CADET COMPETITIVE CYBER TEAM (C3T)

MARGIN OF EXCELLENCE

West Point READY
READY TO SERVE. READY TO LEAD.

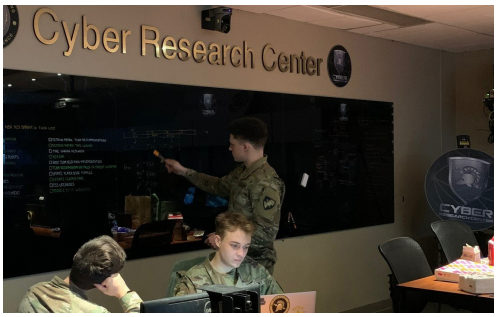
Housed within the Cyber Research Center in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS), the Cadet Competitive Cyber Team (C3T) is focused on preparing for and competing in undergraduate cybersecurity competitions and is a visible example of competitive academic excellence for the Center, the Department, and USMA to external audiences.

Comprised of 20 cadets, hand-selected annually from over 100 candidates and drawn predominately from of the Directorate of Cadet Activities Cadet Cyber and Tech Club, the C3T competes on the collegiate level in national and international cyber competitions. These competitions span the full cyber security spectrum from Defensive Cyber Operations (DCO) to Offensive Cyber Operations (OCO) and are directly applicable to the operations these future lieutenants will lead in the Army. There are few academic activities at USMA that are as directly relevant to current military cyber operations as is the C3T.

A critical element of the program is a dedicated C3T coach who develops and implements a cohesive strategy ensuring team success on the national stage as well as the international stage. The C3T is currently coached by members of the EECS rotating faculty that have interest and sometimes expertise in the domain. The team is limited in achieving its full potential by the time and experience of the faculty available. Flexible funding to support all aspects of the team will support a dedicated coach, which is essential in order to conduct research on training and education techniques and directly apply them in practices and competitions. The coach will not only facilitate research in EECS but will support competitive excellence in national contests such as the Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition and the Collegiate Penetration Testing Competition, and notably the NSA Cyber Defense Exercise where C3T cadets annually face teams from Navy and Air Force.

The need exists to develop a strategy to shape the Cadet Activities feeder club so that a consistent and improving pipeline of cyber-talented cadets continues year to year. The C3T coach will not only help to develop this strategy but will also expand the cadets' computer and network security skills and will promote a culture of inclusivity and accountability. The cyber discipline often struggles to attract talented women and other minority populations, which drastically shrinks the talent pool of cadets and limits the team's diversity of thought. A dedicated coach will provide this focus as well as help to educate and mentor USMA's young cyber warriors in understanding what can and cannot be done within the rules of computer connections. This focus and mentorship will contribute to the highest level of communication and training on the proper rules of engagement for a variety of cyber networks.

A dedicated endowment will ensure funding for the coach's training and research programs and competition travel requirements, and will allow flexible long-term support to the C3T program. A robust C3T program will have tremendous value in developing the next generation of operationally savvy cyber warriors with expertise in offensive and defensive cyber security spectrums and who meet the Army and nation's cyber security needs.



Cadets participating in the 2022 National Security Agency (NSA) Cyber Exercise (NCX).

Cadets finished second in the 2022 National Security Agency (NSA) Cyber Exercise.

The C3T Team wins the 2021 SANS Core Net-Wars Academy Cup.

C3T Members win NetWars at the 2019 SANS Academy Cup.

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Cadet Competitive Cyber Team (C3T) Naming	$1.9 million
Competition Travel Program	$1.65 million endowment/$66,000 annual
Collegiate Competition Travel	$500,000 endowment/$20,000 annual
Domestic Competition Travel	$500,000 endowment/$20,000 annual
International Competition Travel	$650,000 endowment/$26,000 annual
Coach's Training & Research Initiative	$250,000 endowment/$10,000 annual

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