis, & International Governance; and Maritime Enforcement, Operational Analyses, & Command, Control, and Communications.

Jay M. Cohen,

*Under Secretary for Science and Technology,
Department of Homeland Security.*

[FR Doc. E8-13290 Filed 6-12-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Office of the Secretary

Notice Designating the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as a DHS Center of Excellence for Natural Disasters, Coastal Infrastructure and Emergency Management as Research Lead Institution

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Homeland Security has designated the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as a DHS Center of Excellence for Natural Disasters, Coastal Infrastructure and Emergency Management, Research Lead Institution.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bryan Roberts, Program Manager, University Programs, Science and Technology Directorate, Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC 20528; telephone 202-254-5738, facsimile 202-254-6179; e-mail bryan.roberts@dhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 308 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, Public Law 107-296 (the "Homeland Security Act"), as amended by the Consolidated Appropriations

Resolution of 2003, Public Law 108–7, and as codified in Title 6 of the United States Code, Chapter I, Subchapter III, Section 188(b)(2) [6 U.S.C. 188(b)(2)], directs the Department of Homeland Security (“Department”) to sponsor extramural research, development, demonstration, testing and evaluation programs relating to homeland security. As part of this program, the Department has established a coordinated system of university-based centers for homeland security (the “Centers”).

The Centers are envisioned to be an integral component of the Department’s capability to anticipate, prevent, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks. The Centers will leverage multidisciplinary capabilities and fill gaps in current knowledge.

Title 6 U.S.C. 188(b)(2)(B) lists fourteen areas of substantive expertise that, if demonstrated, might qualify universities for designation as university-based centers. The listed areas of expertise include: (1) The training of first responders; (2) responding to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction and biological warfare; (3) emergency and diagnostic medical services; (4) chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear countermeasures or detection; (5) animal and plant health and diagnostics; (6) food safety; (7) water and wastewater operations; (8) port and waterway security; (9) multi-modal transportation; (10) information security and information engineering; (11) engineering; (12) educational outreach and technical assistance; (13) border and transportation security; and (14) the public policy implications and public dissemination of homeland security relevant research and development. However, the list is not exclusive. 6 U.S.C. 188(b)(2)(C) gives the Secretary discretion to except certain criteria specified in 6 U.S.C. 188(b)(2)(B) and consider additional criteria beyond those specified in 6 U.S.C. 188(b)(2)(B) in selecting universities for this program, as long as the Department issues a **Federal Register** notice explaining the criteria used for the designation.

Criteria

In response to Congressional direction contained in the Conference Report for the Fiscal Year 2007 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, the DHS Under Secretary for Science and Technology developed a plan in November 2006 to establish new DHS Centers of Excellence in high priority science and technology areas which aligned to the DHS Science and Technology Directorate’s research

portfolios and for which DHS determined there were significant gaps in scientific understanding and technological development. These areas included: 1. Natural Disasters, Coastal Infrastructure and Emergency Management, 2. Explosives Detection, Mitigation and Response, 3. Maritime, Island and Remote Environment Security, and 4. Border Security and Immigration. Research in these areas will contribute significantly to the Department’s ability to enhance homeland security and the safety of our citizens from both natural and man-made threats.

The criteria for designation for this new Center of Excellence (COE) for Natural Disasters, Coastal Infrastructure and Emergency Management is demonstrated expertise in conducting fundamental research into the issues and challenges in predicting, preparing for, preventing damages from, responding to, and recovering from natural disasters in coastal areas. The Center will develop research and education programs to improve understanding of, preparation for, and responses to natural disasters, with a particular emphasis on flooding and hurricanes. The Center will align with DHS S&T’s Infrastructure and Geophysical Division and will develop approaches and train future professionals to reduce serious threats to of American life and property for many years. Specifically, the Center will conduct basic and transformational research on coastal issues in the following areas: (1) Natural hazards of the coastal region (e.g., flooding from hurricanes or storm surges); (2) Innovative and comprehensive regional flood water management, including technical approaches and options to prevent damages from, mitigate, and recover from flooding incidents, and development of better understanding of land-water interactions; (3) Approaches to safeguarding public-sector coastal infrastructure and meeting other public-sector needs in crises; and (4) Coastal regional planning, governance, resilience, and unified comprehensive risk-based decision support tools, particularly for natural disasters warranting emergency measures. These tools include social, political, and economic studies on the public sector workforce and on new networks, institutions, or associations that might be devised as test beds to be effective in the coastal region, tailored to the region’s socio-economic, governance, and geographic features.

Announcement of Funding Opportunities and Competition

In February 2007, the Department established a competitive process and requested white papers and proposals from universities that wished to be designated as DHS Centers of Excellence in: 1. Natural Disasters, Coastal Infrastructure and Emergency Management, 2. Explosives Detection, Mitigation and Response, 3. Maritime, Island and Remote Environment Security, or 4. Border Security and Immigration. The funding opportunity announcements for these four Centers of Excellence were published at www.grants.gov on February 4, 2007, as required by the Office of Management and Budget. In the area of Natural Disasters, Coastal Infrastructure and Emergency Management, DHS received 31 Natural Disasters white papers proposals and evaluated them through a peer-review panel process that included scientific expertise from the federal government, peer-institutional faculty, and the private sector. Following the white paper review, DHS received 13 full proposals by the closing date of July 30, 2007. The 13 full proposals were reviewed by subject matter experts external to DHS S&T. Eight full proposals were referred to an internal review panel of S&T subject matter experts for evaluation, who recommended site visits at four sites. Based on information collected on these site visits, DHS selected the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to be the Research Lead Institution for the Natural Disasters, Coastal Infrastructure and Emergency Management Center of Excellence, in partnership with Jackson State University (the Education Lead), Louisiana State University and other affiliates.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and its partners will conduct research and education on natural hazards—particularly flood and hurricane modeling, natural and infrastructure resilience, physical testing to extend new theoretical and modeling developments, community preparedness and regional governance and natural disaster-related education, including the development and use of capabilities at minority-serving institutions.

This team of institutions is uniquely well equipped and located to address issues of hurricane and flood prediction, preparedness, response and recovery. They will become an intrinsic part of the DHS science and technology portfolio, working closely with DHS and other federal, state and local governments to reduce potential

damages from floods, hurricanes, and other natural disasters.

Jay M. Cohen,

*Under Secretary for Science and Technology,
Department of Homeland Security.*

[FR Doc. E8-13276 Filed 6-12-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Office of the Secretary

Notice Designating the University of Arizona as a DHS Center of Excellence for the Study of Border Security and Immigration, Research Lead Institution

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Homeland Security has designated the University of Arizona as a DHS Center of Excellence for the Study of Border Security and Immigration, Research Lead Institution.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tiffany Lightbourn, Program Manager, University Programs, Science and Technology Directorate, Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC 20528; telephone 202-254-5843, facsimile 202-254-6179; e-mail tiffany.lightbourn@dhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 308 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, Public Law 107-296, (the "Homeland Security Act"), as amended by the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution 2003, Public Law 108-7, and as codified in Title 6 of the United States Code Chapter I Subchapter III Section 188(b)(2) [6 U.S.C. 188(b)(2)], directs the Department of Homeland Security ("Department") to sponsor extramural research, development, demonstration, testing and evaluation programs relating to homeland security. As part of this program, the Department has established a coordinated system of university-based centers for homeland security (the "Centers").

The Centers are envisioned to be an integral component of the Department's capability to anticipate, prevent, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks. The Centers will leverage multidisciplinary capabilities and fill gaps in current knowledge.

Title 6 U.S.C. 188(b)(2)(B) lists fourteen areas of substantive expertise that, if demonstrated, might qualify universities for designation as university-based centers. The listed

areas of expertise include: (1) The training of first responders; (2) responding to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction and biological warfare; (3) emergency and diagnostic medical services; (4) chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear countermeasures or detection; (5) animal and plant health and diagnostics; (6) food safety; (7) water and wastewater operations; (8) port and waterway security; (9) multi-modal transportation; (10) information security and information engineering; (11) engineering; (12) educational outreach and technical assistance; (13) border and transportation security; and (14) the public policy implications and public dissemination of homeland security relevant research and development. However, the list is not exclusive. 6 U.S.C. 188(b)(2)(C) gives the Secretary discretion to except certain criteria specified in 6 U.S.C. 188(b)(2)(B) and consider additional criteria beyond those specified in 6 U.S.C. 188(b)(2)(B) in selecting universities for this program, as long as the Department issues a **Federal Register** notice explaining the criteria used for the designation.

Criteria

In response to Congressional direction contained in the Conference Report for the Fiscal Year 2007 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, the DHS Under Secretary for Science and Technology developed a plan in November 2006 to establish new DHS Centers of Excellence in high priority science and technology areas which aligned to the DHS Science and Technology Directorate's research portfolios and for which DHS determined there were significant gaps in scientific understanding and technological development. These areas included: (1) Natural Disasters, Coastal Infrastructure and Emergency Management, (2) Explosives Detection, Mitigation and Response, (3) Maritime, Island and Remote Environment Security, and (4) Border Security and Immigration. Research in these areas will contribute significantly to the Department's ability to enhance homeland security and the safety of our citizens from both natural and man-made threats.

The criteria for designation for this new Center of Excellence (COE) for the Study of Border Security and Immigration is demonstrated expertise in conducting fundamental research into the policy and technological issues and challenges of U.S. border security, immigration, and national security. Research results will support DHS,

other federal, state and local agencies missions to secure our national borders while welcoming legitimate visitors and trade. This COE will collaborate closely with S&T's Borders & Maritime Division which manages a full-spectrum research and development (R&D) program from fundamental research to advanced technologies. The COE for the Study of Border Security and Immigration will provide enabling basic research that will advance the technical tools and information that S&T's customers will need in the future to balance the lawful movement of people and goods with effective border security. This COE will develop relevant educational curricula for both matriculated students and career professionals.

The Center of Excellence for the Study of Border Security and Immigration will conduct basic and transformational research on border security issues in the following areas:

1. Surveillance, Screening, Data Fusion, and Situational Awareness. Specifically they will research the best ways—in terms of legality, sensitivity to privacy, effectiveness, and affordability—of maintaining surveillance over borders and ports of entry. In addition they will develop improvements in our ability to screen cargo, vehicles, and passengers entering the U.S.

2. Population Dynamics, Immigration Administration, and Immigration Enforcement. Research will develop methods to accurately measure and reliably predict the size of immigration flows to the U.S. and improve the efficiency of our system of immigration administration and enhance the enforcement of our immigration laws.

3. Operational Analysis, & Command, Control, and Communications. In particular they will develop approaches that allow for multiple layers of security and diverse forms of surveillance, interdiction, and enforcement to be effectively integrated. Research will also facilitate the timely communication of information and analysis generated by surveillance and screening systems.

4. Immigration Policy, Civic Integration, & Citizenship. Research will assess the consequences of immigration policies on future flows of migrants, the American labor market, and on the incorporation of immigrants into American society.

5. Border Risk Management & International Governance. Research will assess new technologies and improved risk assessment methodologies to prioritize protection efforts. Research will also assess strategies that can enhance cooperation among nationals and international organizations that