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UTSA CIAS AWARDED \$3.1 MILLION IN 2007 DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL
Funding to support cybersecurity community exercises and security research

(San Antonio)—The University of Texas at San Antonio Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security (CIAS) has been awarded \$3.1 million in the 2007 Fiscal Year Defense Appropriations Bill to support community Cybersecurity Defend and Attack Exercises and Infrastructure Assurance and Security Research.

Established in 2001, CIAS leverages San Antonio's infrastructure assurance strengths and bolsters research and educational initiatives in the field. The multidisciplinary research center is a partnership between academia, the information technology security industry and the local Air Intelligence Agency. CIAS addresses the technical and policy issues of information assurance and security and provides educational training.

CIAS is one component in UTSA's encompassing Institute for the Protection of American Communities (IPAC). Established in 2005, IPAC provides technical expertise and solutions to security challenges facing communities. IPAC also includes the UTSA Center of Excellence in Biotechnology, Bioprocessing, Education and Research (CEBBER) and the Center for Response and Security Engineering and Technology (CRSET).

"We are extremely excited about the news recognizing the great work that UTSA's CIAS

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and IPAC have been doing with the support of our senators and local congressional delegation,” said Greg White, CIAS director. “They have been very supportive in helping to secure continued funding for our cyber security exercise partnership with the Air Intelligence Agency.”

This month CIAS personnel participated in the Department of Homeland Security’s CyberStorm National Cyber Security Exercise in Washington D.C. The center was selected after leading the highly successful Dark Screen cyber terrorism exercise for San Antonio in 2002 and 2003, bringing national attention as the first city in the nation to conduct a cyber security exercise.

Additionally, CIAS has conducted cyber security exercises for several communities throughout the U.S. and is in the planning stages for an exercise for the State of Texas this summer. CIAS personnel have worked on infrastructure assurance and security issues for financial services, telecommunications, oil and gas communities and the chemical sector in Houston, San Francisco, New York, Chicago, Miami and Baltimore.

UTSA is the first Texas university and one of 66 in the nation with the “Center for Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education” designation by the National Security Agency (NSA). The designation means UTSA’s curriculum and faculty meet or exceed NSA standards to teach information-assurance security and makes the university eligible to apply for grants from NSA and the National Science Foundation.

The University of Texas at San Antonio is the premier institute of higher education in South Texas and one of the fastest growing universities in the state. Serving more than 28,500 students enrolled in 62 undergraduate, 43 masters and 19 doctoral programs, UTSA, at 37 years-of-age, is the second-largest component in The University of Texas System. An institution of access and excellence, UTSA is committed to research and discovery, teaching and learning, and public service.

Last year, we basically, received a \$1 million grant from DHS to start developing computer security training for communities. We're able to develop one course and deliver it in several different communities. The proposal we submitted this year was to continue with that programming to add additional courses and to deliver those courses in additional cities and communities throughout the country. So in many respects this is a continuation, but it's a continuation that involves developing new courses.

The specific course that we developed last year was to develop and teach communities how to run and conduct their own cybersecurity exercises. Part of that was used to conduct exercises in Del Rio, Dayton, Ohio and Virginia Beach, the Hampton Roads area in Virginia.

This is significant because there are only 3 universities across the country that are DHS Training Partners that are doing anything with cybersecurity. We are one of three and we are leading the effort in the sense that we developed a maturity model that looks like DHS is adopting that helps communities evaluate where they are in their processes and their maturity and the maturing of their processes to secure their own communities. So San Antonio, UTSA, CIAS is stepping out here to lead the cybersecurity efforts on a national level.

The feedback we received from DHS, they were very interested in that, they will be expanding. We have at least 3 more regional sites that we will be regional competitions in. Those winners will send their champions to San Antonio for the national competition. We have more vendors, additional sponsors.

