$800,000 Grant from FEMA Establishes National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium

Consortium will help U.S. states prevent, detect and respond to cyber attacks in a coordinated manner

Little Rock, April 9, 2014 – The University of Texas at San Antonio Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security (CIAS), the University of Arkansas System’s Criminal Justice Institute and the University of Memphis’ Center for Information Assurance have received a three-year, $800,000 grant to develop one new training course and update five existing training courses that will help states and communities prepare for, detect and respond to cyber attacks in a consistent manner. The courses will address cybersecurity awareness, policy, monitoring and incident response, disaster recovery, business continuity and risk/vulnerability management.

Additionally, the grant formally establishes the National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium, which includes the three aforementioned universities in addition to Texas A&M University Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) and the Norwich University Applied Research Institutes.

The Community Cyber Security Maturity Model (CCSMM), developed by the UTSA Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security, offers a framework around which the Consortium’s activities revolve. Each of the members of the Consortium addresses a different, necessary piece of the model. This results in a more coordinated multi-university program and helps states and communities better prepare for inevitable cyber security incidents.

As part of this effort, the Criminal Justice Institute will update two of its courses: Comprehensive Cyberterrorism Defense (CCD) and Cyberterrorism First Responder (CFR). Both courses provide counter-cyberterrorism training to technical personnel working within our nation’s critical infrastructures. CCD provides course participants with the hands-on expertise necessary to defend communication and data networks from cyberterrorism events. CFR is designed to prepare first responders to effectively and efficiently act to counter any type of cyber-based terror attack against our nation’s internet, communications, and network-based infrastructure. Hands-on lab applications simulate cyber attacks, introduce participants to available tools to use in their prevention and response efforts, and provide participants with an opportunity to apply what they have learned in a real world environment. The training enhances the abilities of cyber
first responders to prevent, protect against, respond to or recover from any type of cyber attack. Since 2004, the Criminal Justice Institute has delivered 273 courses to 5,003 technical personnel in 33 states and 1 US territory.

In 2006, the University of Memphis developed its ACT Online training program, a series of 10 cyber security preparedness courses, which have been hosted online by the Texas Engineering Extension Service Texas A&M University since 2009. With funding from the FEMA grant, the University of Memphis will update three of its training courses: Cyber Incident Analysis and Response, Business Information Continuity and Information Risk Management. New technology and security issues will be incorporated in the courses to keep them current.

Additionally, the University of Texas at San Antonio will create the Developing a Community Cyber Security Program course. This course will provide community leaders, network/security technical personnel and individual users an understanding of what it takes to develop a coordinated approach to securing networks and computers in their communities. The course will explore each person’s role and responsibility within the community and how each fits into a coordinated program to establish a culture of security within the community. Additionally, the course will introduce trainees to the various courses offered by the Consortium partners and the Department of Homeland Security.

Since 2004, NCPC members have developed and delivered cybersecurity and cyberterrorism training and exercise support nationwide to a targeted audience of community leaders and critical infrastructure technical personnel. Their programs have reached individuals in all 50 states, garnering Consortium members widespread recognition among state and local government leaders and information technology departments, federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, colleges and universities, training academies and other related organizations throughout the U.S.

ABOUT THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE
The Criminal Justice Institute (CJI) is a nationally unique educational entity that provides programs and services designed to enhance the proficiency and professionalism within the Arkansas law enforcement community. As a division of the University of Arkansas System, the Institute delivers education and advanced training across Arkansas in progressive areas of criminal justice, including law enforcement leadership and management, forensic sciences, computer technologies, illicit drug investigations, and school, traffic, and officer safety. By providing these services, CJI assists law enforcement agencies in positively impacting not only public safety, but also the economic viability of communities across the State. In 1997, the Institute established the National Center for Rural Law enforcement (NCRLE) to extend some of the Institute’s programs and services throughout rural America.