Naval Postgraduate School - Center for Homeland Defense and Security –
Emergence Program

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s National Preparedness Directorate, FEMA and the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS) have pioneered graduate education programs for homeland security since 2003. The Emergence Program is offered at no cost to eligible local, tribal, territorial, state, federal and private sector officials.

The Emergence Program is a unique opportunity for homeland security/public safety professionals who are in the early stages of their professional career. The program provides an educational forum and innovation lab for participants to explore “emerging” trends in the world around us – e.g. technology, environment, and terrorism. Participants will discuss both the challenges associated with these complex trends as well as the opportunities to rethink how we protect our communities and the nation. In addition, program sessions will assist participants in “emergence” strategies for implementing innovative ideas, being a leader, and for a successful homeland security career.

Program Objectives:

• Enhance the next generation of homeland security leaders’ understanding of the homeland security discipline and emerging trends.
• Facilitate participants’ homeland security perspectives and what they view as opportunities for change and contributions their generation can make to the evolving discipline.
• Emphasize and enhance critical inquiry, analysis, and evidence based research to understand complex problems and to develop and implement new ideas.
• Develop and explore strategies for success in a changing work environment.
• Inspire participants to a career in homeland security/public safety.

The Emergence Program consists of (2) one-week sessions held over 5 months at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. The cohort of 32 participants will be chosen from a national applicant pool and will reflect the variety of professional backgrounds and geographic areas that comprise the homeland security community.

Program Requirements:

The program will include advance readings and online work in the weeks prior to the in-residence sessions. Sessions are a mixture of interactive and informative presentations, discussions and group exercises.

A significant part of the Emergence Program includes an innovation lab for participants to research and develop an idea for change within their organizations (e.g. new policy, approach, program, procedure, system, use of technology, etc.). Participants will work
collaboratively during the lab. CHDS staff will be available to assist with the drafting of individual innovation plans.

As part of the program, participants will present their ideas to their agency leadership for consideration and feedback following the first in-residence.

The Naval Postgraduate School is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

For more information contact:

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Additional Information: Online application information is available at https://www.chds.us/c/academic-programs/emergence-program. The application deadline is May 1 annually. Visit the Center for Homeland Defense and Security’s website at www.chds.us to learn more.

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