

780th MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRIGADE (CYBER)

THE BYTE

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780th MI BDE
"STRENGTH AND HONOR"

COL Candy Boparai
Commander
CSM Joseph Daniel
Command Sergeant Major

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PRAETORIANS,
As 2024 ends, I am reminded of how busy the Praetorian Soldiers and Civilians are, and by extension, their Families. I am also proud to command an esteemed group of professionals who seamlessly support multiple commands and are heavily involved in outreach to their local communities.

2024 started with a battalion change of responsibility whereby CSM Joseph P. Daniel relinquished his responsibility as the senior enlisted leader and keeper of the colors to CSM Jermaine K. Ocean on January 23. This was followed by a brigade change of responsibility where we welcomed CSM Daniel and bade a fond farewell to CSM Jesse C. Potter on March 8.

On March 1st Task Force Praetorian was formally recognized as the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command Operational Support Element (OSE) and on April 1, LTC Michael Krogh took command of OSE from LTC Ben Liles.

The Vanguard Battalion welcomed their new commander, LTC Scott A. Beal, when he assumed command of the 781st Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber) from LTC Donald E. Sedivy on June 17.

It seems only yesterday that I assumed command on June 21 from COL Ben Sangster in a ceremony hosted by MG Timothy D. Brown, commanding general, United States Army Intelligence and Security Command.

The brigade and U.S. Army Cyber Command (ARCYBER) witnessed the end of a mutually beneficial partnership with the 91st Cyber Brigade, U.S. Army National Guard (ARNG), when the Task Force Echo mission ended on August 6.

The Leviathans of the 11th Cyber Battalion hosted an activation ceremony for “Charles” Company (Capybara) on July 11, signifying the final phases of their battalion’s efforts to get to full build and achieve full mission capability. And a squad from the 11th Cyber Battalion represented ARCYBER at the 2024 Army Best Squad Competition.

In other news, the brigade hosted AvengerCon VIII, Army Cyber’s own homegrown hacker con, at the Georgia Cyber Innovation & Training Center, on February 28 and 29; Detachment Texas fielded a team in the Bataan Memorial Death March, Team Military Division, March 16; and the brigade fielded a team for the second year at the 40th Army Ten-Miler in Washington DC.



To close, I would be remiss if I didn’t thank and recognize the multitude of Praetorian Soldier and Civilian volunteers who participated in 21 TAIR (Total Army Involvement in Recruiting) events, civilian job fairs, and community outreach events, that took place from sea to shining sea, throughout the calendar year.

Thank you for your selfless service and professionalism!

Very respectfully,
Candy Boparai
COL, CY

Commander, 780th MI BDE (Cyber)
“Everywhere and Always...In the Fight!” ■



Smaller, More Frequent Awards for Civilians

By James Krog, Brigade S3 TREX, 780th MI Brigade (Cyber)

I REMEMBER BACK WHEN I FIRST STARTED as an Army Civilian in the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade, the normal process for submitting Civilians for monetary awards was to save them until the end of the rating year. The normal practice at this time was to tie the monetary award to the ratings an individual received on their end-of-year evaluation. At the end of the rating period, leaders reviewed all the scores from the evaluations and recommended bonuses to a small percentage of the workforce that had highest scores on their evaluations. While nominating Civilians for monetary awards throughout the year was not against the rules, it was not the norm. This practice often led to large sums of award funds being returned at the end of the year due to the organization failing to fully utilize it.

The practice end-of-year bonuses ended roughly two years ago. The guidance now is to submit smaller, more frequent awards for our Civilian workforce. The goal now is for supervisors of the Civilian workforce to recognize the achievements of their personnel when their contribution to the brigade's mission warrants it. This

ensures people are recognized at the time of the achievement rather than waiting until the end of the year. A secondary effect is that the individual receiving the award feels the value of their contributions throughout the rating period rather than only at the end. This also hopes to achieve a greater utilization of a limited resource to recognize a well-deserving Civilian workforce.

As this is a significant change from what has happened in the past, it has been slow to meet its full intent. During the last two years, there has been a mad dash at the end of the fiscal year to submit individuals for monetary awards and maximize utilization of this program's limited resources, but the organization has had to return funds that were not used by the end of the year. Many leaders are getting better at using this program throughout the year though. With this in mind, I am confident that the organization's leaders will continue to adapt to this change and fully take advantage of this program to recognize an important part of the workforce. ■



Effective Communication

By Michael Chong, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber)

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION TECHNIQUES in workplace involves conveying messages in a clear, concise, and respectful manner for mission success.

By adopting an effective communication in the workplace, you can:

- Build rapport with colleagues
- Enhance collaboration and teamwork
- Improve productivity and efficiency
- Reduce conflicts and misunderstanding
- Achieve desired outcomes and results

Characteristics needed for effective communication that may lead to good customer service in workplace among colleagues:

- Empathy: Paying attention to the colleague's concerns and putting yourself in their shoes and trying to see things from their point of view.

- Enthusiasm: Displaying genuine interests in helping colleagues
- Ownership: Taking ownership of the customer's issue and ensuring that the issue has been resolved.
- Responsibility: Following through on commitments and maintaining a high level of reliability.
- Adaptability: Being able to adjust to changing situations
- Resiliency: Being able to bounce back from challenging situations and maintaining a positive attitude

Harvard Business Review has a great post by Mary Emerson on improving communication called "8 Ways You Can Improve Your Communication Skills". The gist of it is as follows:

1. Be clear and concise
2. Prepare ahead of time
3. Be mindful of nonverbal communication
4. Watch your tone

5. Practice active listening
6. Build your emotional intelligence
7. Develop a workplace communication strategy
8. Create a positive organization culture

Lastly, a great lesson for communication can be found on the Foundation Course on Civilian Education System. ■



Things that are Changing – Starts with Us” My growth and development towards being a Supervisory Intelligence Specialist



By Mark J. Hart, Senior Analyst, CST Detachment Texas

I HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE 782ND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION (CYBER) for five of my 36 years of federal service as an intelligence analyst. For most of those 36 years, I have been on the operational side of the mission serving as an analyst and technician. Recently, I took the opportunity to move into a supervisory Civilian analytical role in operations. In April 2024, I became a supervisor on a Combat Mission Team’s (CMT) Analysis and Production section and shortly thereafter I was selected for Combat Support Team’s (CST) Supervisory Senior Analyst position. In the last eighteen months, I have learned a lot about the management and leadership duties that supervisors provide to not only their Civilian subordinates but their military counterparts. This helped the personnel, not only the Civilians of my team but promoted coaching and mentoring amongst our entire analytical sections.

As a Civilian Supervisor working in the cyber mission forces this has forced a change of my perspective and the type of support I have provided to my team leads. As an Analysis and Production Supervisor on a Combat Mission Team, I was fortunate to on-board four new Civilian employees as we re-built the Civilian cadre of the team. Part of the service I provided the officers of the CMT was to take some of the administrative weight off the officers regarding managing their growing Civilian cadre. But I did notice a change in duties as I worked to mentor the new hires, get their individual development plans built, help them craft their objectives for the year, their job qualification requirement plans and timelines, and to initially teach them to use our timecard software as we on boarded them. Additionally, understanding the chance to recognize and annotate not only performance objectives accomplishments

but acknowledge notable mission support by recommending appropriate Civilian honorary or monetary awards.

One of the other challenges I had to adapt to was being a mentor to my four new hires with two of them newly transitioned former military members and one prior defense contractor. Teaching and mentoring these three in the role of being an Army Civilian was different that being a Soldier or a contractor. Part of the challenge of converting from military service to being a Civilian is knowing our authorities and protocols and respecting the limitations of that; my two were no longer non-commissioned officers neither on equal footing with their former peers, nor subordinate to them. Through candid conversations and mentorship sessions I was able to help them transition to making recommendations as opposed to telling Soldiers what to do. Over time they became mentors to the Soldiers of the team, established a cohesive rapport with the Analysis and Production officer and became technical and managerial advisors to Company Grade Officers and the CMT Lead. As that relationship continued to evolve, they were then sought out for their advice based on their skills and demonstrated abilities as trusted civilian intelligence professionals.

The final challenge I had when converting from being an intelligence, technical specialist in the operational realm of the mission to a supervisory position coupled with a technical CMF work role level was finding time to do my own continued development simultaneously while continuing senior analytical needs. Army Civilian Supervisors assigned to a CMF team are also trained Digital Network Exploitation Analyst (DNEAs) or other CMF work roles typically at the Senior or Master level. When I was selected to be the

A&P Supervisor my JQR for DNEA Senior wasn’t quit done. I set one of my objectives to finish that JQR off to meet my job requirements but then had to balance being the supervisor while still supporting the mission as an access sponsor, tasking releaser, and working with the analysts of the team as our mission was evolving. It was a challenge to carve out time for classes, work with a JQR mentor, while on-boarding/supervising a pool of Civilians and dedicating time to the DNEAs of the team doing mission support.

In conclusion, my time as an Analysis and Production Supervisory Intelligence Analyst prepared me to become an Army Civilian Supervisor as Senior Analyst on one of Detachment Texas’s CST. The develop component is essential to the success of our enterprise by providing education, training, and gradual development that produces high performers. Supervisors are the cornerstone to developing the next generation of Army leaders with coaching and mentoring throughout the Army Civilian career lifecycle. I was fortunate to have good coaches and mentors from my predecessor and our Detachment’s Senior Civilian in helping me transition from being just one of the Civilian cadres into a leader in the Civilian cadre that support our unit’s mission goals and the great Soldiers and Civilians in our unit. There is a sense of achievement when you watch your team succeed, but an even greater sense of accomplishment when I see the Soldiers I have mentored transition to Civilians and then progress in their career. Becoming a supervisor seems to have been more rewarding than I initially thought it would be. Supervisors are the cornerstone to developing the next generation of Army leaders with coaching and mentoring throughout the Army Civilian career lifecycle. ■



MEET 11TH CYBER BATTALION ARMY CYBER'S WORKHORSE FOR THE TRIAD

By Joshua Good, U.S. Army Cyber Command

Special Warfare Magazine, Summer/Fall 2024, Vol. 37, Iss. 2

FORT EISENHOWER, GA. – As Staff Sgt. Chandler Harkins was about to brief his team on the day's mission, his battalion commander called the tent to attention.

In walked Lt. Gen. Maria Barrett, commander of U.S. Army Cyber Command (ARCYBER).

"As you were," Barrett said.

Harkins went right into his briefing, not missing a beat. The electromagnetic warfare specialist walked his team through the convoy route and pointed out the objective location on a sand table and explained how his team would collect electromagnetic warfare data at a training range on Fort Eisenhower, Georgia. His Soldiers took notes and repeated key details, such as the grid coordinates of checkpoints and the objective.

Harkins is a leader in the 11th Cyber Battalion, the workhorse of ARCYBER's contribution to the new triad—a combination of space, cyber, and special operations capabilities. After Harkins'

sand table rehearsal, Barrett spoke with his team members.

"The things you are doing here are super important," she told them. "We can't do everything from a computer in garrison. We are looking to expand access. You are giving commanders options to degrade our adversary's capabilities."

The Soldiers of 11th Cyber Battalion showed Barrett the tools they will use to support the triad, including drones, a handheld radio spectrum analyzer, and offensive cyber operations equipment.

"Everything can be applied to the triad," said Lt. Col. Lou Etienne, 11th Cyber Battalion's commander.

Etienne's job is to build 12 expeditionary cyberspace electromagnetic activities

teams. His marching orders are to quickly develop cyberspace electromagnetic capabilities and train the expeditionary teams to address the Army's multidomain operations capability gaps related to cyber and electromagnetic warfare.

"The focus for preparing for near-peer conflicts is learning how to overcome access denial capabilities of America's adversaries," Etienne said. "We have to understand how to defeat that."

"Etienne's team members met with Navy and Marine researchers to learn from their electromagnetic warfare experience," said Etienne's former Executive Officer, Maj. Eric Haupt Jr., who now works as the aide de camp for Barrett.

"Why reinvent the wheel when someone already has an incredible wheel?" Haupt said.

The 11th Cyber Battalion has cyber, as well as software developers. It has the backing of ARCYBER's cyber lab, the Technical Warfare Center, and the Cyber Center of Excellence, the Army school for cyber on Fort Eisenhower, Georgia.

Former Cyber School Commandant, Brig. Gen. Brian Vile, is an advocate for getting electromagnetic warfare right and sees 11th Cyber Battalion's work as aiding maneuver commanders.

"After you break your squelch on your radio, you are going to learn two things eight minutes later," Vile said at an Army Maneuver Center's conference last year. "Number one, how good was your emissions control, your EMCON (electromagnetic emission control). And, number two, how good are the enemy's EW (electromagnetic warfare) Soldiers. Because eight minutes is the doctrinal time it is going to take the adversary's EW guys to knock out your grid coordinate, send it back to fires, the king of battle, and have them launch effects on your targets.

And, if your EMCON wasn't good and the adversary's EW Soldiers were, you are going to get incoming."

Advanced military forces use radio frequency triangulation to locate enemy troops and use that information to engage with indirect fires, such as rockets and artillery.

Etienne and his Soldiers have taken Vile's eight-minute drill to heart and learn similar lessons as they study electromagnetic warfare lessons from the war in Ukraine and the Middle East.

"Our enemies are very good at figuring out things to do that are below the threshold of nuclear war that still have strategic implications," Etienne said. "Our adversaries are fighting in a gray zone. There is no better pairing of cyber, space, and special operations forces to be a strategic advantage for the Department of Defense and for the Army."

Etienne's battalion also has the backing of the ARCYBER G39 Information Advantage Division, which is nested under ARCYBER's G3, the staff directorate of a general-officer staff section in charge of planning and issuing orders. Aaron Pearce is the ARCYBER G39 director and in charge of making recommendations about 11th Cyber Battalion's future.

"Where we would like to go in the future is to serve as a specialized cyber and electromagnetic warfare force," Pearce said.

Pearce sees 11th Cyber Battalion supporting land component units at the theater Army, corps, and division levels.

Most of 11th Cyber Battalion's missions have been training exercises, such as Combat Training Center rotations at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, and the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Johnson, Louisiana, formerly Fort Polk.

Those training centers are large enough

to support a brigade-plus size unit.

Though an expeditionary cyberspace electromagnetic activities team is a division or higher-level unit asset, the team could support a brigade if a division commander decided that supported brigade was the main effort.

“That would be up to the corps and division commanders,” Pearce said.

During a recent three-star general officer steering committee meeting, all three commanders said they want to move from training to operationalizing the Cyber-Space-SOF Triad. “I’m excited for the next 20 years,” said Lt. Gen. Jonathan Braga, commander of the U.S. Army

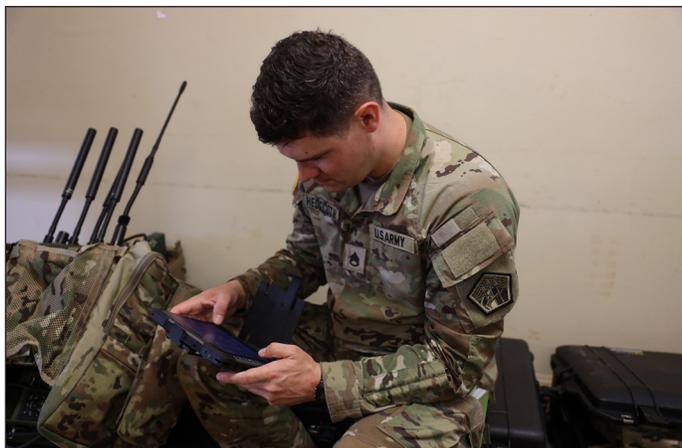
Special Operations Command. “You will be looking back at this as the black and white, the dark ages. We are going to help the Army.”

Harkins, 11th Cyber Battalion’s staff sergeant, epitomizes the Soldiers Etienne and his team recruit for the unit. Harkins was formerly a military police branch Soldier and worked for 7th Special Forces Group before he reclassified to electromagnetic warfare. Etienne also has Soldiers, who have been coders since middle school.

The battalion is a mix of technical and tactical—just what the Army needs to build the triad.



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii – Sgt. James Hyman, Expeditionary CEMA operator for the 11th Cyber Battalion’s Expeditionary Cyber-Electromagnetic Activities Team-01, collects information from two sensors – on an unmanned aerial system and a robotic dog named Spot – to conduct cyber effects operations, during an Operational Readiness Assessment for the battalion, March 30, 2023. Photo by Steven Stover, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber)



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii – SStaff Sgt. Ryan Hedgcoth, Expeditionary Cyber-Electromagnetic Activities (CEMA) operator with Expeditionary CEMA Team-01, 11th Cyber Battalion, inspects a Tactical RF Applications Chassis, a platform that enables mission-tailored CEMA capabilities, during an Operational Readiness Assessment for the battalion, March 29, 2023. Photo by Steven Stover, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber)



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii – Staff Sgt. Chandler Harkins is an electromagnetic warfare specialist and leader in the 11th Cyber Battalion, stationed at Fort Eisenhower, Georgia. Harkins used to work for 7th Special Forces Group and was a Military Police Soldier before he reclassified to EW. Photo by Steven Stover, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) ■



ECT-02, 11th Cyber Battalion Support to JPMRC 25-01

Army Cyber, CEMA, Electronic Warfare, Electromagnetic Activities, JPMRC

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HAWAII – Col. Candy Boparai, commander of the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) conducted an AAR (After Action Report) with the Soldiers from A Company (Apex), 11th Cyber Battalion, following their deployment in support of Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center 25-01, October 17.

The 11th CY is based out of Fort Eisenhower, Georgia, and following the AAR, Col. Boparai recognized select Soldiers for excellence.

1st Lt. Arthur McDonald, a 17B, cyber electromagnetic warfare officer, G39 CEMA (cyberspace and electromagnetic activities), 25th Infantry Division, shared his thoughts on TTPs (tactics, techniques, and Procedures) on the integration of external enablers.

“It was a great opportunity. The personnel got to experience the triple canopy, and the challenges associated,”

said McDonald. “Hawaii provides the best MDO (multi-domain operations) environment. All the different planning factors, jungle, mountains, desert, rain. If you can master this place, you can deploy anywhere.”

During the AAR, Maj. Jonathan Eames, Jr., ECT-02 Team Lead (Expeditionary CEMA Team), discussed options on theater engagement; 1st Lt. Samson Odior, executive officer, A Co., 11th CY, discussed the deployment and lessons learned; and other ECT and company Soldiers talked about their integration with exercise participants.

Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Daniel, the 780 MI Brigade’s senior enlisted leader; Chief Warrant Officer 5 James Richards, the brigade command chief warrant officer; and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Terry Deener, U.S. Army Human Resources Command, 170-series warrant officer career manager; and the A Co. command team – Capt. JC Torres, and 1st Sgt. Michael Bell – also

participated in the AAR.

Among those recognized for excellence were 1st Lt. Odior, a 17A, cyber warfare officer; Spc. Dwayne DeJohn, a 17C, cyber operations specialist; Sgt. 1st Class David Batres, a 17E, electronic warfare NCO; SGT Seth Lyons, a 17C; Spc. Connor Allsup, a 17C; and 1st Lt. McDonald.

“This is important work. I appreciate your efforts so thank you all for your participation,” said Boparai. “Thank you for helping gather the data and for your candor during the AAR.”

The 11th Cyber Battalion is the Army’s premiere expeditionary CEMA battalion. Officially activated on October 16, 2022, the 11th CY can deliver a range of non-lethal, non-kinetic effects—including offensive cyberspace operation and electronic warfare capabilities.

“*Global Reach, Global Impact*”

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



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii – Col. Candy Boparai, commander, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) conducted an AAR (After Action Report) with the Soldiers from A Company (Apex), 11th Cyber Battalion, following their deployment in support of Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center 25-01, October 17. The 11th CY is based out of Fort Eisenhower, Georgia, and following the AAR, COL Boparai recognized select Soldiers for excellence. ■

CEMA JPMRC 25-01



U.S. ARMY Spc. Connor Allsup, a Cyber Operations Specialist assigned to the Expeditionary Firing Crew, Expeditionary Cyber and Electromagnetic Activities (CEMA) Teams (ECT), Alpha Co., 11th Cyber Battalions from Fort Eisenhower, Ga. prepare for movement during the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center 25-01 (JPMRC), at Helemano Military Reservation, Oahu, Hawaii, Oct. 11, 2024. The Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC) is the Army's newest Combat Training Center (CTC) and generates readiness in the environments and conditions where our forces are most likely to operate in. JPMRC 25-01 includes training participants from across the U.S. Joint Force, and multinational Allies and partners. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Abreanna Goodrich)



U.S. ARMY Spc. Connor Allsup, a Cyber Operations Specialist and 2nd Lt. Cole Breton, a Cyber Operations Technician, Expeditionary Cyber Team Leader and Sgt. Seth Lyons, a Cyber Operations Specialist assigned to the Expeditionary Firing Crew, Expeditionary Cyber and Electromagnetic Activities (CEMA) Teams (ECT), Alpha Co., 11th Cyber Battalions from Fort Eisenhower, Ga. prepare for movement during the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center 25-01 (JPMRC), at Helemano Military Reservation, Oahu, Hawaii, Oct. 11, 2024. The Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC) is the Army's newest Combat Training Center (CTC) and generates readiness in the environments and conditions where our forces are most likely to operate in. JPMRC 25-01 includes training participants from across the U.S. Joint Force, and multinational Allies and partners. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Abreanna Goodrich)



U.S. ARMY Sgt. Seth Lyons, a Cyber Operations Specialist assigned to the Expeditionary Firing Crew, Expeditionary Cyber and Electromagnetic Activities (CEMA) Teams (ECT), Alpha Co., 11th Cyber Battalions from Fort Eisenhower, Ga. prepare for movement during the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center 25-01 (JPMRC), at Helemano Military Reservation, Oahu, Hawaii, Oct. 11, 2024. The Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC) is the Army's newest Combat Training Center (CTC) and generates readiness in the environments and conditions where our forces are most likely to operate in. JPMRC 25-01 includes training participants from across the U.S. Joint Force, and multinational Allies and partners. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Abreanna Goodrich) ■



Cyber Legion is your Praetorian Best Squad for 2024

780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber)

FORT WALKER, VA. – Soldiers representing the 781st Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber), Vanguard; 782d MI Battalion (Cyber), Cyber Legion; and the 780th MI Brigade (Cyber) Operations Support Element, competed this week for the honor of Brigade Best Squad, September 11 - 13.

Col. Candy Boparai, the brigade commander, and Command Sgt. Major Joseph Daniel, the brigade's senior enlisted leader, were here to recognize the winning team and Soldiers at an award ceremony at Fort Walker Warrior Camp.

The 782d Cyber Legion squad is the 2024 Brigade Best Squad and consists of Staff Sgt. Tate Parmenter, squad leader, 35N, signals intelligence analyst, D Company, 782d MI Battalion; Sgt. Keaton Posey, team lead, 35N, B Co., 782d MI BN; Spc. Sean Sobik, 35P, signals intelligence voice interceptor, D Co., 782d MI BN; Spc. Sean Striedel, 17C, cyberspace operations specialist, D Co., 782d MI BN; and Spc. Joseph Yope, 35N, D Co., 782 MI BN.

Staff Sgt. Parmenter is the Brigade's NCO of the Year for 2024 and Spc. Sobik is the Brigade's Soldier of the Year for 2024, making it a clean sweep for the Cyber Legion.

"We're soldiers first' be brilliant at the basic, trust your team and seek excellence," said Daniel. "All of these Soldiers are examples of why we are the best fighting force the world has ever seen."

The Brigade's Best Squad Competition spanned three days and began with an Expert Soldier Badge Physical Fitness Assessment, followed immediately by Soldier Tasks, and Day and Night Land

Navigation. On day two, the squads began the day with an obstacle course, zeroed and qualified with an M4 Rifle, qualified with the M17 Pistol, navigated through a hand grenade qualification course, and ended the day completing medical tasks. Day three began with a grueling 12-mile road march, then right into weapons assembly, disassembly and functions check, and ended with a Command Sergeant Major's Board.

Staff Sgt. Parmenter, the squad leader for the winning team, and Brigade NCO of the Year for 2024 was also the Brigade's NCO of the Year in 2023, and Parmenter was the team lead for the Brigade's Best Squad in 2023.

"I want to thank everyone who supported the Best Squad Competitions as well as my command team for providing me with ample time and resources to train and prepare for the competitions. I would also like to give a special thank you to Capt. Velasquez, Capt. Martinez, 1st Sgt. Baker, 1st Sgt. Olsen, Sgt. 1st Class Gillespie (the battalion's BSC squad leader for the 2023 winning team), Sgt. 1st Class Rendel, Sgt. 1st Class Phillips and Sgt. 1st Class Silva for coaching and mentoring me throughout my time in the Army," said Parmenter.

Sgt. Posey was the Brigade's Soldier of the Year two years ago, and part of the brigade's winning squad, and he recognized Sgt. 1st Class Waddell, Sgt. Duli, Staff Sgt. Parmenter, and Staff Sgt. Fox for "being awesome NCO's during my time in the Army."

"Best squad competition is always a nice refresher on doing Army tasks and testing my abilities," said Posey. "I couldn't have

done it without my squad and the NCO's that have trained me to be where I am today."

"I want to especially thank all the phenomenal NCOs that guided the team during the Battalion and Brigade level Best Squad Competitions – Sgt. 1st Class Gillespie, Staff Sgt. Parmenter, Staff Sgt. Workman, and Sgt. Posey. Without their guidance and motivation, we wouldn't have won," said SPC Sobik.

Spc. Striedel succinctly stated, "I could not have done any of this without my squad."

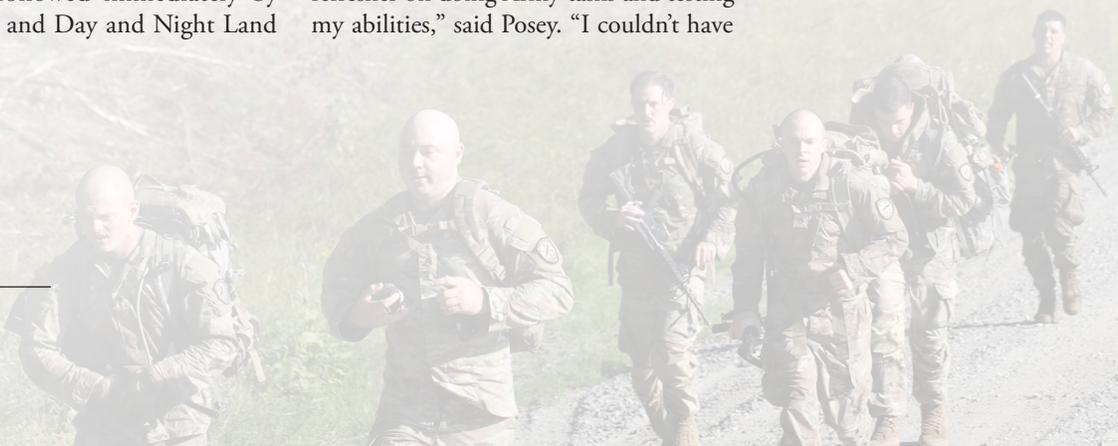
The final member of the brigade's team, Spc. Yope, also took time to recognize Soldiers who assisted him including Capt. Velasquez, 1SG Baker, SFC Gillespie, SFC Phillips

"I want to thank everyone who was involved in making BSC happen. From the support cadre to the other competitors. I couldn't have been a part of a better squad. The support of our command team has been unmeasurable," said Yope. "I would like to thank Staff Sgt. Parmenter for being a great mentor, role model and NCO. I have had the privilege of knowing him my entire army career and he has helped guide me into the soldier I am today."

Previous Praetorian Soldiers who competed in the Brigade Best Squad Competition have attended the U.S. Army Airborne and Air Assault Schools, as well other Army training opportunities.

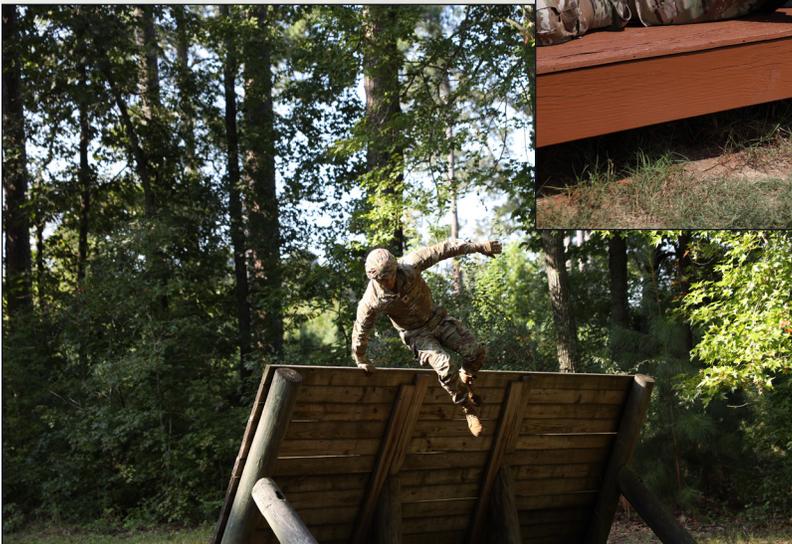
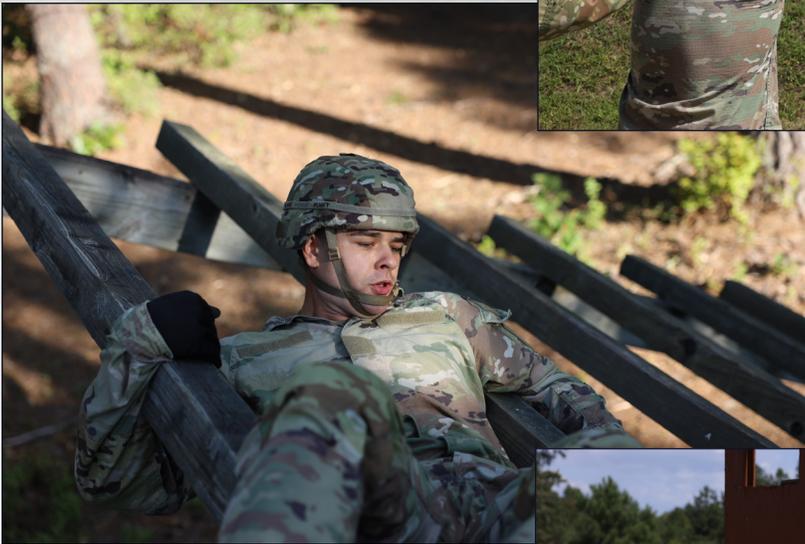
"Cyber Legion... Silent Victory"

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











Best Squad Competition: SPC. Sean Sobik, 782d MI Battalion (Cyber)



QUICK SKETCH:

Army Cyber, Best Squad Competition, Best Warrior

Brigade Best Squad Competition

FORT WALKER, Va - SPC. Sean Sobik, who hails from Minneapolis, Minnesota, is a Language Analyst, assigned to D Company, 782nd Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber), and recently represented his unit in the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) Best Squad Competition (BSC), September 10 to 12.

Spc. Sobik was a team member on the 782d MI Battalion (Cyber) Best Squad which won the 2025 Brigade Best Squad Competition (BSC) and received the Army Commendation Medal for his achievement from Col. Candy Boparai, the commander of the 780th MI Brigade (Cyber), September 12.

Additionally, Sobik is the Brigade 2025 Best Warrior. He attended the Defense Language Institute, and attained a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Portuguese Studies from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, and an Associate of Arts in Chinese Mandarin; and is a qualified linguist in both Spanish and Chinese.

#BeAllYouCanBe #ArmyPossibilities

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SERVE AND WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO JOIN?

"In short, I was motivated to join for the opportunity to attend and learn at the best language school in the U.S. Armed Forces. Serving, to me, means fulfilling a civil duty and improving myself, my peers and the Army."

DISCUSS THE IMPACT OF FAMILY AND CULTURE ON YOUR DECISION TO JOIN THE ARMY AND YOUR SERVICE

"As a child my father told me bedtime stories of his time in the Navy, where he learned to be a master electrician. His father and brother, as well as my mother's brother and his son have all served or are currently serving in the Armed Forces. It felt like the right thing to do and the best way to pursue my future goals."

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE GOALS?

"My future goals include attending the Airborne, Air Assault, and SERE schools, becoming a member of the ARSOF community, and attaining my private pilot's license."

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE QUOTE?

"The main quote I live by is Moment Mori – remember that you will die. It may sound morbid, but if you don't reach for the goals and landmarks you set for yourself, and you don't push yourself to be better, you may reach the end of your life and regret not taking the chances that were presented to you when you had them. We also never know when we will die, it could be tomorrow. Would you be satisfied with your life if that were to happen?"

HOW DID YOU PREPARE FOR THE BSC AND WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE TO OTHERS

"I immediately identified the areas that I was weakest at, push-ups and regulation knowledge, and spent extra time working towards improving those areas. For a competition like best squad everyone on the team needs to be proficient at every area in which they will be tested. No one wants to be that person that's holding the team back. My advice to others would be to ensure neither you nor your closest battle buddy are that person that's holding the squad back."

WHAT WILL YOU REMEMBER MOST ABOUT THE BSC

"I should probably say something like, crushing land navigation, getting fast times on the obstacle course and successfully handling all the weapons. However, what I will remember most is the shared experience of my squad and the laughs we shared during the week of the competition." ■





Best Squad Competition: SSG. Tate Parmenter, 782d MI Battalion (Cyber)



QUICK SKETCH:

Army Cyber, Best Squad Competition, Best Warrior

Brigade Best Squad Competition

FORT WALKER, Va - SSG. Tate Parmenter, who hails from Eugene, Oregon, is a Joint Targeting Analyst, assigned to D Company, 782nd Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber), and recently represented his unit in the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) Best Squad Competition (BSC), September 10 to 12. Staff Sgt. Parmenter was the squad leader for the 782d MI Battalion (Cyber) Best Squad which won the 2025 Brigade Best Squad Competition (BSC) and received the Army Commendation Medal for his achievement from Col. Candy Boparai, the commander of the 780th MI Brigade (Cyber), September 12. Additionally, Parmenter is the Brigade 2025 Best Warrior Noncommissioned Officer – a feat he earned for the 2d year in a row as he was the Brigade Best Warrior NCO in 2024 – and was the team leader on the winning 2024 Brigade Best Squad. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Air Assault School and has a Bachelor of Science in Health & Physical Education from Southern Oregon University.
#BeAllYouCanBe #ArmyPossibilities

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SERVE AND WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO JOIN?

“Serving in the Army means being part of something that is bigger than yourself. I joined the Army to defend our nation and its interests, learn new skills and work in both a challenging and rewarding career field.”

DISCUSS THE IMPACT OF FAMILY AND CULTURE ON YOUR DECISION TO JOIN THE ARMY AND YOUR SERVICE

“Growing up I had a few family members that served in the Army that I always looked up to. I admired their work ethic, discipline and dedication. They taught me the importance of resilience and commitment and ultimately inspired me to serve once I became of age.”

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE GOALS?

“Some of my goals include attending and completing schools/courses such as the Master Marksmanship Trainer Course, Heavy Weapons Leader Course, Army Mountain Warfare School, SERE and ESB. Additionally, I plan to complete my master’s degree in nursing.”

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE QUOTE?

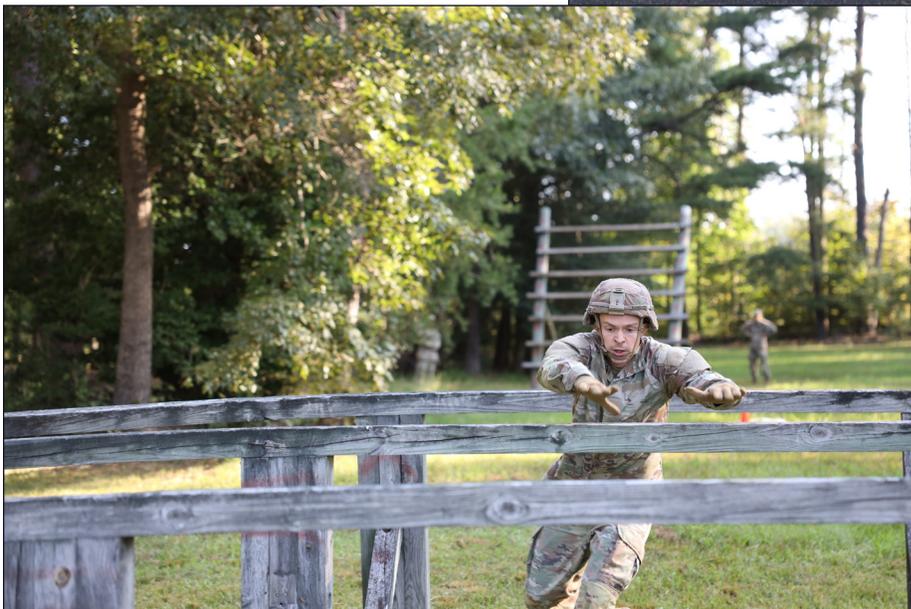
“Discipline is doing what you hate to do but doing it like you love it.”

HOW DID YOU PREPARE FOR THE BSC AND WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE TO OTHERS

“In order to prepare for the BSC, our squad conducted PT each morning before work and trained warrior tasks in the afternoon. I would highly recommend competing in the BSC because it provides Soldiers with the opportunity to refine and/or learn new skills.”

WHAT WILL YOU REMEMBER MOST ABOUT THE BSC

“What I will remember most about the BSC is the camaraderie that our team built by completing difficult tasks and overcoming adverse conditions throughout the competition and the training we conducted leading up to the competition.” ■





2024 COMPETITION TEAM 10



ARCYBER



U.S. Army Best Squad Competition 2024 – 11th Cyber Battalion, U.S. Army Cyber Command

THE BEST SQUAD COMPETITION 2024 TEAM 10 from left to right, Spc. Alexander Rivera Santiago, Sgt. Spencer Buckwalter, Sgt. Isiah Nembhard, Sgt. Josiah Davis, and Cpl. Keaton Hammock, represented ARCYBER. The competition featured a multitude of different fitness and combat-related events ranging from the Army Combat Fitness Test and various weapons lanes to a strenuous 12-mile foot march and detailed individual warrior tasks and squad battle drills. Afterward, the top four teams of the week traveled to Washington, D.C. for a board-style interview that tested their knowledge and professionalism in front of top Army leaders. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Daniel Hernandez)



The Army Best Squad Competition Day Land Navigation

U.S. Army Sgt. Isiah Nembhard assigned to 11th Cyber Battalion, searched for a checkpoint as part of the land navigation event during the Army Best Squad Competition at Fort Liberty, North Carolina, Oct. 1, 2024. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jayreliz Batista Prado)



Army Best Squad Competition: Medical Lanes E3B Lanes

Sgt. Spencer Buckwalter, a cyber operations specialist representing the U.S. Army Cyber Command, provides suppressing fire during the medical lane portion of the Expert Soldier Badge testing during the Army Best Squad Competition on Fort Liberty, North Carolina, Oct. 2, 2024. The annual competition assessed 12 squads across the Army's major commands on their technical and tactical proficiency, as well as their ability to work as a disciplined and cohesive team. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Matthew Keegan)

The Army Best Squad Competition 2024

U.S. Army Best Squad team 10, Spc. Alexander Rivera Santiago, Sgt. Isiah Nembhard, Cpl. Keaton Hammock, Sgt. Josiah Davis, and Sgt. Spencer Buckwalter, representing ARCYBER, pose for a photo during the Army Best Squad Competition on Fort Liberty, North Carolina, Oct. 03, 2024. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jason Everett)



Army Best Squad Competition 2024: Helocast and Zodiac Event

Soldiers assigned to the 11th Cyber Battalion and representing the U.S. Army Cyber Command steer a FC470 combat rubber raiding craft during the Helocast and Zodiac Event during the Army Best Squad Competition on Fort Liberty, North Carolina, Oct. 4, 2024. The competition assessed 12 squads representing their major command on their technical and tactical proficiency, as well as their ability to work as a disciplined and cohesive unit. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Matthew Keegan) ■





Grand Opening of Brigade Language Library and Media Room

780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber)

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MD. – The 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) hosted the grand opening of the Brigade Language Library and Media Room in building 316, Chamberlin Avenue, October 16.

The Brigade Language Library and Media Room is open to any service member or government Civilian and is meant to assist military linguists stay proficient in their foreign language skills.

“The brigade Language Library and Media Room is an unclassified place where linguists, or those who know a language and want to practice or enhance their language skills, can go to conduct language maintenance,” said Betty Asbury, the brigade’s Command Language Program Manager (CLPM). “We have a media room where linguists can watch foreign language movies on an all region DVD player, practicing their listening skills.”

The language materials currently consist of Russian, Korean, Chinese-Mandarin, Persian Farsi, Levantine, and Arabic, and there are plans to expand the library to include other languages.

“I’m trying to expand our languages and since we’re going through the Agency (National Security Agency) for the materials, it’s free for us,” said Asbury. “The materials that I ordered are trickling in, so the library will continuously get more and more.”

According to Army Staff Sgt. Richard Balestrieri, 780 MI Brigade CLPM, the media room has an all region DVD player (these players can play DVD discs purchased anywhere worldwide) where linguists can play foreign language movies, a library and games.

“We currently have a few (movies) and more are coming in from the Agency, but they can bring their own as well,” said Balestrieri. “We also will have commercial internet access for them to access any

online websites, such as foreign news sites and YouTube.

Asbury added “Unfortunately, we don’t have any hours listed...it’s basically whenever the linguist needs access.”

Service members or government Civilians interested in using the Brigade

Language Library and Media Room should contact either Asbury or Staff Sgt. Balestrieri to open the doors for access. Their contact information is on the door or look them up on global. ■



FGGM NCO Induction Ceremony



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MD. – Team, join us in celebrating the newly inducted Noncommissioned Officers into the NCO Corps! This cherished tradition not only inspired the inductees but also touched everyone in attendance, highlighting the unwavering courage and dedication that these leaders bring to our ranks. We are immensely thankful for the tremendous support from various leaders across Fort George G. Meade, Md, whose collaboration made this impactful event possible.

While every NCO Induction Ceremony holds its own significance as a steppingstone toward growth and responsibility, this ceremony was especially meaningful thanks to our distinguished guest speaker, Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Michael R. Weimer. We are grateful for his presence, experience, and insightful words, which will undoubtedly help shape the future of the NCO Corps. Thank you, SMA, for gracing us with your attendance; it was an honor and a privilege to have you with us.

Congratulations to SGT Cameron D. Brewer; CPL Jacob R. Caddell; SGT Jeremy A. Carter; SGT Alex B. Chung; SGT James M. Didonato II; SGT Alexis L. Endicott; SGT Nicholas H. Gilson; SGT Dontavian T. Harris; CPL Kimberly E. Harrison; SGT Billy J. Hayes; SGT Samuel A. Keehn; SGT Ananya Kudugi; SGT Ian S. Langford; SGT Natalie A. Lenehan; SSG Matthew S. Peterson; SSG Jnonatan Quezadaocampo; SSG Brittany N. Spruill; SGT Isaac E. Sanchez; SGT Reed S. Tanuvasa; SGT Donald A. Thomas; SGT Sebastian Torresgomez; SGT James, R. Viner; and CPL Quintin B. Whitacre.

#PeopleFirst #BeAllYouCanBe

Huge shout out to the 704th MI Brigade for the photos and organizing the event!

#HereAndEverywhere.

#EverywhereAndAlwaysInTheFight

(U.S. Army Photos by SGT Phillip J. Tross III, Public Affairs NCOIC, 704th MI BDE) ■









Praetorians place top two in ARCENT Best Cyber Warrior virtual category

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MD. – Cyber warriors from the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber), Praetorians, were recognized for their recent achievements at the Tenth U.S. Army Central (USARCENT) Best Cyber Warrior (BCW) competition, November 18.

The Brigade’s competitive CTF (Capture the Flag) team, the “Speculores”, and “Professor Chaos Computing Club”, CSD-Maryland (cyber solutions development), won 1st and 2nd place in the online competition, securing 2nd and 3rd overall (combining both online and in-person events).

The Speculores team consisted of Mr. Robert Ighnat, Capt. Dan Zablocky, Sgt. Robert Meyers Jr., Maj. Mark Klink, and Maj. Michael Kranch.

Prof. Chaos Computing Club consisted of Capt. Calvin Kim, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Andrew Fricke, Capt. Bendie Minu, CW3 Christopher Charland; and Mr. Adam Atkins.

“Overall recommendation is that we

send a team forward to participate in person next year,” said Maj. Klink, the Speculores team lead. “(Everyone) was competing overnight and balancing work/schedule requirements. The difficulty of the problems was excellent, and it was competitive until the last hour or so of the event.”

According to a Best Cyber Warrior X video, The USARCENT Best Cyber Warrior competition brings together service members, universities, and partner nations to compete in a cybersecurity contest that will test the skills in information security, ethical hacking, and digital forensics in the USARCENT area of responsibility from Oct. 28-31, 2024. <https://www.21tsc.army.mil/Resources/Safety-Office/mod/83661/player/0/Best%20Cyber%20Warrior/>

“With 58 teams competing online and 24 competing in-person, and participants from countries such as Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Oman, UAE, and Slovenia, alongside top U.S. universities including The Citadel, University of Kansas, Virginia Military

Institute, University of North Georgia, and Vanderbilt University, this competition was truly international and fierce,” said Pedro Santiago-Gonzalez, Kuwait Ministry of Defense Advisor (Cyber).

The Speculores were also recognized with the Order of Thor from the Military Cyber Professional Association by Mr. Joe Billingsley, founder of the MCPA. The Order of Thor is a medal awarded by the MCPA to recognize excellence and special contributions to the American military cyber community.

USARCENT Best Cyber Warrior XI is set for October 27 to 30, 2025, with the location yet to be determined.

“Bringing cyber professionals together in a competitive cyber challenge environment, Best Cyber Warrior test abilities, build capacity, and provides strategic importance,” said Army Lt. Col. Aaron S. Black II, ACoFS G6 (FWD), USARCENT.





FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Cyber warriors from the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber), Praetorians, were recognized for their recent achievements at the Tenth U.S. Army Central (USARCENT) Best Cyber Warrior (BCW) competition, November 18. The Brigade’s competitive CTF (Capture the Flag) team, the “Speculatores”, and “Professor Chaos Computing Club”, CSD-Maryland (cyber solutions development), won 1st and 2nd place in the online competition, securing 2nd and 3rd overall (combining both online and in-person events). ■



USMA Branch Week – West Point cadets, choose Cyber (or at least be informed)

WEST POINT, N.Y. – 1st Lt. Angeline Tritschler, 11th Cyber Battalion, and 1st Lt. Andrew Constable, 781st Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber), 780th MI Brigade (Cyber), both from the USMA Class of 2021, were selected to represent the Cyber Branch at the U.S. Military Academy Branch Week, August 25 to 29.

Branch Week is a valuable experience that forms the foundations of many cadets' impressions of the Army's branches. Cadets get the chance to interface with the equipment, personnel, and mission of each of the Army branches, as well as some functional areas and special operations units. This is also one of the last chances for first-class cadets or "Firsties" to speak with branch representatives before submitting their final branching preferences.

"When I was a cadet at West Point, I knew very little about the Cyber Branch. This is a large part of why I wanted to go represent the Cyber branch at USMA's branch week," said Constable. "The Cyber mission is so relevant and rewarding, and it's only growing. While I loved speaking to cadets who had Cyber placed as their top branch choice, my favorite conversations were with cadets who had never even considered the Cyber Branch. Whether they end up pursuing Cyber as a

career or not, understanding how Cyber Soldiers support national defense priorities through and alongside FORSCOM units is relevant to leaders across the Army."

Throughout the week, Cyber Branch NCOs, warrant officers and officers spoke with thousands of cadets about what the Cyber Branch had to offer. These Soldiers were the first Cyber Soldiers some cadets had ever met and the representatives were able to discuss the three different areas of concentration available to incoming Cyber Lieutenants: 17A Cyberwarfare Officers, 17B Electromagnetic Warfare Officers, or 17D Capabilities Development Officers. Cadets who lingered or came back to speak with the team a second or third time, heard about "a day in the life" of a Cyber lieutenant, and various units and respective missions supported by Cyber Soldiers.

"Additionally, while both Lieutenant Constable and I are the same MOS (17A) in an offensive unit, our battalions' missions and purposes are vastly different," said Tritschler. "This was helpful in showing cadets that even within the same MOS, there are many different paths your career can take, which for many helped broaden their perspective of Cyber. Many cadets were also surprised to learn that there is a Cyber battalion that executes in the tactical environment. If we continue to educate cadets early in their time at West Point about the many different types of Cyber careers, I think we will see a greater percentage of cadets interested in Cyber.



USMA Branch Week – Choose Cyber

WEST POINT, N.Y. – Cyber MOS (military occupational specialty) NCOs, warrant officers, and officers speak with Cadets at the United States Military Academy during "Branch Week," a week where Cadets learn about the 17 Army branches to help them decide on their future career paths, August 28. (U.S. Army photos by 1st Lt. Angeline Tritschler). ■

Hackathon IV – A cyber and computer challenge event for young people



780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber)

ODENTON, Md. – Soldiers and Civilians from the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber), Praetorians, hosted the Hackathon IV event in partnership with the Anne Arundel County Public Library to encourage teen interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) at the Odenton Regional Library, November 19.

Although a relatively small event – the library caps registration at 25 – the Praetorian volunteers have never turned away a walk-in, and the young people benefit from a more personalized training and educational event since there are always more than 10 volunteers.

“Running the 2024 Hackathon outreach event has been extremely satisfying work,” said 2nd Lt. Nathan Vowinkel, a 17A cyberspace operations officer and lead planner for Hackathon IV. “I have loved the opportunity to interact with the local Fort Meade community, from the helpful Ann Arundel County Library staff to the eager participating students at our events. Getting kids interested in cyber topics is a critical mission for today’s Army, by ensuring our country is provided with a talented and motivated STEM workforce able to defend our country well into the 21st century.”

At Hackathon IV, young people competed in a CTF (Capture the Flag) challenge where participants searched for flags, using a variety of techniques including reverse engineering, decryption, netcat, and SSH keys. Additionally, there was a Python programming challenge, varying in difficulty from basic to master; Password cracking, where participants learned principles of password security and the lesson concluded with a password cracking demonstration; Publicly Available Information (PAI), where participants could appreciate the dangers of posting personal information online and learn

techniques for browsing publicly available information; and a Logic Games station, where participants practiced binary number systems, modulo operations, and Boolean algebra.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Joshua Wellman has been the lead for the Hackathon CTF the past several iterations, as well as developing computer challenges for multiple other brigade engagements; 2nd Lt. Kai Wilkinson and Sgt. Joseph Hardy created the password cracking station and were present at all three hackathons; and Maj. Mark Klink, a 17A, and brigade cyber team lead, developed a theme (“The Hunt for a Hacker”), created a website, and used a lot of ChatGPT for his PAI station.

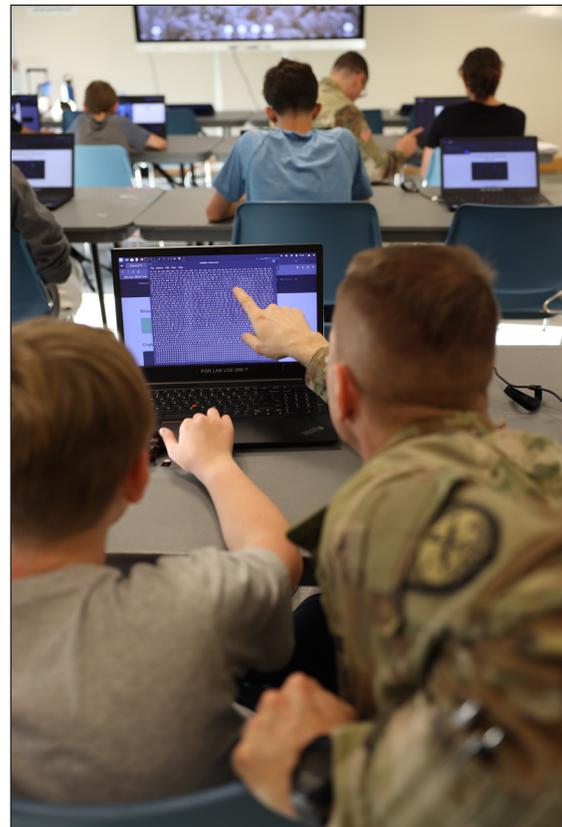
“I enjoy participating in these Hackathon events because I think it’s an opportunity to share something that I’m passionate about with the local community and hopefully get others excited about possible career options in the Cybersecurity field,” said Klink. “Growing up, I was always interested in hacking, but there weren’t many opportunities to learn about those concepts in my local community. The Hackathons offer a chance for us to create a space for learning and experimenting with hacking techniques for people of all skill levels (we’ve had parents participate with their kids occasionally). These kids pick up the information quickly, show interest, and get quite competitive.”

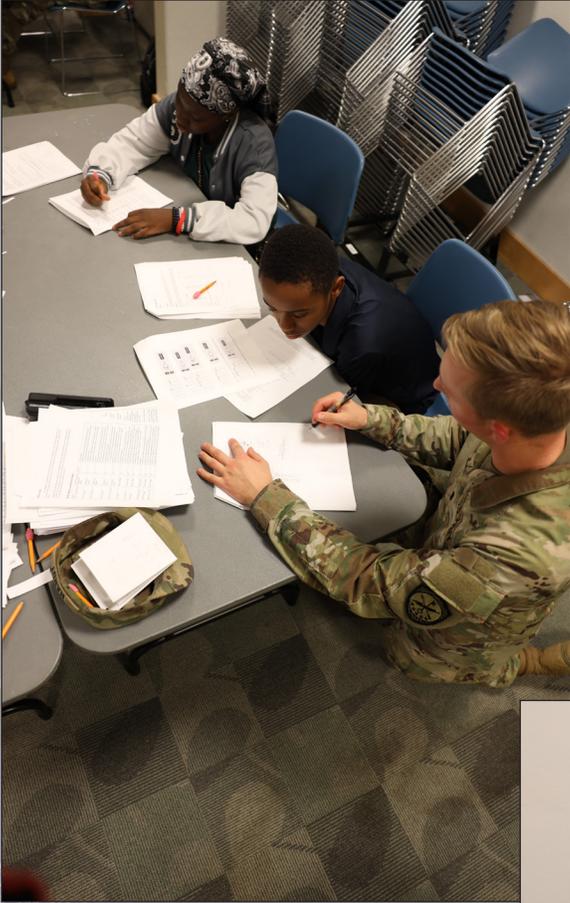
1st Lt. Andrew White, a 17A, created the expansive Logic Games station for the 2023 Hackathon and updated the station for the 2024 event.

“I love this event because we’re given the chance to make education straightforward. People make cybersecurity seem difficult; it’s not. With zero background, we have kids doing conversions to and from binary, mod math, and drawing data paths by hand in just several hours,” said White. “This is the kind of material you’d see in a college-level computer architecture course. My hope is that we’re removing the fear behind learning and giving them confidence to tackle more complex subjects.”

This was the last of three Hackathon events for the 2024 season and is a part of the Maryland STEM Festival. The Praetorians are looking forward to partnering with AACPL next fall in 2025 for Hackathon V.

#ArmyPossibilities #BeAllYouCanBe ■



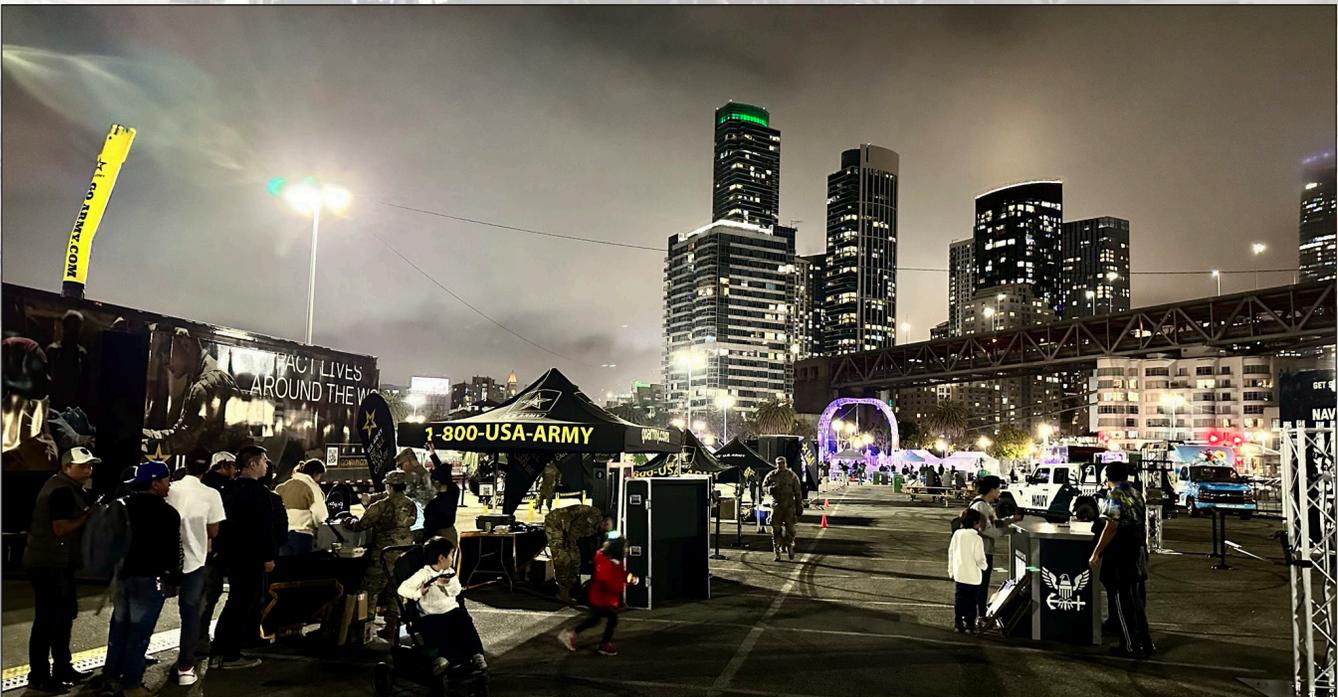


Engagement: 40th Army 10 Miler





Engagement: *San Francisco Fleet Week*



Engagement: *Girl Scouts*



Engagement: *Georgetown University*



Engagement: Longwood High School, NY



Engagement: Severna Park

Meade Trunk or Treat was a frightening success







FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md.— The garrison hosted a frighteningly successful Trunk or Treat and a huge shout out to the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade for organizing the event in the Smallwood Hall parking lot adjacent to the parade field, October 30.

It was the ideal location, and many tenet units and support organizations showed up to make it a special treat for the kids and an enjoyable time for the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, government Civilians, friends and Family. ■

Turkey Bowl 704th MI Brigade v. 780th MI Brigade!



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – In an annual tradition before the Thanksgiving Holiday, the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) took on the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade in a flag football game on the ACFT Field outside the Gaffney Fitness Center, November 27. One Team, One Fight!

"Here and Everywhere!"

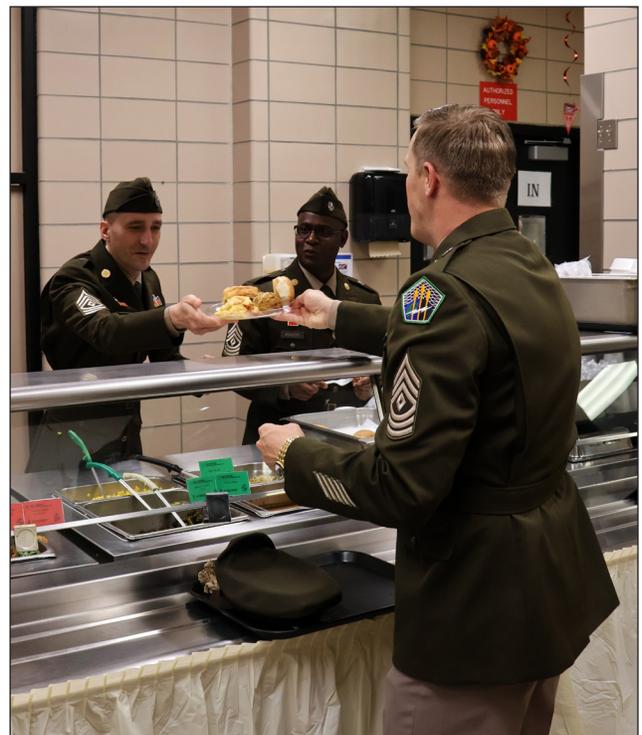
"Everywhere and Always...In The Fight!" ■

782d Turkey Bowl 2024

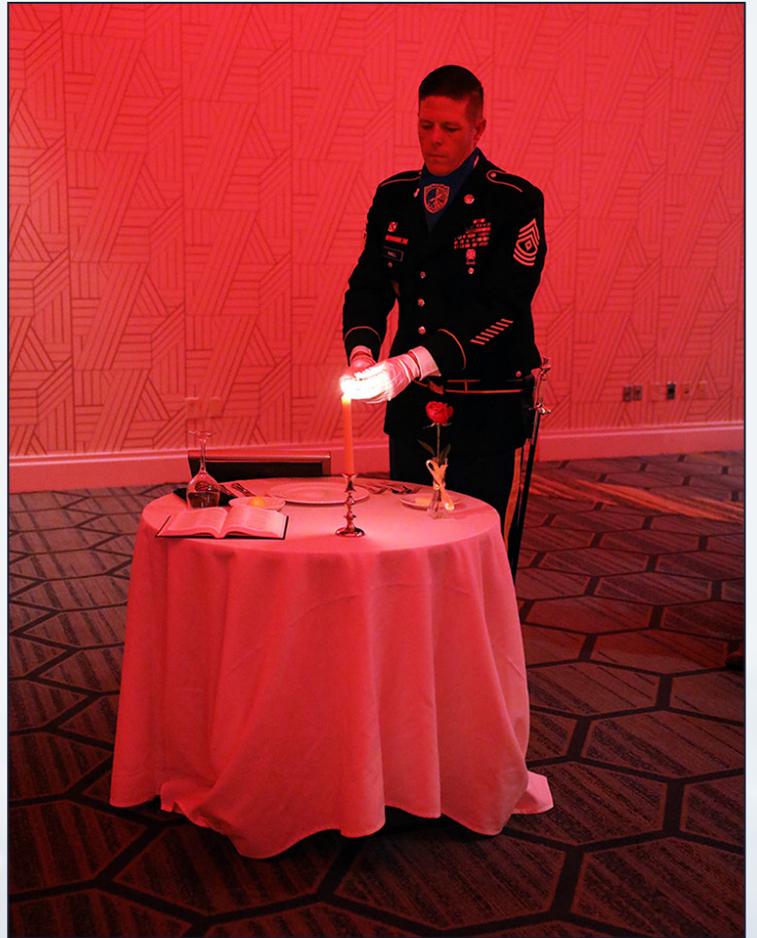


FORT EISENHOWER, Ga.— Thanksgiving is Thursday and the beginning of the Holiday Season – Family, friends, food and football – and today was Turkey Bowl! The Cyber Legion Soldiers of the 782nd Military Intelligence Battalion versus the Leviathans of the 11th Cyber Battalion. There was also Ultimate Frisbee, the 782d's Battalion Commander donned his gigantic hat, shield, and cape with their newest logo on it. ■

Thanksgiving come early!



FORT EISENHOWER, Ga.— Thanksgiving was at the Eisenhower Dining Facility and 1SG Rogers, 1SG Steiner, and 1SG Murphy served Thanksgiving meals to the service-members and Civilians stationed here. ■



780TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRIGADE HOLIDAY BALL 2024



LINTHICUM HEIGHTS, Md.— The 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) hosted their 2024 Holiday Ball for the Praetorian Soldiers and Civilians, their loved ones and friends, at the BWI Airport Marriott, December 12. The keynote speaker was Lt. Gen. Joe Hartman, Deputy Commander, U.S. Cyber Command, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. Lt. Gen. Hartman previously served as third commander of the 780th MI Bde. from July 2014 to June 2016.



780TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRIGADE HOLIDAY BALL 2024



LINTHICUM HEIGHTS, Md.— The 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) hosted their 2024 Holiday Ball for the Praetorian Soldiers and Civilians, their loved ones and friends, at the BWI Airport Marriott, December 12. The keynote speaker was Lt. Gen. Joe Hartman, Deputy Commander, U.S. Cyber Command, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. Lt. Gen. Hartman previously served as third commander of the 780th MI Bde. from July 2014 to June 2016.



JRTC Rotation 24-10



LEVIATHAN 6 SENDS: – “There is nothing I love more about being a commander than sharing time with the exceptional Soldiers of 11th Cyber Battalion and observing the amazing things they do. We our Troopers showing the Army what Leviathans bring to the fight at JRTC rotation 24-10 at Fort Johnson, La. and Exercise Arcane Thunder in Wiesbaden, Germany, and Fort Huachuca, Ariz. As the Army’s only Expeditionary CEMA Force, Leviathans must be ready to deliver CEMA combat power anywhere, at anytime. I am truly humbled to be the commander of this amazing Battalion, and to be teammates with these amazing CEMA Warriors. TRAIN HARD, FIGHT HARD, WIN EASY! GLOBAL REACH, GLOBAL IMPACT!”



**Congratulations
CW2 Ochoa!**



SAN ANTONIO, Texas – Soldiers and Civilians from Cyber Solutions Development (CSD) Detachment – Texas, Operations Support Element, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber), Airmen, Family and friends were on hand to celebrate the promotion of Warrant Officer Ochoa to Chief Warrant Officer 2 at the Alamo, November 20.



**Congratulations
1SG Kinsley!**

"Please join me and COL Boparai in congratulating 1SG Kinsley, OSE HHD 1SG for his selection into Sergeants Major Academy Class 76. Well deserved by a dedicated Soldier," CSM Joseph P. Daniel, Command Sergeant Major, 780th MI BDE (Cyber)



780th MI Brigade (Cyber) finds success at Military Job Fairs



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – The 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) was the only U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command unit to attend the AISES Job Fair in San Antonio, Texas, on October 4. Ms. Katie Jane, the Brigade Civilian Personnel Officer, was also at the SASE Career Fair in Boston on October 11 and 12. The Brigade's CPO was on hand to review resumes and discuss intelligence and cyber positions.



Praetorian Soldiers Join the ranks of the NCO Corps in Hawaii Ceremony



SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii – Recently promoted Noncommissioned Officers assigned to Detachment Hawaii, 782nd Military Intelligence (MI) Battalion (Cyber), joined the ranks the NCO Corps, October 16. The Detachment's command team, along with COL Candy Boparai, commander of the 780th MI Brigade (Cyber), and CSM Joseph Daniel, the brigade's senior enlisted leader, as well as Aaron Tipton, brigade's Senior Civilian Advisor, were on hand to congratulate them.



Congratulations CPL Valejo! Detachment Hawaii, 782d MI Battalion (Cyber)

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii – COL Candy Boparai, commander, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) promoted CPL Valejo, a 35N, signals intelligence analyst, assigned to Detachment Hawaii, 782nd MI Battalion (Cyber), October 17.



Fire Extinguisher Training



How to Properly Use a Fire Extinguisher



While the specifics may vary depending on the model you own, most fire extinguishers operate the same basic way. Stand six to eight feet away from the fire and remember to **PASS**:

PULL



1. Pull the pin at the top to break the tamper seal.

AIM



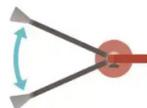
2. Aim the extinguisher low, pointing the nozzle at the base of the fire. Do not aim at the flames themselves.

SQUEEZE



3. Squeeze the handle to release the extinguishing agent.

SWEEP



4. Sweep the extinguisher from side to side, continuing to aim at the base of the fire until it appears to be out.

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Soldiers and Civilians assigned to the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) went through Fire Extinguisher Training provided by the Fort George G. Meade Fire Prevention Office, outside the Brigade Annex, October 29 and 31.

“Using the Fire Extinguisher training to raise the Safety Awareness within the brigade and for the upcoming holiday season,” said Ron Diak, Brigade Safety and Occupational Health Specialist. “A total of 110 personnel were trained on how to properly use a fire extinguisher using PASS.”



Civilian Workforce
Council Library of
Congress Tour



JMRC CEMA
Cell 7th ATC



WASHINGTON, DC – The 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber) Civilian Workforce Council hosted a Library of Congress Tour for the work force, November 17. (no books were checked out).

LEVIATHAN 6 SENDS: Great visit with the Joint Multinational Readiness Center's CEMA Cell from 7th Army Training Command. Awesome to see the innovative work they are doing to provide rotational training units with a realistic training environment that simulates the contested and congested EMS space they will face in combat. Train like you fight! **TRAIN HARD, FIGHT HARD, WIN EASY!**



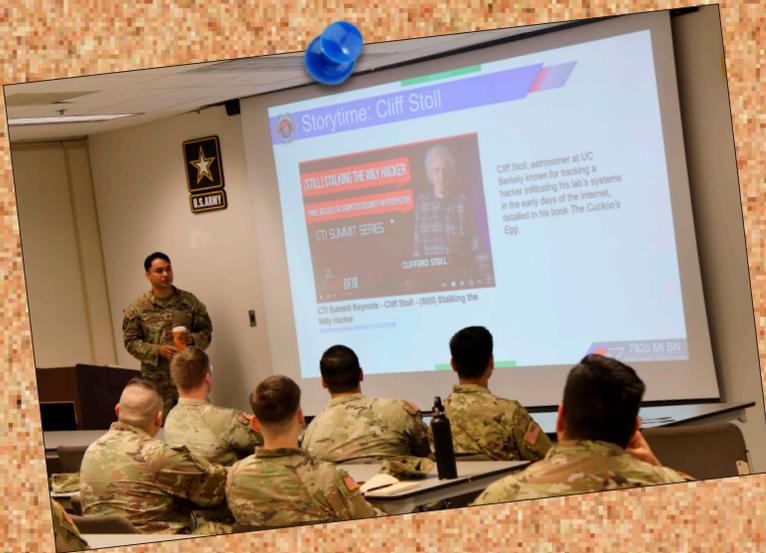
Congratulations Chief!



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. – Chief Warrant Officer 3 Justin Helphenstine was promoted to CW4 by his wife and his father at the National Cryptologic Museum, November 13. Brigadier General Brian Vile, Deputy Director for Future Operations, United States Cyber Command, administered the Oath of Office to CW4 Helphenstine.



Cyber Legion NCOPD



FORT EISENHOWER, Ga. – C Company, 782nd Military Intelligence Battalion (Cyber) hosted a Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development (NCOPD) event on “Enhancing Team Performance Through Diversity of Thought”, November 14. The discussion was led by SSG Jun Abenoja, C Company, 782d.



Congratulations
on your promotion and best
wishes for many more!



WASHINGTON, DC. – Capt. Mary Watkins, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company (Hastati), 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber), Praetorians, officiated over the promotion ceremony 2nd Lieutenants Pranav Balan, Michael Dwerkotte, and Nathan Vowinkel to 1st Lieutenant, in front of their fellow Soldiers, Family, and friends (and a lot of tourists) at the Lincoln Memorial, November 27. Our sincerest gratitude to the U.S. National Park Service for allowing the Praetorians to host the ceremony at a location requested by the Army Lieutenants.



Football Praetorian vs MARFORCYBER



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md.—The 780th Military Intelligence Brigade (Cyber), Praetorian Soldiers, competed against Marine Corps Forces Cyberspace Command and Marine Corps Information Command (MARFORCYBER/MCIC) Marines in a spirited flag football game to enhance esprit de corps and build bonds of partnership between the organizations on Donahue Field, December 6.

Colonel Jamel Neville, Commander, Marine Corps Cyberspace Warfare Group (MCCYWG), tossed the coin to start the game and at game's end, presented a coin to the Praetorian team captain. There was a hero dog present, it was a competitive game... and yes, Safety Ron, there were no injuries. "Ready. Relevant. Lethal" "Everywhere and Always...In the Fight!"

In Memoriam Lee William Ries

<https://post-register.com/lee-william-ries/>

Lee William Ries ran straight into the arms of his Heavenly Father from his home in San Antonio, Texas on November 11, 2024, at the age of 57.

Lee was born on March 22, 1967, at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas to Mary Clare (Corrington) and Jack Charles Ries.

Lee graduated from Lockhart High School in 1985 and joined the United States Marine Corps as an infantryman. Following Marine Corps basic training, Lee went on to Texas A&M, where he served in the Corps of Cadets and played the sousaphone in the Fighting Texas Aggie Band. In 1987, life pulled Lee in a different direction, and he enlisted in the United States Army. He later returned to Texas A&M in 1998 to complete his Bachelor of Arts in Russian, graduating in the class of 2000.

During Lee's time in the military, he served his country honorably. He was selected to attend the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School in 1993 and later achieved the rank of Captain in 1998. He separated from the Army in 2004 and continued to serve alongside the military as a government contractor, during which he completed two tours in Iraq, and then civilian government employee until his passing.

Lee met Deann Marie Efird through mutual friends in November 1985, building a friendship based on laughter as he and his friends often engaged in ridiculous shenanigans (with Deann as their unwitting accomplice). Lee married Deann in April 1987, in Caldwell County, Texas surrounded by friends and family in a spring garden wedding. They were married for 37 years, during which they welcomed their children Christopher Alexander and Ashlee Deann.

During Lee's military career, he and Deann made life-long friends across the world who still shower them with love to this day. They often opened their home to anyone who needed a good meal, laughter, and kindness. Every year, they hosted upwards of thirty friends and family during Thanksgiving—anyone who had no place to go for the holidays always knew they had a seat at the table in the Ries home. That seat often came with Lee's many dad jokes and boisterous anecdotes.

Lee was known to be a pitmaster, serving slow-smoked ribs, brisket, and turkey with pride. He loved waking up early in the morning to tend the smoker, often holding a cup of coffee in his hand and talking animatedly to his son Christopher. He used every excuse to break out the pit—Fourth of July, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, birthdays, anniversaries, and the random Tuesday. When spending the dark hours outside, Lee pursued his passion of astronomy by pulling out his telescope to study the stars and planets.

There was nothing Lee enjoyed more than playing with his kids and grandkids. Every weekend, Lee could be found running in the backyard, playing boardgames, and drawing with his grandson Levi and granddaughter Riley. He took great interest in the things that he shared with his children and grandchildren, evidenced by the joy he took in video games, books, fantasy football, sports, and boardgames. Lee filled his time by connecting with the people he loved—through conversation, games, and shared experiences.

Lee was passionate about exploring—both physically and mentally. Lee rarely stayed put in one place. When traveling for work, he never let an opportunity to see the sights and take part in local activities go to waste. During vacations with his wife Deann, Lee loved cruising the Caribbean Sea and sampling local cuisine, relaxing on the beach, and making fast friends aboard the ship. With a love of fantasy/science fiction novels, TV shows, and movies, Lee explored fictional locations—like Middle Earth, Tatooine, the Cosmere, and more. Lee used these experiences as opportunities to make new friends and deepen his relationships with loved ones.

Remaining to cherish Lee's memory are his wife, Deann Ries; children Christopher Ries and Ashlee Dugan; son-in-law Ryan Dugan; grandchildren Levi Dugan and Riley Dugan; stepfather Donaly Brice; brothers John Ries, Karl Ries, and Robert Ries (Tracy); sister Jane Cushman; sister-in-law Debra Efird; nieces Jessica Williams and Andrea Bonilla-Santiago; nephews Andrew Ries (Lesley), Brandon Ries, and Devon Ries-Willson; great-nephew, Orlando Bonilla-Santiago; beloved cousin, Robert Dozier; beloved friends Suriah Bahr, Tom & Lisa Guyton, John & Claudia Ivester, Chris & Meagan Rizzo, Mitch & Lana Thompson, Eddie Chambliss, Harry Burgess, Jose Gomez; and beloved neighbors, and Scott, Mary Jo, and Charlotte Black.

Preceding Lee in death are his father, Jack Ries; mother, Clare Brice; father-in-law Jesse Efird; and mother-in-law Jeanne Efird.

Lee will receive full military honors at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery with a Celebration of Life Reception following. Date and times are pending. Updates will be posted at <https://neptunesociety.com/obituaries/san-antonio-tx/lee-ries-12074879>. ■





NEXT QUARTER'S BYTE IS focused on the Brigade's Commissioned Officers. 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 14, 2025. Final articles are due February 28.