



## HOMELAND SECURITY STUDIES AND ANALYSIS INSTITUTE

*The Homeland Security Studies and Analysis Institute (HSSAI)  
is an FFRDC operated by ANSER on behalf of DHS*

### **FACILITY DESCRIPTION**

The Homeland Security Studies and Analysis Institute (HSSAI) is a federally funded research and development center operated by ANSER on behalf of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). HSSAI also works with and supports other federal, state, local, tribal, public and private sector organizations that make up the homeland security enterprise.

HSSAI delivers independent, objective analysis and specialized technical expertise to help transform homeland security goals and objectives into meaningful strategies, operational requirements, and metrics.

HSSAI's interdisciplinary research areas are divided into three mission areas:

- **The Counterterrorism, Borders, and Immigration Mission Area** seeks to inform the decisions of DHS staffs in reducing risk and allocating scarce resources against terrorist threats. It includes a broad spectrum of security challenges and a diverse sponsor base within and outside DHS. The counterterrorism component informs and improves efforts to deter or defeat terrorist operations. The component also focuses on security operations, law enforcement, investigative activities, and efforts to mitigate unauthorized acquisition and use of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear materials. The borders and immigration component develops strategies and improves operations to reduce the flow of illegal immigrants and contraband, and adjudicate applications for citizenship and legal residence.
- **The Resilience and Emergency Preparedness/Response Mission Area** supports activities associated with preparing for, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating incidents across the all-hazards spectrum. Critical stakeholders in this area include DHS components: FEMA, U.S. Coast Guard, the Offices of Health Affairs and Operations Coordination, and the National Protection and Programs Directorate. Resiliency - including continuity of operations, continuity of government, and individual and community preparedness activities - is a key component of this mission area. Improving the effectiveness of operations and plans (through the development of doctrine and concepts of operations) while integrating stakeholder perspectives are also priorities. To achieve the most effective response possible, this mission area supports DHS's ability to integrate the efforts of federal, state, territorial, and local jurisdictions; nongovernmental organizations; and the private sector.



- **The Maturing and Strengthening the Homeland Security Enterprise Mission Area** is concerned with the processes used to manage the delivery of services to the homeland security enterprise. The mission area encompasses a wide range of activities. These activities include: strategic planning, analysis of capability gaps and mission needs, organizational and programmatic alignment, policy analysis, program and portfolio management, acquisition management, test and evaluation, life cycle cost analysis, learning management, workforce analysis, the development of meaningful measures of effectiveness and other related activities. Key stakeholders are not limited to the DHS Management Directorate since MSE-related studies potentially benefit the entire extended homeland security enterprise. They provide benefits directly through the identification of cost-effective alternatives. In addition, the studies provide indirect benefits by developing conceptual frameworks that promote unity of effort and enable the identification of needed improvements to policy and management systems.

Consistent with our original charter and the future needs of DHS, HSSAI continually enhances core capabilities in business enterprise, workforce, policy, operations, program, and threat and risk analysis.

**Business enterprise analysis** helps link people, information, and systems within the broader operational homeland security community. Our skills and competencies include:

- Requirements development
- Information flow analysis
- Identification of best practices, benchmarking, and performance metrics
- Strategic, operational, and tactical planning
- Concept of operations development and assessment
- Integration of planning efforts across DHS, federal agencies, and state, local, and tribal governments
- Applied systems thinking

**Policy and program analysis** informs homeland security policy through independent and objective analysis across the various stages of the policy process. It also ensures that programs accomplish their intended purpose, contributing to a better understanding of true costs and benefits. Our skills and competencies include:

- Strategic analysis, including emerging issues, futures, trends, and environmental scanning and monitoring
- Policy analysis, including stakeholder identification, landscape surveys, analysis of authorities, identification of options and alternatives, risk assessment, budget assessment, testing and red-teaming, modeling, and specific issue “deep dives”



- Policy development, including strategic planning, requirements development, doctrine development, issue analysis, process coordination across the homeland security enterprise, and stakeholder engagement
- Policy implementation, including stakeholder outreach and development of enabling process and governance frameworks
- Policy evaluation, including performance measurement, metrics development, outcome and impact analysis, capabilities and gap analysis, and identification of lessons learned
- Acquisition process analysis, including requirements process development, Independent cost assessments
- Program review and assessment, including test and evaluation assessment and policy and process development

**Operations analysis** enhances both effectiveness and efficiency by identifying what does and does not work and specific areas for improvement. Our skills and competencies include:

- Observation and analysis of real-world operations
- Requirements development and validation
- Exercise evaluation
- Concept of operations assessment
- Performance measurement
- Gap analysis
- Consequence and vulnerability assessment
- Scenario development
- Applied systems thinking
- Analysis of operations

**Threat and risk analysis** improves our understanding of adversaries' organization, capabilities, operations and support mechanisms, and informs strategic planning and development of effective countermeasures. Risk analysis considers threat, vulnerability, and consequence for informed decision making. Our skills and competencies include:

- Analysis of adversary intentions and capabilities/radicalization processes
- Requirements development
- Identification and analysis of emerging threats
- Empirical study of behaviors and threat assessment approaches
- Risk assessment
- Model verification and validation



## **HOUSING SUPPORT**

HSSAI does not provide financial support to interns for housing, but does assist in the process of identifying housing options in the area. Many local colleges and universities offer summer housing for students coming to DC for the summer.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

In addition to project work, HSSAI will involve the interns in multiple professional and academic growth opportunities during their stay:

- Brownbags and weekly discussion group
- Guest speakers
- Field trips, including:
  - U.S. Coast Guard Sector Baltimore and Station Curtis Bay
  - U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Port of Baltimore
  - U.S. Coast Guard Station Washington
  - Transportation Security Operations Center
  - Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management
  - Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy
  - U.S. Customs and Border Protection Laboratory
  - U.S. Capital and the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Office
  - U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry and Security
- Decision analytics course
- Opportunities to participate in task meetings and interactions with DHS decision makers
- Membership in the HSSAI Internship Program Alumni site on LinkedIn to help interns connect with their mentors and peers

For more information, visit our website at <http://www.anser.org/hssai>