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For Immediate Release**State Emergency Management Director receives
Master's Degree from Naval Postgraduate School**

MONTEREY, Calif., - Nancy Dragani, Director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, completed a Master of Arts Degree in Security Studies at the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security on March 30.

Dragani leads the state's coordinated preparedness and response to both man-made and natural disasters, oversees disaster recovery and mitigation efforts, and administers Ohio's homeland security grant funds provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Ms. Dragani has served as the director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency since January 2005. She also serves on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Advisory Council, the Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism Advisory Board and has held the office of president of the National Emergency Management Association.

During her career, Ms. Dragani has held a variety of positions with local, state and federal government including the director of administration, the public information chief for the Ohio EMA, magazine editor with the Ohio National Guard and radio/television broadcaster with the United States Army. Ms. Dragani retired from the Ohio National Guard with 22 years of combined U.S. Army, Army National Guard and Air National Guard service.

During the 18-month online and in-residence program, Dragani collaborated with homeland security officials from across the nation on current policy, strategy, and organizational design challenges. She wrote a thesis on personal preparedness in America.

Thirty-two students received degrees from CHDS as part of ceremonies at the Naval Postgraduate School. They represent a cross-section of the homeland security profession and include professionals from law enforcement, fire safety, homeland security, emergency management, social services and the military.

Ms. Dragani lives with her husband in Columbus, Ohio and has two children.

ABOUT CHDS: CHDS, established in 2002 and located at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), is the nation's homeland security educator. Master's degree students develop critical thinking, leadership and policy skills during a rigorous 18-month program. Each graduate completes a thesis on a current issue facing his/her jurisdiction. These theses often translate into policy and practice. For information, visit www.chds.us.

ABOUT NPS: The mission of the Naval Postgraduate School is to provide unique advanced education and research programs in order to increase the combat effectiveness of the U.S. and Allied armed forces as well as enhance the security of the United States. For information, visit www.nps.edu.

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