The National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium has been awarded $2.3 million to help better prepare the country to defend itself against continuous cyberattacks and intrusions

Little Rock, January, 2015 – The University of Arkansas System’s Criminal Justice Institute, the University of Texas at San Antonio Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security (CIAS), the University of Memphis’ Center for Information Assurance, the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service, and Norwich University Applied Research Institutes have been awarded a $2.3 million grant by the Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to help better prepare the country to defend itself against continuous cyberattacks and intrusions. Norwich University Applied Research Institutes (NUARI) is the lead agency on this grant.

These five universities, all members of the National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium (NCPC), will work in partnership to develop numerous training products on cybersecurity over the next three years. These include web-based training programs as well as hands-on and scenario-based training. 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 member’s 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.
As part of this effort, the Criminal Justice Institutes’ Cyberterrorism Defense Initiative (CDI) will continue to update and deliver 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 developed four courses that focus on cyber-security/cyber-terrorism. During this time CDI staff has traveled to 33 states and 1 US territory and delivered 271 courses to 5,003 critical infrastructure technical personnel.

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 many of the Institute’s programs and services throughout rural America.