What is NCITE?

The National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center (NCITE) is the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Center of Excellence for terrorism prevention and counterterrorism research.

Our work is organized around four themes:

1. COUNTERING TERRORISM AND TARGETED VIOLENCE
2. BOLSTERING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING
3. IMPROVING PREVENTION EFFORTS
4. STRENGTHENING THE HOMELAND SECURITY WORKFORCE

WHO WE ARE

Based at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the NCITE consortium includes more than 50 researchers from 19 different institutions, from San Diego to London. NCITE prides itself on taking an interdisciplinary approach to solving homeland security challenges. Our researchers come with a broad range of expertise and variety of academic backgrounds — political science, criminology, psychology, sociology, business, and information technology. By combining perspectives and methods from multiple disciplines, NCITE approaches problems in innovative ways and provides novel solutions for complex national security issues.

WHAT WE DO

By aligning research with the DHS Strategic Plan and HSE customer needs, NCITE makes its work timely, relevant, and useful. Our job is to help the national security front line protect the country by generating unique research insights, building innovative tools, and designing academic programs to strengthen the workforce.

Some examples of our work include:

- Evaluating national security threats posed by adoption of the metaverse
- Using machine learning to anticipate violent extremist events
- Interviewing family members of accused violent extremists to learn about system gaps
- Mapping tactics, techniques, and targets of violent extremist groups

HOW WE CAN HELP

NCITE stands ready to support DHS and other government agencies through two funding mechanisms.

1. A cooperative agreement funded by the Office of University Programs within the DHS Science and Technology Directorate. This funds research and workforce development projects in support of DHS strategic objectives. This funded work is researcher-directed, unclassified, and available for public use.

2. A basic ordering agreement (BOA) which can be used by the government to direct work to NCITE. Under the BOA, NCITE can complete classified work in direct support of DHS operational needs. Other agencies are also able to seek NCITE’s assistance by directing funding through the DHS BOA.