

# Chief Thomas Engells Memorial Scholarship in Bioterrorism and Health Intelligence



**Chief Thomas Engells**, the Chief of Police at the University of Texas Medical Branch from 2010-2018, passed away suddenly in 2018 at age 59. Chief Engells was a law enforcement officer for the University of Texas System for more than 34 years and had twice been named the system's police chief of the year, in 2011 and 2014. He was responsible for biosecurity at The National Laboratory in Galveston, Texas, a Biosafety Level 4 laboratory that conducts research on highly infectious diseases, such as Ebola. His experience with the Galveston National Laboratory together with his law enforcement and military background gave him a unique insight into biosecurity. He published several scholarly papers on biosecurity in the medical literature, highlighting the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration in protecting global biosecurity. His expertise was sought widely on expert committees within the US and overseas, and he was a leader in biosecurity with true vision and fortitude.

Chief Engells was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. For 20 years he served as assessor and team leader for the national Commission on Accreditation for Law

Enforcement Agencies. Chief Engells grew up in Austin, Texas and graduated from the University of Texas in 1979. He received a master's degree in criminal justice from Sam Houston State University and a master's in homeland security and defense from the U.S. Naval postgraduate school in 2005.

He was an adjunct Associate Professor at UNSW Sydney in Australia and affiliate of an NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence in Epidemic Response. Chief Engells worked on both teaching and research with UNSW academics. He taught in the UNSW course on Bioterrorism and Health Intelligence, where he delivered lectures on Insider Threat in laboratories and on his experience with the disaster response during Hurricane Harvey in his home town of Houston in 2017.

In a testament to his unique, insightful and scholarly approach to the multidisciplinary field of biosecurity, a scholarship has been established to ensure his legacy continues in the next generation of national security professionals. This scholarship aims to find talented individuals in law enforcement or defense in the United States to build on his unique legacy in biosecurity.

#### **What does the scholarship provide:**

Course registration fees to complete the course "Bioterrorism and Health Intelligence" (see below) at UNSW Sydney, a leading university in the world. Chief Engells recorded video lectures are part of this course. The recipient may elect to complete the course face to face in Sydney, Australia (in which case the costs of travel and accommodation in Sydney, Australia will be provided) or fully online, if travel to Sydney is not feasible (in which case only course registration fees will be provided).

The course can be taken for credit, and be credited toward a graduate certificate, diploma or masters. A choice of programs is available from the [PLuS Alliance](#), between UNSW, Arizona State University and Kings college London. These are the Master of Public Health, Public Security (UNSW), Master of Infectious Diseases Intelligence (UNSW) or Master of Emergency Management and Homeland Security – Biosecurity (Arizona State University). The course may also be taken for audit without assessments or credit.

#### **Bioterrorism and Health Intelligence**

The concept of a "nuclear winter" has long been understood, but in uncharted new scientific territory in the modern world, there is little awareness of the risk

of a “biological winter”, how this risk should be addressed, and what new systems, legislation and approaches are needed to mitigate unprecedented challenges to biosecurity.

This course is for professionals involved in any aspect of bioterrorism preparedness and response, who wish to be intellectually challenged, to think outside the square, to gain insight into quantum changes in science which pose a biosecurity risk, to understand the different perspectives of sectors involved in response, and to gain new critical skills which can be applied in their professional practice. **The course will run from August 6-11<sup>th</sup> 2018 in Sydney, Australia.**

- [Course description](#)
- [Course flyer](#)
- [Course video](#)

**Eligibility:**

Professional in law enforcement or defence forces in the United States who either

1. Is in a leadership role which requires awareness of bioterrorism and biological warfare threats

Or

2. Is pursuing higher education in the study of counter-terrorism, defense, homeland security or biosecurity.

**Deadline for submission:** June 8<sup>th</sup> 2018

**Requirements for submission:**

- Curriculum vitae
- 1 page candidate statement outlining why you wish to apply and how it will benefit your career.

Please email applications to [info@globalsecurityplus.org](mailto:info@globalsecurityplus.org)