

780th MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRIGADE (CYBER)

THE BYTE

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780th MI BDE
"STRENGTH AND HONOR"

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Commander
CSM Jesse Potter
Command Sergeant Major

780th MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRIGADE (CYBER), Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, publishes The BYTE as an official command information publication, authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1, to serve its Soldiers, Civilians, and Families.

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Praetorians:
While the lights, festivities, and gifts of Christmas usually dominate December, Christian holidays like Las Posadas, Simbang Gabi, and Kwanzaa, along with Hanukkah, Rohatsu and Solstice, are among several in the month of December that are celebrated by other faiths.



Whichever faith you do or do not observe, the holiday season is upon us. There will be two four-day holiday weekends, coinciding with block leave, travel, and a never-ceasing mission in support of our Nation's defense and the American people. Additionally, I'd be remiss if I didn't say happy 387th birthday to our National Guard brothers and sisters.

More than 38,000 Soldiers from across the United States will take to the air, rail, and roads this holiday season to reconnect with their Families and friends. The health and safety of our workforce and their Families is our top priority.

The Army loses approximately 11 Soldiers during the holiday season, with most at the rank of PFC or SPC. An average of ten of those fatalities occur in private motor vehicles. Buckle up! Furthermore, not all of us will be blessed to spend the holidays with our loved ones. I ask each of you to look out for your teammates and let them know you care and are there for them.

On behalf of the command team, I am proud of every one of you and thank you for your selfless service and perseverance. I look forward to seeing all of you in the New Year and welcome the joys and challenges of 2024.

v/s,
P6

Ben Sangster
COL, CY
Commander, 780th MI BDE (Cyber)

"Everywhere and Always In the Fight!"



Farewell

By Greg Platt, Senior Civilian Advisor, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber)

I REALIZE THIS ARTICLE WILL BE PUBLISHED AFTER I'VE DEPARTED, but I still wanted to take a moment and say thanks. My journey with the 780th began in November 2008, a few years before the Brigade was activated. The Intelligence and Security Command's (INSCOM) G3-Network Warfare, led by Mr. Joe Thompkins, was growing and they needed planning support to help them with the growth. I signed on with Booz Allen and was placed on Mr. Thompkins's contract. As the lead planner, along with my partner in crime and unsung hero within the Army Cryptologic Office, Mr. Bill McNeil, we authored the concept plan which gave birth to the 780th MI Brigade. Joe and Bill have moved on to other duties, but I still want to call out their critical role in establishing the Brigade and give them a much deserved thanks.

In November of 2011, I was hired on as the Brigade Senior Civilian and worked closely with Mr. Mark Smith and Mr. Mike Fox. A tremendous debt is owed to Mr. Smith as he had the vision/foresight to seek and gain expedited hiring authorities for the Brigade. The programs he established were instrumental to recruiting and hiring our technical talent. Many thanks to key civilian leaders from the early days: Ms. Lisa Bennett, Mr. West Lewis, Ms. Sam Scheckman and Mr. Robert Trantin. All were instrumental in setting the Battalion's up for success and getting processes in place to support our rapid growth. During our active recruiting days, I noted a salary disparity within the

Federal workspace. As new policies were adopted which constrained our recruiting efforts, I turned my attention toward resolving the pay inequities and began the campaign for Special Salary Rates. While many people have taken credit for the eventual approval of what is now known as a Targeted Local Market Supplement (TLMS) pay table, in truth, it happened despite years of their resistance to it. Special shout out to Mr. Chad Acey for his engagement with Army which helped push the effort across the finish line.

Although there are too many to name individually, I want to thank a core group (past and present) of GG14 Civilian Supervisors. While you may have felt unseen and underappreciated from time to time, you have individually and as a cohort, had tremendous impact and lasting effect on all aspects of the Brigade and its mission...yes, you too Pedro...Thank you all.

Lastly, it would be inexcusable for me not to thank the crew that challenged me to be better: Ms. Tina Miles, Mr. Russ Strickler, Mr. Ricky Eden, Mr. Scott Brown, Ms. Toni Pisciotta, and Mr. Aaron Tipton. I appreciated the time you spent with me and the many conversations we had covering a variety of topics.

The last 12 years have passed in a flash and while I've decided it's time to move on to a new phase in life, I want to express my thanks and gratitude to all that I have had the privilege of sharing the journey with.

God's grace and peace to you all. ■





Professional Growth and Volunteering Opportunities

Is there a better way to differ the Growth and Volunteer sides?

By Robert Ighnat, Operational Support Element, Task Force-Praetorian

HELLO, DEAR READER! I'M ROBERT "MICHAEL" IGHNAT, one of your senior civilian operators, and it's incredible to reflect on my nearly decade-long journey with the Brigade. Amidst the challenges (RIOT was a stressful time), my enduring commitment stems from the fulfilling day-to-day responsibilities, supportive leadership, and the plethora of Professional Growth and Volunteering Opportunities that have enriched my experience. Before delving into these, allow me to direct your attention to an inspiring video featuring the "Dancing Guy". In it, a lone dancer at a music concert gradually attracts a growing crowd, symbolizing the power of individual initiative. How do these seemingly unrelated elements connect? Stick with me; we'll get there soon! (Feel free to watch the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fW8amMCVAJQ>)

When I joined the Brigade fresh out of college, I was a bit of a novice, unsure of what lay ahead. In those initial years, I

was encouraged to participate in various opportunities that allowed me to recruit at events and colleges, contribute to our hiring/selection initiatives (hiring panels and the Brigade's ODIE process), and advocating for changes to my specific job roles. These experiences shaped not just my career but also my personal growth. Some activities required a bit of persuasion, but looking back, I see myself as the "first follower" (Did you catch that video reference?). Now, as a supervisor, I ensure my team gets the same opportunities that were pivotal for me. Sometimes, all it takes is a gentle push in the right direction.

Beyond professional growth, I've actively engaged in volunteer events, both within and outside of work. You might recall emails about volunteer opportunities, such as the recent Odenton Library Hack-a-thon (insert plug about this here!). I had a blast teaching grade school kids about cybersecurity and solving challenges at the hack-a-thon. Additionally, I've supported various library and community outreach programs and lent my technical expertise

to a locally supported CyberPatriots team. Outside of work hours, I champion environmental causes, participating in activities like creek cleanups and engaging directly with my congressman's office. Regardless of the context, our Brigade has rolled out a Volunteer Recognition Program (check out the 780th MI BDE Policy Memorandum #19 for details), outlining what constitutes volunteer service, how to track and advertise events (<https://vmis.armyfamilywebportal.com/>), and who to contact for support (your Battalion/Brigade's Volunteer Recognition Program Coordinator, VRPC).

Now that you've navigated through my musings, here's the takeaway: we all have the power to make the changes we want to see. Sometimes, you must be the "dancing guy" to turn your dreams into reality. Be courageous, persistent, and you'll eventually have your own crowd of dancing people (let me know, and I'll join you).

Stay Awesome! ■





Bridging the Gap: A Contractor's Journey to Department of the Army Civilian



By Jenn Zell, S6, 781st Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber)

IN MY TWO DECADES IMMERSSED IN THE FEDERAL SPHERE, I have witnessed the nuanced dynamics between government employees, military personnel, and contractors—the unmistakable “us and them” atmosphere that lingers on all sides. Yet, beneath the surface, a common thread unites us all: the shared commitment to accomplish a mission.

As a seasoned government contractor, I stood on the front lines of supporting the government’s mission. My outlook always emphasized collaboration over division, fostering an environment where government employees and contractors worked together seamlessly. My commitment to the mission was unwavering, regardless of the color of my badge.

However, the separation between government employees and contractors was undeniable. The U.S. government employed the former, while external companies contracted the latter. This distinction often manifested in different treatments and varying benefits—amenities, social events, and administrative leave that contractors, by their status, could not partake in.

For me, being a contractor was a conscious choice. Yes, there was a discrepancy in benefits compared to government employees, but the financial incentive aligned with my skill set compensated for the disparity. I relished the independence and flexibility, even as I observed occasional tension arising from differing levels of effort perceived by government employees and contractors.

However, the precarious nature of contracting—job uncertainty during contract changes, potential job market entries every few years, and the looming threat of longer commutes—led me to reevaluate my career path. The realization dawned during global

upheaval—the COVID-19 pandemic—where government personnel seamlessly transitioned to remote work while contractors continued to brave daily commutes.

The tipping point came when I contemplated the very essence of job security. As a government employee, the stability promised by a consistent paycheck, irrespective of potential government shutdowns, contrasted starkly with the perpetual roller coaster of contracting. I made a decision: I chose to become a Department of the Army Civilian (DAC).

The journey from contractor to DAC was challenging. The lengthy hiring process tested my patience, but the prospect of stability and the chance to enjoy benefits unattainable as a contractor became my driving force. The pride of belonging to something larger than myself, the authority bestowed upon me, and the sense of ownership over the organization's

mission became defining aspects of my new role.

In my current capacity as a DAC, I have sought to break down the perceived barriers between government employees and contractors. Blurring the lines, I leverage my dual experience to foster transparency, collaboration, and a shared focus on the mission. As a supervisor, I champion an environment where every team member—government or contractor—understands their role in making the mission successful.

My journey reflects the evolution from contractor to DAC—a transition fueled by a quest for stability, pride in contributing to a broader mission, and a commitment to fostering a collaborative work environment. It is a testament to the resilience and adaptability required in the ever-evolving landscape of the federal workforce. ■





Military to Civilian Perspective

By Linda Hanstein, 781st Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber)

FORT SAM HOUSTON, TX. – IMAGINE THIS, you're seventeen years old. High school diploma newly in hand, only two pairs of clothing in a small duffel, and you're about to board a plane to travel 1,100 miles away from everyone and everything you have ever known. Your dad sobs, your mom puts on a brave face, and your little sister is already dressed head-to-toe in the clothes from your closet as they send you off at the recruiting station.

The 8.5 years that would follow in the Army and more specifically within 781st MI BN were some of the most transformative years of my life. I owe my gratitude to some stellar first-line leaders, both my operational and administrative command teams, and lastly my friends that I wouldn't trade for the world. I grew as a leader, an analyst, and a person. All the relationships I built and the experience I gained gave me the confidence to know I wanted to come back to the unit that had such a large part in molding me.

While being an enlisted Soldier, I viewed Civilians as the Subject Matter Experts of the teams; they were the go-tos for each respective work role. I admired how they balanced being analysts while holding the consistent role of 'mentor'. They were constantly on the move, present for every meeting, and were always consulted prior to operations. I saw them as equals to the Warrant Officers on my team as far as being technical guides. Perhaps too candidly, I'll admit their expertise and knowledge often overshadowed those of the junior enlisted and non-commissioned officers. Being an enlisted member came with its personal challenges. I felt I needed to earn my way into being a person the team valued. It took several years, but I thought my rank preceded me as a cyber professional for a long time.

Now settling into a Civilian position, I have experienced the contrast in treatment from when I was in uniform. I am no longer initially judged off how many

chevrons or rockers I do or do not have. In particular, the difference is most apparent with the officer cohort. With the rank removed, I can freely share my thoughts and opinions on both technical and administrative matters in a way I could not before. Additionally, the requirement to address individuals by rank doesn't really apply anymore, which has been a bit of a learning curve; I'll admit, old habits die hard. All in all, going from Soldier to Department of the Army Civilian has been a rewarding experience, and I would recommend it for anyone debating on making the switch.

Since my transition to a Civilian role, I also view this unit with a new set of eyes. I can appreciate the leg work it takes to run a company, let alone a battalion or brigade. For some, being a Civilian on an Army team means you're an advisor; however, I find myself still learning from

those around me of both higher and junior rank (and these days, of older and younger age). It has humbled me to realize that I am a student of life, and I don't have to have everything figured out on my own. In the absence of my knowledge, I have my Army Family to lean on.

Being Army Staff Sgt. (SSG) Hanstein was one of the proudest titles I ever held, closely rivaling daughter, sister, and friend. I was sad to finally hang her up (SSG Hanstein), but I have high hopes DAC Hanstein has yet to experience some of her best years as a Vanguard member. It was a somber good-bye as a Soldier, but a warm welcome back as a Civilian. I owe it to all the members of the brigade for making my decision to return an easy one. The chance to continue to serve my country outside of uniform, in this capacity, is an opportunity I'll find nowhere else. *Vanguard...When Others Cannot.* ■



My Team Member Wears Khakis – the Army Civilian Corps



By Kathy Johnson, Intelligence Specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 782d Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber)

“When I was in uniform.” “Back when I was a Platoon Sergeant...” “You guys have it so easy nowadays” “Specialist, if I were your First Sergeant, I’d..... [fill in the blank].”

IT IS PROBABLE THAT YOU HAVE HEARD THE BEGINNING OF ONE OF THESE SENTENCES, only to hear the ‘rest of the story.’ Yes, likely those words came from one of your fellow team members, who was-at one time or another-on active duty. You likely wonder why they are even here!? Why would anybody choose to work in the 782d Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber)?

Army Civilians have contributed to the U.S. Army since 1776. They have and will continue to fill critical support roles in over 500 career fields, varying in specialty positions from nurses, administrative support roles, program analysts – to yes, you guessed it, cyber work roles on a Combat Mission Team or Combat Support Team.

There are over 330,000 personnel today across the Department of Defense, who work in a multitude of positions across the five services; and essentially, every military position/billet has a Civilian counterpart.

The Civilian workforce is present everywhere in the 782d. They are assigned to the S1 (Personnel Administration), S2 (Security Office), S3 (Operations/Planning and Training), S4 (Logistics Office), S6 (Communications and Information Technology), Civilian Personnel Office, Resource Management Office, and even as a part of the Command Group, as the Senior Civilian Advisor. Lastly, they provide the continuity on most mission teams as the Senior DNEA (Digital Network Exploitation Analyst) or Deputy Team Leader. Again, you ask—WHY?

Civilians provide experience, expertise, and knowledge in every S-shop, as well as on the mission floor. Like Soldiers, Civilians take an oath to support and

defend the Constitution of the United States, and to dedicate themselves to the Army mission. They attend professionalization courses in the Civilian Education System and are rated annually on their performance. They attend both face-to-face and online training and are held accountable for most of the same mandatory training requirements as the Soldiers. Many Civilian personnel are hired based on their experience, and they provide that gap-closure while Soldiers PCS, ETS and retire (leave).

A handful of Civilians stood up the Battalion beginning in 2010, when it was known as the 2nd Cyber Battalion. Those individuals initiated and established everything you experience today on Fort Eisenhower and within the Battalion: barracks space, medical and dental departments, dining facilities, CIF, range operations, and the list continues. Those personnel were retired colonels, first sergeants, warrant officers, and Soldiers. It was their experience, military background, and familiarity that allowed for a smooth transition into what is known today as the 782d MI BN today.

Why they stay around isn’t because they get to wear civilian clothes, or not attend physical training sessions. They are here because they find pride in working side by side with the active military. They truly enjoy being able to provide mentorship, leadership, expertise and experience to the unit, which allow them to assist Soldiers and provide mission-essential support the U.S. Army and the defense of our nation. ■





Praetorian Best Squad, Soldier of the Year and NCO of the Year 780th MI BDE (Cyber)

By Steven Stover, public affairs officer, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber)

FORT WALKER, Va. – SOLDIERS REPRESENTING THE 781ST AND 782D MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALIONS competed in the 780th MI Brigade (Cyber) Best Squad Competition here, October 31 through November 2.

According to the U.S. Army's official Best Squad Competition (BSC) website, the most influential level of leadership is at the Squad. "Squad" extends beyond a traditional infantry squad to any small-unit group of Soldiers, connected by a squad leader, who has the most direct impact on their lives. Soldiers never fight alone, the unbreakable bonds forged through shared hardship and unending support for one another are the hallmark of our most successful small units.

Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Potter, the senior enlisted leader for the 780th MI Brigade (Cyber) decided to move the brigade competition to the beginning of the fiscal year to allow the organization to send the squad to advanced military schools, including heavy weapons, Air Assault and Airborne, to better prepare for the next level of competition.

"Even though our Soldiers serve at the strategic level supporting U.S. Cyber Command, they are still Soldiers at the end of the day," said Potter. "The ability in times of crisis and future near-peer conflict for cyber and military intelligence Soldiers to execute their technical expertise will be critical. They must be able to defeat our adversaries in a forward-deployed contested environment. This competition tests these Soldier's tactical abilities not normally exercised in a traditional training cycle."

This year's brigade BSC was held at Fort Walker and day one started off with a physical fitness assessment including a one-mile run; 30 dead stop push-ups; a 100-meter sprint; 16 sandbag lifts over a six-foot barrier; 50-meter farmer's carry of

two full water jugs; 25-meter-high crawl; 25-meter three-to-five-meter rush; and another one-mile run. The day continued with four Soldier Tasks, including grenade identification; transmit a SPOT report with tactical radios; search individual in a tactical environment; and resection and military maps; and concluded with the competing squads completing the Day and Night Land Navigation event.

Day two started off with an obstacle course, then the Soldiers zeroed and qualified with their M4 Rifles and M17 Pistols; and the day ended with a grenade qualification, and M17/M4 disassemble, assemble, and functions check station.

The brigade BSC third day started with a 12-mile ruck, followed by six medical tasks; and a command board.

"After a grueling 72 hours of competition at Fort Walker, Virginia, that tested the competitors physical and mental abilities while performing under some very challenging tactical scenarios the squad from Delta Company, 782d MI Battalion has earned the coveted title of Fiscal Year 2024 Best Squad. The Squad consisted of Sgt. Tate Parmenter, Spc. Alejandro Medina, Spc. Jayson Nwigwe, Pfc. Joey Asmus and led by Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Gillespie," said Potter.

Gillespie, the noncommissioned-officer-in-charge (NCOIC) of a Combat Mission Team assigned to D Company, 782nd MI Battalion (Cyber), dedicated time blocks in the afternoon of each workday to review and discuss the tasks outlined in TRADOC Pamphlet 672-9, the Expert Soldier Badge.

"The focus was to execute these tasks in a timely manner and increase the repetitions and create muscle memory," said Gillespie, whose future goal is to become a first sergeant and command sergeant major. "I also want to train, prepare, and motivate future Soldiers for competitions like the Best Squad Competition and Army

schools."

The 2024 Brigade's Best Warrior in the Soldier category, and brigade Soldier of the Year is Pfc. Sebastian Solberg, a cyberspace operations specialist assigned to A Company, 781st MI Battalion (Cyber), and hails from Katy, Texas. Solberg joined the Army because it offered him a smooth transition out of high school into the field of work that he knew he wanted to pursue – computer science.

"I hope to finish my CompTIA Network+ certification and earn the Air Assault Badge," said Solberg. "Long term, I will earn my position as a non-commissioned officer, complete my computer science degree, and establish myself in the 75th Ranger Regiment."

The 2024 Brigade's Best Warrior in the NCO category, and brigade NCO of the Year is Sgt. Tate Parmenter, a joint targeting analyst (JTA) assigned to D Company, 782nd MI Battalion (Cyber), and hails from Eugene, Oregon.

Parmenter joined the Army to be a part of a team and feel a sense of belonging and purpose. He said, "The training, knowledge, experience, and opportunities that the Army provides motivated me to join."

Parmenter's goal is to become a staff sergeant and complete more military schools and training to include Air Assault, Expert Soldier Badge, Advanced Rifle Marksmanship, and the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge so that he will be better equipped to train and motivate soldiers for future competitions and training.

"The winning Best Squad and Best Warriors will be recognized and presented with the King Leonidas Award during the Brigade Holiday Ball on December 7," said Potter.

Praetorians! "Everywhere and Always...In the Fight!"



FORT WALKER, Va. – Soldiers representing the 781st and 782d Military Intelligence Battalions competed in the 780th MI Brigade (Cyber) Best Squad Competition October 31 through November 2 at Fort Walker, Virginia.

“After a grueling 72 hours of competition at Fort Walker, Virginia, that tested the competitors physical and mental abilities while performing under some very challenging tactical scenarios the Squad from Delta Company, 782d MI Battalion earned the coveted title of Fiscal Year 2024 Best Squad,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Potter, the brigade’s senior enlisted leader. “The Squad consisted of Pfc. Joey Asmus, Spc. Alejandro Medina, Spc. Jayson Nwigwe, Sgt. Tate Parmenter, and was led by Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Gillespie.

“During the competition the top scoring individual Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier were selected as the Brigades Best Warriors,” added Potter. “Sgt. Tate Parmenter, Delta Company, 782d was selected as the Brigades Best Warrior in the NCO Category; and Pfc. Sebastian Soldberg, Bravo Company, 781st was selected as the Brigades Best Warrior in the Soldier Category.”

Praetorians! “Everywhere and Always...In the Fight!”



FORT WALKER, Va. – Soldiers representing the 781st and 782d Military Intelligence Battalions competed in the 780th MI Brigade (Cyber) Best Squad competition October 31 through November 2, and it started with a Physical Fitness Assessment including a one-mile run; 30 dead stop push-ups; 100-meter sprint; 16 sand bag lifts; 50-meter farmer’s carry of two full water jugs; 25-meter high crawl; 25-meter three to five meter rush; and another one-mile run.

Praetorians! “Everywhere and Always...In the Fight!”

FORT WALKER, Va. – Soldiers representing the 781st and 782d Military Intelligence Battalions competed in the 780th MI Brigade (Cyber) Best Squad competition and following the Physical Fitness Assessment the two squads executed four Soldier Tasks including Grenade Identification; Transmit a SPOT Report with Tactical Radios; Search an Individual in a Tactical Environment; and Resection and Military Maps, October 31. Praetorians! *“Everywhere and Always...In the Fight!”*



FORT WALKER, Va. – Soldiers representing the 781st and 782d Military Intelligence Battalions competed in the 780th MI Brigade (Cyber) Best Squad event and following the Physical Fitness Assessment and Soldier Tasks on day one the two squads conducted Day and Night Land Navigation, October 31. Praetorians! *“Everywhere and Always...In the Fight!”*



FORT WALKER, Va. – Soldiers representing the 781st and 782d Military Intelligence Battalions competed in the 780th MI Brigade (Cyber) Best Squad competition and day 2 began with an obstacle course, November 1. Praetorians! *“Everywhere and Always...In the Fight!”*





FORT WALKER, Va. – Soldiers representing the 781st and 782d Military Intelligence Battalions competed in the 780th MI Brigade (Cyber) Best Squad competition and following the obstacle course the two squads went to the rifle range to zero and qualify with their M4 carbines, November 1. *“Everywhere and Always...In the Fight!”*



FORT WALKER, Va. – Soldiers representing the 781st and 782d Military Intelligence Battalions competed in the 780th MI Brigade (Cyber) Best Squad competition and following the M4 carbine qualification the two squads were off again to another event – the M17 SIG Sauer pistol qualification range, November 1. *Praetorians! “Everywhere and Always...In the Fight!”*



FORT WALKER, Va. – Soldiers representing the 781st and 782d Military Intelligence Battalions competed in the 780th MI Brigade (Cyber) Best Squad competition and following the obstacle course, M4 carbine and SIG Sauer pistol qualification ranges, the day ended with hand grenade qualification; and M4/M17 assembly, disassembly and functions check, November 1.. *Praetorians! “Everywhere and Always...In the Fight!”*

FORT WALKER, Va. – Soldiers representing the 781st and 782d Military Intelligence Battalions competed in the 780th MI Brigade (Cyber) Best Squad competition and day 3 began with a 12-mile ruck march, November 2..
Praetorians! “Everywhere and Always...In the Fight!”



FORT WALKER, Va. – Soldiers representing the 781st and 782d Military Intelligence Battalions competed in the 780th MI Brigade (Cyber) Best Squad competition and on day 3, following the 12-mile ruck march, the two squads negotiated a medical scenario involving providing care under fire and moving a casualty; providing first aid to restore breathing; evaluating a casualty for a heat injury; control bleeding; treating an abdominal wound and eye injuries; and requesting a MEDEVAC, November 2.
Praetorians! “Everywhere and Always...In the Fight!”



FORT WALKER, Va. – The final event of the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) Best Squad competition on day 3 was the Command Board whereby the squad members had to address questions covering various military subjects and current event from the brigade command sergeants majors, November 2.
Praetorians! “Everywhere and Always...In the Fight!”





FORT WALKER, Va. – Pfc. Sebastian Soldberg, Bravo Company, 781st Military Intelligence Battalion, was selected as the 780th MI Brigade (Cyber) Best Warrior in the Soldier Category following the brigade’s Best Squad Competition October 31 through November 2 at Fort Walker, Virginia.



FORT WALKER, Va. – Sgt. Tate Parmenter, Delta Company, 782d Military Intelligence Battalion, was selected as the 780th MI Brigade (Cyber) Best Warrior in the NCO Category following brigade’s Best Squad Competition October 31 through November 2 at Fort Walker, Virginia.



FORT WALKER, Va. – Soldiers representing the 781st and 782d Military Intelligence Battalions competed in the 780th MI Brigade (Cyber) Best Squad Competition October 31 through November 2 at Fort Walker, Virginia.



FORT WALKER, Va. – The squad from Delta Company, 782d Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber), 780th MI Brigade (Cyber), earned the title of Fiscal Year 2024 Brigade Best Squad following Best Squad Competition which took place here, October 31 through November 2. The winning squad consisted of (l to r) Sgt. Tate Parmenter, Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Gillespie, Spc. Alejandro Medina, Spc. Jayson Nwigwe, and Pfc. Joey Asmus. ■

Vanguard hosts NCO induction ceremony for “The Backbone of the Army”



By Steven Stover, public affairs officer, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber)

“All Soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership. I know my Soldiers and I will always place their needs above my own.”

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – The 781st Military Intelligence (MI) Battalion (Cyber), Vanguard, hosted an NCO Induction Ceremony with Command Sgt. Major Jesse Potter, the 780th MI Brigade (Cyber) senior enlisted leader, as the keynote speaker at the Post Theater, November 16.

According to Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Daniel, the 781st MI Battalion (Vanguard) senior enlisted leader, “a call to duty” was the theme for the ceremony, symbolizing the call for noncommissioned officers (NCOs) to live the NCO Creed, to always conduct themselves as to bring credit upon the NCO Corps, to provide outstanding leadership that our Nation’s Soldiers are entitled to, and to never forget that NCOs are professionals.

In his remarks, Command Sgt. Maj. Potter reminisced about his induction to the NCO Corps more than 30 years ago when he walked the “gauntlet”, and how he wished his experience would have been like the ceremony the Vanguard NCO inductees were going through. He then imparted some words of wisdom that he learned over the course of his NCO career.

“First, I would tell you never stop learning,” said Potter. “Take every opportunity to learn – learn from your Soldiers, peers, mentors and then pass on that knowledge to the next generation of Soldiers who are following in your footsteps.

“The second lesson I challenge you to embrace is take ownership. It doesn’t matter if you are a team leader, squad leader, or section NCOIC (NCO-in-charge)”, added Potter. “No matter the size or number of Soldiers that you are assigned take ownership at that echelon.”

Potter told the group the last lesson, in

his opinion, was the most important, and that was to practice “engaged leadership” and whole heartedly embrace care as an action verb.

“I charge you to embrace CARE as an action verb,” said Potter. “To care as a verb, is to take an interest in something, to feel concerned about something or to have feelings about something. Soldiers can see the difference immediately and truly desire a leader who embraces CARE as a verb versus a noun.”

The 781st MI Battalion (Cyber) officially activated on July 2, 2008, under the former name of the Army Network Battalion. On October 1, 2011, the battalion was re-designated the 781st MI Battalion (Cyber) and assigned to the newly activated 780th MI Brigade (Cyber) in the culmination of more than ten years of work to establish the Army’s cyberspace operations capability.

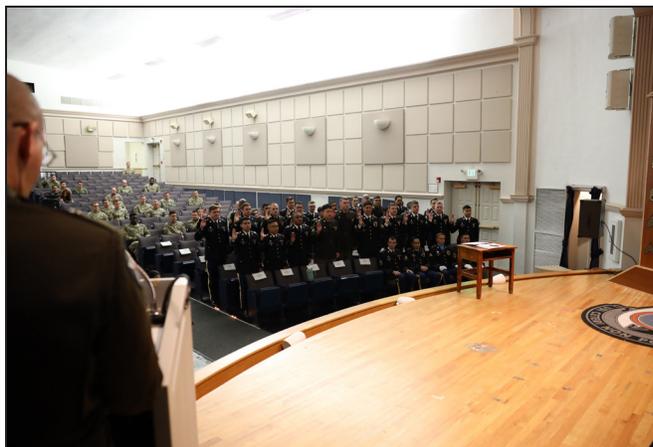
The Battalion crest contains the Latin words *Ubi Ceteri Non Possunt*, the unit motto, which stands for “*When Others Cannot.*”

The 781st MI Battalion (Cyber) Soldiers who recited the NCO Charge and NCO Creed, signed their names in the Vanguard Book of NCOs, and joined the prestigious NCO Corps, with all the momentous duties and responsibilities that come with the life-changing rank are:

- SGT Michael Baez, A Company (Co.), 781 MI BN (Cyber)
- SGT Garrett Balls, B Co., 781 MI BN (Cyber)
- SGT Jared Bush, A Co., 781 MI BN (Cyber)
- SGT Wesley Capehart, B Co., 781 MI BN (Cyber)
- SGT Edwin Carrasco Lamas, Headquarters & Headquarters Company (HHC)

- SGT John Carson, C Co., 781 MI BN (Cyber)
- SGT Seong Beom Cho, HHC, 781 MI BN (Cyber)
- SGT Andre Collier-Price, C Co.
- SGT Christian Conde, C Co., 781 MI BN (Cyber)
- SGT Santiago Diaz, A Co., 781 MI BN (Cyber)
- SGT Austin Divan, A Co., 781 MI BN (Cyber)
- SGT Gonkayee Doelakeh, HHC, 781 MI BN (Cyber)
- SGT Nikita Favela, C Co., 781 MI BN (Cyber)
- SGT Benjamin Fleck, B Co., 781 MI BN (Cyber)
- SGT Paul Guadian, A Co., 781 MI BN (Cyber)
- SGT Clifford Hawrey, A Co., 781 MI BN (Cyber)
- SGT Zachary Iezzi, C Co., 781 MI BN (Cyber)
- SGT Jacob Inman, C Co., 781 MI BN (Cyber)
- SGT Nicolas Kouzios, C Co., 781 MI BN (Cyber)
- SGT Lane Lynch, A Co., 781 MI BN (Cyber)
- SGT Christopher Metcalf, B Co., 781 MI BN (Cyber)
- SGT Marshall Miles, B Co., 781 MI BN (Cyber)
- SGT Spencer Milloway, B Co., 781 MI BN (Cyber)
- SGT Gregory Perkins, A Co., 781 MI BN (Cyber)
- SGT Hayden Polzel, C Co., 781 MI BN (Cyber)
- SSG Phillip Rappe, C Co., 781 MI BN (Cyber)
- SGT Ricardo Rodriguez, C Co., 781 MI BN (Cyber)

- SSG Delroy Scott, C Co., 781 MI BN (Cyber)
 - SGT Daniel Trosper, C Co., 781 MI BN (Cyber)
 - SSG Michael Wert, B Co., 781 MI BN (Cyber)
- Vanguard... "When Others Cannot" ■*



Cyber Legion Change of Responsibility Ceremony



By Steven Stover, public affairs officer, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber)

FORT EISENHOWER, Ga. – Soldiers, Family and friends of the 782d Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber Legion), 780th MI Brigade (Cyber), bid farewell to Command Sgt. Maj. Samuel J. Crislip, the battalion’s outgoing senior enlisted leader and “Keeper of the Colors”, and welcomed Command Sgt. Maj. Jamie K. Stargell, in a change of responsibility ceremony hosted by Lt. Col. Kirklin J. Kudrna, October 5, on Barton Field.

In an event steeped in Army tradition, Soldiers and Civilians representing the battalion and brigade from Georgia, Maryland, Hawaii, and Texas, stood in formation and in the stands to honor their departing senior enlisted leader, advocate and champion.

“As Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Crislip always says, it’s not about the commander, the CSM, or the command team – it’s about the Soldiers, Civilians, and mission,” said Kudrna. “Sam, you’ve personified that perspective. From my experiences learning from you, from working beside you, and from benefitting from your guidance, I know you unconsciously retain that view, you don’t have to work at it – it’s who you are. We, the Cyber Legion, have all benefited from your unabashed and unflinching championing of right, moral, ethical, and common-sense decisions.”

In his remarks, Crislip humbly stated the success of the battalion during his tenure as its senior enlisted leader was due to the Soldiers and Civilians of this battalion.

“We have been fortunate to have a number of experts that guaranteed this battalion will continue to be the most successful offensive cyber force in the Department of Defense,” said Crislip. “I thank each of you for what you do every day, as it is incredibly important regardless if you are working in a cubicle

in a windowless building or rowing hard in a staff section. Each and every one of you matter.”

While the departure of the battalion’s senior enlisted leader can be difficult, the Cyber Legion is blessed to welcome CSM Stargell and his Family. Stargell’s previous assignment was serving as the G39 and CEMA (cyber and electromagnetic activities) Sgt. Maj. with U.S. Army Europe and Africa.

“But before that he was B Company’s (B/782d MI BN) first sergeant and a cyber protection team noncommissioned officer in charge in the Cyber Protection Brigade,” said Kudrna. “He no stranger to cyber. I have no doubt he’ll be as strong an advocate for the 782d as CSM Crislip has been.”

In keeping with tradition, Stargell kept his comments brief. However, in addition

to thanking God and his Family, he thanked Crislip for a seamless transition, and ended his comments by talking about the people of the Cyber Legion.

“To the Soldiers, Civilians, and Family of the Cyber Legion, the reputation you have established within the Cyber Branch and Department of Defense is unquestionable,” said Stargell. “While many of your accomplishments occur without most people knowing what you do or how you do it, you can be assured they are greatly appreciated by your leadership and leaders within the Army and Joint Force.”

“Legionnaire Seven signing on the net. Cyber Legion, Silent Victory.”

“Everywhere and Always...In the Fight!”



FORT EISENHOWER, Ga. – Command Sgt. Maj. Jamie Stargell is the new senior enlisted leader for the 782nd Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber) and assumed responsibility as the ‘keeper of the colors’ from Lt. Col. Kirklin Kudrna, the battalion commander, during a Change of Responsibility ceremony, October 5, on Barton Field.



FORT EISENHOWER, Ga. – Soldiers, Family and friends of the 782d Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber Legion), 780th MI Brigade (Cyber), bid farewell to Command Sgt. Maj. Samuel J. Crislip, the battalion’s departing senior enlisted leader and ‘keeper of the colors’, and welcomed Command Sgt. Maj. Jamie K. Stargell, in a change of responsibility ceremony hosted by Lt. Col. Kirklin J. Kudrna, October 5, on Barton Field.

In an event steeped in Army tradition, Soldiers and Civilians representing the battalion and brigade from Georgia, Maryland, Hawaii, and Texas, stood in formation and in the stands to honor their departing senior enlisted leader, advocate and champion.



FORT EISENHOWER, Ga. – 1st Sgt. Michael Thiel, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the event, stands in front of the battalion color guard, before the 782nd Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber) change of responsibility ceremony, October 5, on Barton Field.”



FORT EISENHOWER, Ga. – Command Sgt. Maj. Jamie Stargell is the new senior enlisted leader for the 782nd Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber) and assumed responsibility as the ‘keeper of the colors’ from Lt. Col. Kirklin Kudrna, the battalion commander, during a Change of Responsibility ceremony, October 5, on Barton Field.



FORT EISENHOWER, Ga. – Command Sgt. Maj. Jamie Stargell, the senior enlisted leader and ‘keeper of the colors’ for the 782nd Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber), salutes his battalion commander, Lt. Col. Kirklin Kudrna, signifying his assumption of responsibility and the completion of the change of responsibility during a ceremony, October 5, on Barton Field. ■



The first change of responsibility ceremony for the 11th Cyber Battalion

By Steven Stover, public affairs officer, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber)

FORT EISENHOWER, Ga. – The Soldiers, Family and friends of the 11th Cyber Battalion (Leviathans) bid a poignant farewell to Command Sgt. Maj. (CSM) Marlene Harshman and welcomed CSM Keyna Smith in a change of responsibility ceremony hosted by Lt. Col. (LTC) Luis (Lou) Etienne, Jr., the battalion commander, at the Nelson Fitness Center, September 13.

The 11th Cyber Battalion (CYB) is the first and only expeditionary Cyber Electromagnetic Activity (CEMA) battalion of its kind in the United States Army. Officially activated on October 16, 2022, the 11th CYB can deliver a range of non-lethal, non-kinetic effects—including offensive cyberspace operation (OCO) and electronic warfare (EW) capabilities.

“To be what the Army needs the 11th Cyber Battalion to be, the battalion itself had to transform over the last three years,” said LTC Etienne. “A lot of times, when an organization experiences success like the mighty 11th has, that success is publicly attributed to the commander. I am here to tell you that there is no doubt in my mind that the success of the 915th Cyber Warfare Battalion (redesignated as the) 11th Cyber Battalion are due in large part to the Soldier care, expertise, and leadership of CSM Harshman.”

CSM Harshman had been with the organization since the unit was first formed as an Army pilot program – known as the Cyber and Electromagnetic Activity (CEMA) Support to Corps and Below (CSCB) pilot* – under the operational control of U.S. Army Cyber Command (ARCYBER) and, initially, composed of Soldiers from the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber), and other Information Advantage Army formations.

“I could sit here for hours and talk to you about the abundance of characteristics that make CSM Harshman a phenomenal

NCO, leader, and motivator of troopers; but if I did that, she would be upset at me afterwards,” added Etienne. “The first thing she would say to me was that it is not about her, it is about the Soldiers. It is about people. A lot of folk talk about caring for others. Marlene Harshman lives Soldier and Family care. It is part of who she is. Further, the NCOs and leaders in the formation felt this care and it became contagious.”

In the beginning of her remarks, CSM Harshman talked about the battalion’s many wins over the last three years, including: deploying their first expeditionary CEMA team (ECT); best warrior competition winner representing ARCYBER at the Army-level; and how the Soldiers and leaders came together to stand up three more ECTs. However, the rest of her remarks were focused on naming and thanking the Soldiers that have served or continue to serve in the 11th Cyber battalion; and her Family.

“Time and time again, the Soldiers of the battalion amaze me. Every time I turned around, our unit was doing something to take care of each other or trying something new,” said CSM Harshman. “Their ideas and innovation are what is going to build the expeditionary cyber force for the Army and I could not be more proud of the camaraderie, the leaders, the building of teams, and the care for each her.”

After 23 years of selfless service, CSM Harshman, will “start the next chapter and work towards retirement.” Her leadership, compassion, consummate professionalism, expertise, and experience will be sorely missed.

Although a poignant farewell, the Leviathans welcome CSM Keyna Smith, who joins the battalion with experience as a CEMA warrior working EW in organizations at echelon Theater Army and below.

“General McConville, the former

Chief of Staff of the Army, always said, “Winning Matters.” 11th Cyber Battalion wins in competition and enables lethality in crisis and conflict,” said Etienne. “That is what we do. We are ready to fight tonight because of the Herculean efforts by CSM Harshman. We will continue to win tomorrow because of the leadership CSM Smith will provide to this formation.”

“Global Reach, Global Impact!”

“Everywhere and Always...In the Fight!”

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<https://www.dividshub.net/news/435252/>

<https://www.dividshub.net/publication/issues/59871>



FORT EISENHOWER, Ga. – The Soldiers, Family and friends of the 11th Cyber Battalion (Leviathans) bid a poignant farewell to Command Sgt. Maj. (CSM) Marlene Harshman and welcomed CSM Keyna Smith in a change of responsibility ceremony hosted by Lieutenant Colonel Luis (Lou) Etienne, Jr., the battalion commander, at the Nelson Fitness Center, September 13.



Coat of Arms

Black, gold and gray symbolize the unit's alignment as a US Army Cyber Battalion. The black border and dark gray background represent the night-and-day, 24-hour support, cyberspace mission of the unit. The three-headed hydra represents the three lines of effort: Electronic Warfare, Cyber Operations, and Information Operations. The black and white terrestrial globe indicates the global electronic reach of the command and underscore's the motto "GLOBAL REACH, GLOBAL IMPACT".

Authorized Heraldry for the 11th Cyber Battalion

The following heraldic items are authorized for the 11th Cyber Battalion, effective December 6, 2021



Distinctive Unit Insignia (DUI)

Black, gold, and gray symbolize the unit's alignment as a US Army Cyber Battalion. The black border and gray background represent the night-and-day, 24-hour support, cyberspace mission of the unit. The pentagon shape and cluster of five stars denote the five domains of warfare: land, air, sea, space and cyber. The three-headed hydra represents the three lines of effort: Electronic Warfare, Cyber Operations, and Information Operations. The terrestrial globe indicates the global electronic reach of the command and underscore's the motto "GLOBAL REACH, GLOBAL IMPACT".



Colors

The 11th Cyber Battalion (CYB) is the first and only expeditionary Cyber Electromagnetic Activity (CEMA) battalion of its kind in the United States Army. Officially activated on October 16, 2022, the 11th CYB can deliver a range of non-lethal, non-kinetic effects—including offensive cyberspace operation (OCO) and electronic warfare (EW) capabilities.

Currently, the 11th Cyber Battalion (Leviathans) has three companies, over three hundred assigned personnel, and four established Expeditionary CEMA Teams with a fifth being created by the end of September 30, 2023. By September 2027, the 11th CYB is projected to have a total 12 ECTs, each capable of providing OCO, EW, and information advantage functions and capabilities.

CSM Harshman had been with the organization since it was first formed as a U.S. Army pilot program – known as Cyber and Electromagnetic Activity (CEMA) Support to Corps and Below (CSCB), under the operational control of U.S. Army Cyber Command and, initially, Soldiers from the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber), and other Information Advantage Army formations.



FORT EISENHOWER, Ga. – Lt. Col. Luis (Lou) Etienne, Jr., the commander of the 11th Cyber Battalion (Leviathans), passes the battalion colors to Command Sgt. Maj. Keyna Smith signifying her assumption of responsibility as the battalion’s senior enlisted leader and “custodian of the colors”, during a change of responsibility ceremony at the Nelson Fitness Center, September 13.



FORT EISENHOWER, Ga. – Command Sgt. Maj. Keyna Smith, the 11th Cyber Battalion (Leviathans) senior enlisted leader and “custodian of the colors”, during her change of responsibility ceremony at the Nelson Fitness Center, September 13..



FORT EISENHOWER, Ga. – The Soldiers, Family and friends of the 11th Cyber Battalion (Leviathans) bid a poignant farewell to Command Sgt. Maj. (CSM) Marlene Harshman (right) and welcomed CSM Keyna Smith (left) in a change of responsibility ceremony hosted by Lieutenant Colonel Luis (Lou) Etienne, Jr., the battalion commander, at the Nelson Fitness Center, September 13 ■.

Army Citizen Soldiers support cyber operations against our Nation's adversaries



By Steven Stover, public affairs officer, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber)

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Army National Guard Soldiers representing 23 U.S. states and two ARNG cyber protection battalions finalized a seamless transition during a Task Force Echo transfer of authority ceremony hosted by Col. Benjamin Sangster, commander of the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber), at the Capt. John E. Smathers U.S. Army Reserve Center, September 22.

The transfer of authority ceremony closely resembles a change of command ceremony. It allows a seamless transition of missions without degradation, recognizing the need to continue the mission's critical purpose.

For the past year, 125th Cyber Protection Battalion (CPB) Soldiers on Task Force Echo (TFE) VII have worked with the 780th MI Brigade (Cyber) to conduct cyberspace operations in support of U.S. Cyber Command and the Cyber National Mission Force. 125th CPB Soldiers also supported Joint Forces Headquarters Cyber-Army to conduct Title 10 cyberspace operations in support of geographical Combatant Commands.

"A relatively young Major Sangster observed the first wave of these (TFE) Soldiers when the 780th Joint Mission Operations Center initially stood up the current infrastructure supporting the joint force," said Col. Sangster. "Over the years, I have rotated in and out of the 780th, gaining exposure to multiple versions of that formation we refer to as Task Force Echo. Each one bringing its own flair and personality. Even with that uniqueness, there has always been a constant – regardless of the rotation number... Task Force Echo has always accomplished the mission."

The TFE VII formation, primarily assigned to the 125th CPB, headquartered in South Carolina, is composed of ARNG Soldiers from California, Michigan, Ohio,

and S.C., with additional Soldiers in the formation from Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Nevada, North Carolina, Virginia, and an Army Reservist. Lt. Col. Daniel Byrnside is the commander of the 125th CPB and TFE VII, and Command Sgt. Maj. (CSM) Timothy Larkin serves as the battalion senior enlisted leader.

"We come from a wide variety of technical backgrounds, we've used our unique talents over the course of this tour to drive forward the cyber infrastructure we supported, and I couldn't thank these Soldiers enough for all the amazing work that they did," said Byrnside. "Our success has been recognized at almost every of echelon in the Cyber Corps, specifically ARCYBER (Army Cyber Command), Marine Forces – Cyber, and U.S. Cyber Command."

The TFE VIII formation, primarily assigned to the 126th CPB, is composed of ARNG from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Colorado, South Dakota, and Utah with additional Soldiers in the formation from Alaska, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Lt. Col. Karmin Ng is the commander of the 126th CPB and TFE VIII, and Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel P. Doherty serves as the battalion senior enlisted leader.

"The Task Force 126 Soldiers have sacrificed countless amounts of time to prepare for this mobilization," said Lt. Col. Ng. "The Soldiers are trained, ready to assume the mission, and I look forward to seeing everything they accomplish over the next year."

The 91st Cyber Brigade (Va.), the Army National Guard's first and only cyber brigade, and its five subordinate CPBs have sourced the TFE mission since 2017 and each rotation consists of more than 100 ARNG Citizen Soldiers. Including mobilization and demobilization, TFE

Rotations last for more than a year and each of TFE's 60-plus work roles have a unique training pipeline to prepare them for their mission requirements.

The TFE mobilization is historic in that it marks the first ARNG task force mobilization of this size to support USCYBERCOM operations full time and is a testament to the Army's commitment to the Total Force in defense of networks against the Nation's adversaries.

These TFE Soldiers join Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve teammates from all the Services, who are already at work and on-mission supporting USCYBERCOM and the Joint Forces.

"Always Ready, Always There"

"Everywhere and Always... In the Fight!"



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Army National Guard Soldiers representing 23 U.S. states and two ARNG cyber protection battalions finalized a seamless transition during a Task Force Echo transfer of authority ceremony hosted by Col. Benjamin Sangster, commander of the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber), at the Capt. John E. Smathers U.S. Army Reserve Center, September 22.



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Task Force Echo VIII Soldiers are primarily assigned to the 126th Cyber Protection Battalion and are composed of Army National Guard Citizen Soldiers from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Colorado, South Dakota, and Utah; with additional Soldiers in the formation from Alaska, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Lt. Col. Karmin Ng is the commander of the 126th CPB and TFE VIII (front), and Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel P. Doherty serves as the battalion senior enlisted leader.

“The Task Force 126 Soldiers have sacrificed countless amounts of time to prepare for this mobilization,” said Lt. Col. Ng. “The Soldiers are trained, ready to assume the mission, and I look forward to seeing everything they accomplish over the next year.”



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Lt. Col. Karmin Ng, commander of the 126th Cyber Protection Battalion and Task Force Echo VIII, the current task force, salutes Col. Benjamin Sangster, commander of the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber), signifying the commands assumption of the TFE mission, at the Capt. John E. Smathers U.S. Army Reserve Center, September 22.



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel P. Doherty, the senior enlisted leader for the 126th Cyber Protection Battalion and Task Force Echo VIII, stands in front of his formation during a transfer of authority ceremony at the Capt. John E. Smathers U.S. Army Reserve Center, September 22. ■



“Why do we have to show up to work if the government shuts down anyway? It’s not like they’re paying us.”

By 1st Lt. Phil Donner, National Mission Team, A Company, 781st Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber)

WHY DO WE HAVE TO SHOW UP to work if the government shuts down anyway? Its not like they’re paying us. Why should we show up?” A Sailor asked me one day back in late September when the first government shutdown was looming. It was a fair question for a junior enlisted service member to ask a junior officer. Thankfully it was one of the few times in my experience so far in the Army when I felt I had the exact right answer. In the moment, my answer was “Because you took an oath to support and defend the Constitution and nowhere in that oath does it mention being paid on time.” The long answer is because of the historical precedent set by George Washington in Newburgh, New York in 1783. The Oath that we take goes beyond any material value and it represents a commitment beyond a paycheck. It represents an unwavering, unconditional, and undaunted pledge to uphold the principles of our democratic process and defend the American people from those who wish to do harm. As more potential shutdowns loom, and the future becomes more uncertain, we must find refuge in the certainty of our oath; pride in history, and eagerness to uphold our commitment.

The current wording of the Oath¹ that officers and enlisted service members swear has changed significantly over the course of American history. The very first oath was codified on June 14th, 1775, with the creation of the Continental Army. In this very first version, there is no mention of the United States, the Constitution, or any form of government, just reference to “the government of said Army.”² This is significant because soldiers swearing by the first Oath swore to a promise, a

mere abstraction of an idea for a free and democratic government. It wasn’t until after the Revolutionary War and the ratification of the Constitution that the Oath evolved in 1789 to place the Constitution at the forefront—stating “I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States.”³ With the onslaught of the Civil War and the open rebellion of several high-ranking officers and tens of thousands of Confederate soldiers, the Army modified the preamble of its oath with a denunciation of treason against the Nation while also adding whom to defend the Constitution from—“against all enemies, foreign and domestic.”⁴ The Oath changed during several other pivotal times between 1789 and now, each time a direct reflection of changing threats to our Constitution and the continuous evolution of our Democracy.

As a professional military, we must understand the contexts in which our Oath has been challenged in the past and how it grounds us in the American way of life. Speaking on officership In The Armed Forces Officer, Swain and Pierce state that the American people demand “reliable, effective, honorable, and efficient service, whenever, wherever, and in whatever form the government of the day decides is necessary.”⁵ Our Oath is our spoken commitment to the American people in satisfying their expectation. When the first oath after the US Constitution was enacted in 1789, the symbolism of oaths was reclaimed by the founders and placed democratic philosophy, as grounded in the Constitution, at the forefront. As observed by Ulrich, there is a key difference between political and professional Oath-takers although the words are similar. Political oath takers duty is first to their nation and second to their policy agenda. Professional

oath takers duty is first to their nation and second to nothing else.⁶ Therein lies the difference. As professional oath takers, we must take the oath without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and service to the Constitution must be at the forefront. This sentiment was most eloquently echoed by former Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark Milley when he said in a speech to a graduating class at West Point:

“This idea is simple, but incredibly powerful. So powerful that the Nazis were definitely afraid of it. We defeated Imperial Japan because of it. The Communists feared it, the Soviet Union collapsed because of it; the fascists in Italy, and the terrorists of Al-Qaeda and ISIS, they hate it. They hate this idea. And we take an oath not to a person, not to a king or queen, not to a dictator, or a tyrant, or would be dictator. We don’t take an oath to a religion, or a tribe, or even a country. No, we swear an oath to an idea. And the idea that is America.”⁷

Aside from remembering the words and the meaning of the modern Oath, we should also look to history for the precedent of serving without pay. This story is almost as old as the Army itself and is often skipped when learning about the Revolutionary War. In 1783, George Washington, then serving as commander of the Continental Army, was faced with sentiments of mutiny while his Army was camped in Newburgh, New York. The Officers of the Continental Army had not been paid in five years, and a group of rebels, believed to be led by Horatio Gates, circulated a letter condemning Congress and advocating for mutiny.⁸ An important thing to remember here is that by 1783, the war was all but over. The sacrifices had been made, the blood shed, and the battles won. But the Army had not

been paid. Washington was so distraught at the thought of the Army destroying the fledgling country they had fought for that on March 15th, 1783, he gave his Newburgh Address to the officers of the Continental Army.

Washington's Newburgh Address is the epitome of moral courage and unflinching character comprising the fabric of a professional military officer. He began his speech by reprimanding the conspirators and drawing inconsistencies in their logic. He speaks as if he cannot even comprehend the sentiment of the conspirators' objectives while empathizing and relating to their shared years of struggle for freedom saying "As I have never left your side one moment...As I have been the constant companion and witness of your distress, and not among the last to feel, and acknowledge your merits."⁹ In this quote, Washington is reminding his soldiers that he has suffered with them, and acknowledges that they need to be paid. However, Washington goes on to urge the soldiers to trust their democratic institution—stating "they [The Congress] will adopt the most effectual measures in their power, to render ample justice to you, for your faithful and meritorious Services."¹⁰

Imagine a world in which Washington lacks the moral courage to stand up to the mutineers and instead marches on the Continental Congress, demanding payment for his soldiers with the threat of military force. The Constitution would not have been born at all. This sentiment is conveyed in the last line of Washington's speech when he tells the officers that "by the dignity of your conduct, afford occasion for posterity to say, when speaking of the glorious example you have exhibited to mankind, had this day been wanting, the World had never seen the last stage of perfection to which human nature is capable of attaining."¹¹ In other words, if the Continental Army mutinies over not receiving payment on time, the world will never know of a free and democratic country. Fortunately for all of us, this did not happen. George Washington's Newburgh speech set the precedent that the American Army doesn't

fight for money or treasure, but rather for democratic principles and that the Army is not an instrument to wield for political power.

Thanks to George Washington, we as professional Soldiers are relieved of the burden of having to test our personal valor in asserting the fundamental precedents underpinning our Army and military. At the time of this writing, it has been 36 days since the last fears of a government shutdown and there are 12 days left until funding runs out again. If the government does shutdown, for however long, we as Soldiers must remain steadfast in our duty. It is grounded in our Oath that we support and defend the Constitution and historical precedent has shown—that the Oath applies regardless of pay on time. Our Army's historical lineage, heritage, and future is too great for us as individuals to tarnish by dabbling in animosity or questioning the effectiveness of a system we swear to defend.

References:

¹ Note that for the sake of brevity in this article, when I use the word "Oath" I am referring to both the Oath of Enlistment and the Oath of Commissioned Officers. While the two are similar in wording, their distinction is outside the scope of this article. For further reading on this difference, and about the military profession in general,

see Samuel P. Huntington's *The Soldier and the State: The Theory and Politics of Civil-Military Relations*.

² "Oaths of Enlistment and Oaths of Office."

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⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Swain, Richard M., and Albert C. Pierce. "The Commission and the Oath." *The Armed Forces Officer*, National Defense University Press, Washington, D.C., 2017.

⁶ Ulrich, Marybeth P., "The Politics of Oath-Taking," *Parameters* 50, no. 2 (2020), <https://press.armywarcollege.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1018&context=parameters>

⁷ Mark Milley, May 21st, 2022. West Point, NY. <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3039598/west-point-graduates-are-what-is-inherent-in-the-us-military-milley-says>.

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⁹ George Washington, "From George Washington to Officers of the Army," March 15th, 1783, Newburgh, NY. <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/99-01-02-10840>.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid. ■



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Hackathon III – A Cyber Challenge for Teens

By Steven Stover, public affairs officer, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber)

ODENTON, Md – Soldiers and Civilians from the U.S. Army's 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) and the Defense Information Systems Agency hosted three Hackathon events in partnership with the Anne Arundel County Public Library to encourage teen interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) activities this fall.

The third annual fall event included a Capture the Flag (CTF) competition, Password Cracking, Logic Games, and Python Development stations, and future Hackathon events will take place every fall at the Odenton Regional Library, AACPL.

"Events like Hackathon III are great opportunities to expose students in the community to Computer Science concepts that they may not have the opportunities to get hands on with yet," said event lead, 2nd Lt. Jessica Barry, a cyberspace operations officer (17C), and executive officer for the Headquarters and Operations Company, Task Force-Praetorian (TF-P). "It's events like this that can help students identify a passion for something they did not know existed and inspire them to pursue a future in STEM!"

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Joshua Wellman, a cyber capabilities developer technician (170D) assigned to D Company, TF-P, 780th MI Brigade (Cyber), is the lead developer for the CTF – cyber challenge. It's not the first time he has volunteered to support these community partnerships. Last fall, he developed a CTF for the Annapolis Area Christian School, Upper Campus, in support of the school's STEM Expo.

"I firmly believe we all have people in our past that enabled us to get to where we are. Therefore, we each have a responsibility to take what we have learned and pass that on to someone else," said Wellman. "Outreach events like this are one way in which we can do this. They also have the advantage that the skills learned could one day be used to defend our nation. Also,

they're just outright fun!"

According to James Read, DISA Enterprise Integration and Innovation Center (OE/OE35), participating in CTFs is one of the best ways for students to network, develop technical skill and get exposed to concepts and tools they won't find in many school curriculums. He believes CTFs are a pathway to their success by making their resume stand out against their peers and preparing them to talk intelligently about these concepts in interviews.

"If I had one piece of advice for students aspiring to a career in cybersecurity it would be to attend CTF events," said Read. "There are two reasons I come out to support CTF events for students. First is the intense national security need to fill cyber roles with experienced, qualified candidates. CTF events are one of the best forms of outreach for the community in terms of getting a new wave of students excited about the tools and concepts and therefore interested in pursuing careers in cyber. This gamified learning provides level of exposure and engagement that they really can't get anywhere else.

"Second is the desire to reach back to bring others with me as I move forward. My career has benefitted greatly from participation in CTFs and having mentors inside the cyber community. I want to help provide those same opportunities for others."

In addition to Soldiers and Civilians from the 780th MI Brigade and DISA, an Army Reservist, Maj. Luis Rivas, an infantry officer and IT network engineer assigned to the U.S. Army Student Detachment, Johns Hopkins University, answered the call for Hackathon volunteers.

"Volunteering for community STEM events, like the Hackathon, allows me to give back by sharing my experiences and inspiring the next generation of innovators. These events give teens a supportive environment to explore their interests, build valuable cyber skills, and connect

with mentors to guide them early in their development," said Rivas. "Community engagement keeps me engaged, too. Volunteering energizes me and creates opportunities to share my skills while empowering young minds through the joy of discovery and problem-solving."

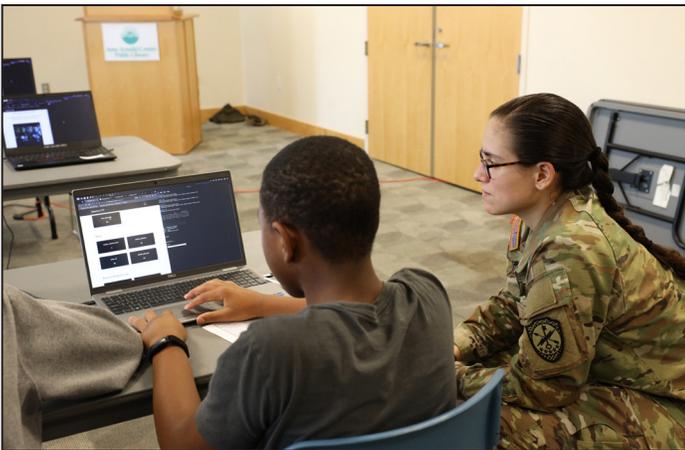
"Teens are our future – the more we can engage and excite them about STEM now, the more prepared and passionate they will be to take on the world's challenges. Hackathon fills that gap," added Rivas.

"A community strengthened through shared challenges breeds security. When we come together to learn, compete, and grow in events like CTFs, we lift each other up and build our collective cyber skills for the future."

In the past twelve months the 780th MI Brigade (Cyber) has participated in 17 community and U.S. Army Recruiting engagements across the Nation, from Long Beach, Calif. to Brooklyn, N.Y., from local area schools to the Chicago Cyber Convention (ChiCyberCon).

By engaging communities both locally and throughout the United States, these Soldiers and Army Civilians have been ambassadors; educating and informing thousands of Americans on the life-changing opportunities of Army service.

"Young adults are entering the time of their life where the possibilities to be all you can be are endless." – HON Christine E. Wormuth, Secretary of the Army



ODENTON, Md. – Soldiers and Civilians from the U.S. Army’s 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) and the Defense Information Systems Agency hosted three Hackathon events in partnership with the Anne Arundel County Public Library to encourage teen interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) activities.

The third annual fall event included a Capture the Flag (CTF) competition, Password Cracking, Logic Games, and Python Development stations, and future Hackathon events will take place every fall at the Odenton Regional Library, AACPL. ■



Praetorian Brigade Holiday Ball

IT IS TRULY INSPIRING TO SEE THE IMPACT THE BRIGADE HAS ON THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE IN," said Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse F. Crawford II, Command Senior Enlisted Leader, Cyber National Mission Force, U.S. Cyber Command. "In Hawaii, where I served as a battalion sergeant major, members of the brigade actively participated as CyberPatriot mentors at the Leilehua High School."

"In San Antonio, Texas, the Soldiers exemplify the spirit of community engagement by supporting the John Jay Science and Engineering Academy..."

In both states, Crawford mentioned the Brigade Soldiers and Civilians also support blood drives, food banks, and

veteran causes.

"Here at Fort Eisenhower (Ga.), the brigade is undertaking commendable efforts to establish the CyberPatriot program in the surrounding community. Through this volunteer program, Soldiers introduce and educate students in cybersecurity, sharing their experiences for the next generation – who will hopefully follow in your footsteps and answer the Nation's call."

"These are just a few examples of the many great things this brigade does to strengthen the bond between the military and the local community. As we celebrate tonight, let us not only revel in the holiday spirit, but also take pride in the rich legacy of service that binds us all together."

"The 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) and its subordinate units have showcased the true meaning of service, not only on the battlefield, but in the communities we call home."

"I want to thank you for your commitment and dedication to service, may you all have a joyous holiday season, may the spirit of camaraderie and service continue guide you in the years to come, have fun tonight, be safe, make good decisions, defend the Nation."













NORTH AUGUSTA, S.C. – The Soldiers and Civilians of the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) hosted their annual Holiday Ball with friends and Family at the Crowne Plaza here as the culminating event of the brigade’s senior leader week. Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year! “Everywhere and Always...In the Fight!” ■



WAIALUA, Hawaii – Detachment Hawaii, 782d Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber), hosted the battalion command team, LTC Kirklin Kudrna and CSM Samuel Crislip, that involved a morale hike to Ka'ena Point on the island of Oahu and the reenlistments of SGT Quarles and SSG Rugerio, September 6.



LEVIATHAN STRONG! "We find that the Romans owed the conquest of the world to no other cause than continual military training, exact observance of discipline in their camps, and unwearied cultivation of the other arts of war." – Publius Flavius Vegetius Renatus, writer of the Later Roman Empire (late 4th century)

Practice makes progress. Leviathans know that hard realistic training is the only way to be READY for whatever challenges we face in the contemporary operating environment. Train Hard, Fight Hard, Win Easy! Global Reach, Global Impact!



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Soldiers, Civilians, and Family members of the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) welcomed 1SG Joshua Hall as he assumed the position as first sergeant and 'keeper of the colors' for the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 780th MI Brigade (Cyber), during an assumption of responsibility ceremony, October 4, on the Brigade Soccer Field.



ARLINGTON, Va. – The 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) 2023 Army Ten-Miler Team before the 39th ATM, at the Pentagon, October 8. U.S. Army – The 1st year team didn't place; however, 1st. Lt. Kristen Gray, earned 3rd place overall in the military female category.

ARLINGTON, Va. – Army National Guard (ARNG) Soldiers from the 126th Cyber Protection Battalion (CPB), currently deployed with Task Force Echo (TFE) VIII, recently ran the 39th Army Ten-Miler with the TFE VIII Team, October 8.





LEVIATHAN STRONG! "Partnership is where our power is...The combined talent of our partners is the greatest competitive advantage we have to confront [the] increasingly sophisticated threats to our nation." – GEN Paul Nakasone, commander, US Cyber Command.

ECT-05, 11th Cyber Battalion, partnered with the 2d Multi-Domain Task Force and the U.S. Army Europe and Africa G39 during exercise Arcane Thunder 2023. These partnerships will build on CEMA interoperability and improve ECT-05's ability to deliver CEMA effects that will enable the lethality of the Theater Army in Europe during conflict! Train Hard, Fight Hard, Win Easy! Global Reach, Global Impact!

Arcane Thunder 23 is an unprecedented multi-domain and multi-national exercise that is the result of the close partnership between U.S. Army Futures Command and U.S. Army Europe and Africa, combining new experimental technologies and formations while informing further capability requirements that will help deliver the Army of 2030 and beyond.



Happy Birthday Leviathans!

FORT EISENHOWER, Ga. – The 11th Cyber Battalion (Leviathans) celebrates its first birthday during a ceremony at the battalion motorpool, October 16. Colonel Stephen J. Miko, Executive Officer to the Commanding General, U.S. Army Cyber Command, and Lieutenant Colonel Luis Etienne, 11th Cyber Battalion Commander, spoke of the achievements of the battalion during its first year and the impact of the battalion's developing lineage. Specialist Josiah Davis (19 years old) cut the battalion's birthday cake as the youngest Leviathan in the battalion. Global Reach, Global Impact! (Photos by Maj. Ken Woods, 11th Cyber Battalion)

The 11th Cyber Battalion (CYB) is the Army's premiere expeditionary Cyber Electromagnetic Activity (CEMA) battalion. Officially activated on October 16, 2022, the 11th CYB can deliver a range of non-lethal, non-kinetic effects – including offensive cyberspace operation (OCO) and electronic warfare (EW) capabilities. Currently the 11th CYB has three companies, over three hundred assigned personnel, and four established Expeditionary CEMA Teams (ECTs). By fiscal year 2027, the 11th CYB is projected to encompass four companies with 12 ECTs, each capable of providing OCO, EW, and information advantage functions and capabilities.



STEM Empowerment

ARNOLD, Md. – The 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) supported a GIRL STEM Empowerment event and had the privilege of engaging 50 young ladies, their families, and influencers, at Anne Arundel Community College, October 26.

“The biggest takeaway was giving these girls an alternative way to break into the STEM (cyber, intel) world. Many of these young women had no idea that the military was a viable route, whether that be officer or enlisted. Unless these girls had a military parent who worked/works with the military, it seemed like getting into STEM via the military was simply something they were unaware of. This belief is something 1st Lt. Wells and I sought to break by informing them the various avenues they can take by joining the military/army cyber,” Army Sgt. Leah Hanstein, Digital Network Exploitation Analyst (DNEA), Headquarters and Operations Company, Task Force Praetorian

“There are many young women who are enthusiastic about both technology as well as service. It became apparent that most girls, and their families, didn't know that there are technical opportunities in the military, and they were also unaware of the fact that the Army has members with varying levels of education. Most importantly, it was refreshing to see so many young ladies smiling and asking, ‘How can I be like you?’” 1st Lt. Marie Wells, cyberspace operations officer, 781st Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber)



Leviathan Trunk or Treat

LEVIATHAN STRONG! – 11th Cyber BN hosted its Halloween Trunk or Treat Event on Fort Eisenhower, GA. Family and friends of Team Leviathan enjoyed games, a haunted house, plenty of food, and (most importantly) each other's company throughout the evening. Kudos to 1LT Charles Grunert and his planning cell for putting together a really great event. Leviathans work hard and play hard! Global Reach, Global Impact!

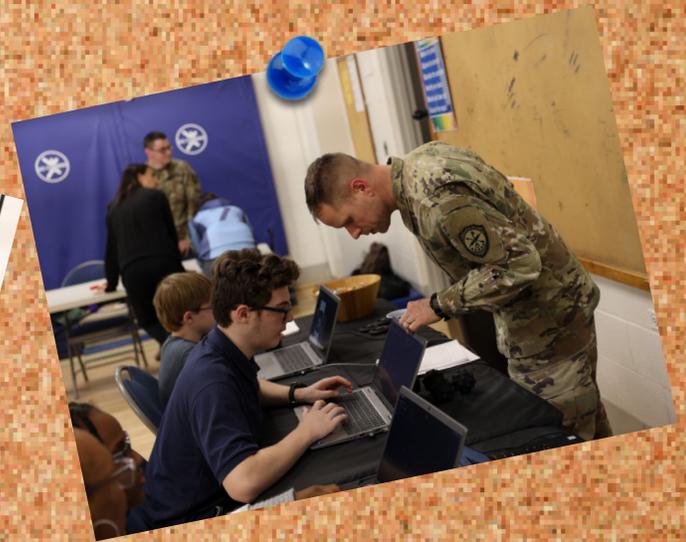


Praetorian Trunk or Treat

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – The Soldiers and Civilians of the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) hosted a Trunk or Treat for their Family and Friends behind the McGill Training Center, October 27. There was a haunted house inside the center, as well as prizes for best car trunk and costume; and a Smash Brother tournament...and candy!

A Company, 11th Cyber Battalion Change of Command ceremony

FORT EISENHOWER, Ga. – Soldiers, Family and friends of A Company, 11th Cyber Battalion (Leviathans), bid a fond farewell to CPT Gabriel Akonom, the departing company commander, and welcomed CPT Jancarlo (JC) Torres Burgos, in a ceremony hosted by LTC Lou Etienne, the battalion commander, Oct. 2. GLOBAL REACH, GLOBAL IMPACT!
(Photos by MAJ Ken Woods, U.S. Army)



Arundel Middle School Family Military Fair

ODENTON, Md. – Soldiers from the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) participated in a Family Military Fair to encourage young people's interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), and #ArmyPossibilities at the Arundel Middle School, November 8.



LEVIATHAN STRONG! Each one, teach one.

11th Cyber Battalion (Leviathan) leaders learned a great deal from our brothers and sisters in the 781st Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber) and 782d MI Battalion (Cyber). It was great sharing opportunity as we collaborate on new warfighting concepts that are being developed daily for the Cyber domain. The theme of "Innovation" was fitting for this year's 780th MI Brigade (Cyber) Senior Leaders Week.

U.S. Army photos by 1st Lt. Angeline Tritschler, executive officer, A Company, 11th Cyber Battalion

GLOBAL REACH, GLOBAL IMPACT!



Hastati Thanksgiving Potluck

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Soldiers, Civilians, their Family and friends, representing the Headquarters and Headquarters Company (Hastati), 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) celebrated Thanksgiving with food, fun, and fellowship at the Burba Lake Cottage, November 22. Facta non verba



**Congratulations to the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade
for winning this year's Turkey Bowl 2023!**

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Soldiers representing the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) and the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade participated in the annual Turkey Bowl and the 704th MI BDE retains the trophy following their Flag Football win on Mullins Field, November 22.



11th CYB delivers toys to Fort Eisenhower Christmas House Fort Eisenhower, Christmas House, MWR, Cyber

FORT EISENHOWER, Ga – Soldiers from the 11th Cyber Battalion (Leviathans), 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber), set up a toy drive to collect and deliver donations to the local Christmas House here on December 1 to highlight the good deeds (no coal in their stockings) accomplished within our communities by the Army and the Leviathan Soldiers.

For more information on the Christmas House visit 'A HUGE SCOOP OF LOVE' - Christmas House tradition continues at Fort Eisenhower at https://www.army.mil/article/272077/a_huge_scoop_of_love_christmas_house_tradition_continues_at_fort_eisenhower.

U.S. Army Photos by 1st Lt. Angeline Tritschler, Alpha Company, 11th Cyber Battalion



EXPEDITIONARY CEMA

LEVIATHAN STRONG! 11th Cyber Battalion is committed to maturing Cyber and Electromagnetic Activities (CEMA) for the Army. We not only do this through tough, realistic training, but also by partnering with our CEMA brothers and sisters in the force to learn and grow. Expeditionary CEMA Operators from ECT-01 worked through electronic surveillance techniques during dismounted tactical operations with the Air Missile Defense - Electronic Warfare (AMDEW) Company from 10th Mountain Division. TRAIN HARD, FIGHT HARD, WIN EASY! GLOBAL REACH, GLOBAL IMPACT!



HHC Christmas Decoration Contest



HHC Christmas Decoration Contest



HHC Christmas Decoration Contest Winner
780th Retention and UMT Office



780TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRIGADE (CYBER)

PRAETORIANS



**TASK FORCE
PRAETORIAN**



**HHC,
780TH MI BDE
HASTATI**



**781ST MI BN
VANGUARD**



**"EVERYWHERE AND ALWAYS...
IN THE FIGHT"**



**11TH CYBER BN
LEVIATHANS**



**782^D MI BN
CYBER LEGION**



**TASK FORCE ECHO
91ST CYBER BRIGADE**

The background is a festive, golden-themed design. It features several large, ornate gold Christmas ornaments with intricate cut-out patterns, hanging from the top. The ornaments are set against a light blue and white gradient background with a bokeh effect of soft, out-of-focus light circles. Scattered throughout are numerous small gold stars and dots. In the bottom right corner, there is a dynamic arrangement of larger gold stars and streaks of light, suggesting a shooting star or a celebratory burst. The overall aesthetic is bright, celebratory, and elegant.

NEXT QUARTER'S
BYTE IS focused on
the Brigade's Officer
Corps. As in other
issues of the BYTE magazine,
the command encourages
your contribution to drive
the Cyber and Information
Advantage conversation. If
you have an article to share,
write a synopsis and send
it to steven.p.stover.civ@army.mil NLT February 15,
2023. Final articles are due
February 29.