

[Home](#)[CEO Hotline](#)[Viewpoint](#)[Classified Ads](#)[Archives](#)[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)[Pressroom](#) (web)[Ask the CEO](#)[CEO Forum](#)[Employee Recognition](#)[Employee Activities](#)[Metro Projects](#)[Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)[Archives](#)[Events Calendar](#)[Research Center/ Library](#)[Metro Classifieds](#)[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)[Policies](#)[Training](#)[Help Desk](#)[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Metro's Dan Cowden Tapped for Prestigious Security Program

- Will attend Homeland Security master's degree course at Naval Postgraduate School

By JIMMY STROUP (Aug. 1, 2007) At 19 years old, when his country called, Metro Security Manager Dan Cowden answered, joining the Army Green Berets and leading men into combat in Vietnam on two tours of duty as a junior officer.

Forty years later, Cowden has again answered his country's call, this time by being selected for the preeminent Homeland Security master's degree program in the nation. The advanced course will teach him the latest theory and techniques to combat terrorism.

"It's the premier educational course in the nation in Homeland Security," Cowden said.

"You have to have significant Homeland Security experience to be accepted into the program. There's a lot of military officers, a lot of people from federal, state and local agencies."

Since joining Metro in 1990 as an analyst in Management and Budget, he has held a number of positions of increasing responsibility in the transit security department, including assistant to the former transit police chief.

Cowden's current post as security director of the second largest transit agency in the country fills out a resume that looks tailor-made for entrance into the master's program at the Center for Homeland Defense and Security.

After his active duty military service – which he extended into the Army National Guard, ending his career as a major – Cowden worked for the Ventura County Sheriff's Department and then for the U.S. Defense Department in Alaska.

Lectures and lessons

The 18-month program, conducted at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in Monterey, is geared toward working security professionals. In-class work is limited to two weeks a quarter for a total of 12 weeks at the NPS. The in-between time is filled with online work and e-mail communication between the instructors and students. In-house training at the NPS will be intense, packed with lectures and lessons.

"Guest speakers are people like the head of the CIA, the Secretary of Defense, head of the FBI," Cowden said, alluding to the caliber of



Metro Security Manager
Daniel Cowden.
Photo by Jimmy Stroup.

instruction he'll be receiving.

The program is entirely funded by the Department of Homeland Security – including travel, per diem, lodging and a laptop to work off of – so neither Cowden nor Metro will pay for the program he called “first class all the way.”

“We are proud of the announcement of Dan's acceptance to such a prestigious program from a well-renowned institution like the NPS,” said Jack Eckles, deputy executive officer of System Safety and Security. “Metro has a great asset in Dan. After his completion of the program, we'll have an even better one.”

Second graduate degree

At the end of the program, Cowden will receive a master's in Homeland Security from the NPS, adding a second graduate degree to his growing stack; he previously received a master's in Public Policy from Rutgers University.

Cowden is eager to start, having already begun the reading for classes that get underway in September, and is optimistic about the knowledge he'll be able to bring back to apply at Metro.

“Unfortunately... transit is the target of terrorism and that's just the fact of things,” he said. “It's sad, but it's something that we have to work real hard at to be as prepared as we can be to prevent terrorism and then, if something happens, to respond and recover as fast as we can.”

Cowden said it was an honor for him to represent Metro in the program. “I'm going on behalf of the agency, representing the agency and for the benefit of our agency and the passengers we serve,” he said.