

Electra Theodorides-Bustle
Executive Director

2900 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0500
www.flhsmv.gov



Charlie Crist
Governor

Bill McCollum
Attorney General

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Contact: Captain Mark D. Welch
(850) 617-2301

FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL MAJOR EARNS HOMELAND SECURITY MASTER'S DEGREE

TALLAHASSEE – Florida Highway Patrol Major Ryan Burchnell earned his master's degree in Homeland Security Studies at the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security on Sept. 26, 2008, in Monterey, Calif. Major Burchnell has extensive law enforcement experience and is the troop commander for Troop C, which includes Tampa and the surrounding area.

Major Burchnell joined the Florida Highway Patrol on April 6, 1997, after serving in the United States Marine Corps. His career with FHP has taken him from the panhandle to Jacksonville to the central area of Florida during which time he distinguished himself as a leader. Major Burchnell earned his Bachelor of Science in Criminology from the Florida State University. The course is highly competitive and sought after by students nationwide. Major Burchnell was selected to attend the program as one of 32 students from over 200 applicants.

During the 18-month online and in-residence program, Major Burchnell collaborated with homeland security officials from across the nation on current policy, strategy and organized design challenges. He also completed research papers and wrote a thesis.

“Major Burchnell’s knowledge in the area of Homeland Security plays a vital role in his duties as troop commander,” said FHP Colonel John Czernis. “His dedication to the safety of our citizens and visitors is a true benefit to the state of Florida.”

The program’s curriculum is structured to provide the graduates with the knowledge and skills to develop strategies, plans and programs to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States and reduce America’s vulnerability to terrorism. It also includes the necessary skills to build the organizational arrangements needed to strengthen homeland security, including local/state/federal, civil-military and interagency cooperation. The curriculum offers graduates the knowledge and experience to make improvements in homeland security preparedness by conducting “real world,” actionable policy development work and scenario-based exercises, which are conducted in a detailed, fully built-out city in cyberspace.

CHDS is among the nation’s premier providers of homeland security graduate and executive-level education and has developed a cadre of graduate programs and resources to facilitate the emerging discipline of homeland security. The mission of the Naval Postgraduate School is to provide relevant and unique advanced education and research programs to increase the combat effectiveness of the U.S. and Allied armed forces, and to enhance the security of the United States. NPS students come from all U.S. services and the services of more than 60 countries.

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