Wednesday, May 29, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

President Trump:

Greetings from the second largest concentration of cybersecurity professionals in the United States – San Antonio, Texas. Known as Cyber City USA, our San Antonio cyber community writes to thank you for your Executive Order on America’s Cybersecurity Workforce.

Specifically, we are thrilled to see the creation of the President’s Cup Cybersecurity Competition. Our community has the technical expertise to create, operate, and successfully launch your Cyber Competition by or before December 31, 2019.

As outlined below, San Antonio’s nexus of federal partners, our public-private partnerships, our innovation with cyber education at the kindergarten through Grade 12 level, and our creation of a strong cyber workforce pipeline is a model for the nation. We understand that America’s cybersecurity workforce is a strategic asset. We will collaborate with you with urgency and creativity to address our nation’s cyber workforce needs.

In your statement about your Executive Order on America’s Cybersecurity Workforce, you said, “America built the Internet, and shared it with the world; now we will do our part to secure and preserve cyberspace for future generations.” Our San Antonio community wholeheartedly agrees, and we stand ready to assist you and your Administration.

Please let us know which representative within your Administration we should contact for further discussion. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Amanda Keammerer, Director of CyberSecurity San Antonio, at akeammerer@sachamber.org or by phone at 210-229-2113.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

Paula Gold-Williams
President & CEO
CPS Energy
2019 Chair of the Board
San Antonio Chamber of Commerce

Richard Perez
President & CEO
San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
CC:

U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Department of Defense
U.S. Department of Energy
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Office of Management and Budget
U.S. Office of Personnel Management

ATTACHMENTS:

- Overview: The San Antonio cyber community’s expertise and partnerships (two pages)
- The University of Texas at San Antonio: Center for Infrastructure and Security (one page)
- Signatures of support from the cybersecurity community of San Antonio, Texas (10 pages)
University of Texas at San Antonio: Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security

The CIAS can be the technical lead for your Cyber Cup Competition:

- Fifteen years ago, the CIAS founded the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (NCCDC). The center operates and manages the competition with ten (10) regional competitions across the United States, culminating with an annual final event with the regional winners competing for the national championship title.
- Eleven years ago, the CIAS co-founded the Air Force Association’s CyberPatriot, the national youth cyber defense competition at the high school and middle school levels. The world’s largest cyber defense competition, the CIAS continues to run its technical platform today.
- CIAS developed international competitions, Panoply and eSentinel, for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that are both network assessment and network defense competitions.

Federal Partners

Our nexus of federal partners offers the strongest foundation for success. They include:

- The United States Secret Service;
- The United States Department of Homeland Security;
- The United States Federal Bureau of Investigation; and
- The National Security Agency.

Here in San Antonio, known as Military City USA, Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) is the largest joint base in the Department of Defense:

- JBSA is home to more than 200 mission partners across three locations:
  - JBSA-Fort Sam Houston;
  - JBSA-Lackland; and
  - JBSA-Randolph.
- The United States Air Force, the United States Army, the United States Navy, the United States Marine Corps, and the United States Coast Guard all have missions in San Antonio.
- Headquartered at JBSA-Lackland, we have the 688th Cyberspace Wing and the 67th Cyberspace Wing. Both are aligned under 24th Air Force, Air Combat Command.

As described in your Executive Order, our technical expertise covers every aspect of the President’s Cup Cybersecurity Competition. Our public-private partnerships are available for your Administration to grow and strengthen the cyber workforce, and secure our nation and its critical infrastructure.
Public-Private Partnerships

- Housed in the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, the CyberSecurity San Antonio program (CSSAtx) convenes, connects, and brands the cybersecurity ecosystem of San Antonio. Founded in 2015 as a public-private partnership between the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, and industry partners, CSSAtx convenes a 300-member council on a monthly basis. In collaboration with highly engaged stakeholders, CSSAtx unites and strengthens the San Antonio cyber community through five core focus areas: military and government affairs, innovation and economic development, talent and workforce development, global engagement, and sustainability.

- The Cyber Innovation and Research Consortium (CIRC): All of the public, private, and non-profit colleges and universities in San Antonio have cybersecurity programs. Through CIRC, they share information, outcomes, challenges, and opportunities.

- Port San Antonio is a master-planned, 1,900-acre aerospace, industrial complex and international logistics platform, centrally located in San Antonio, Texas. Today, the Port is home to over 80 private- and public-sector tenant customers who directly employ about 12,000 people on our campus. That activity in turn contributes over $5 billion annually to the regional economy.

Building the Cybersecurity Workforce of the Future

Our cyber workforce programs and partnerships are strong resources for your Administration:

- San Antonio registers the highest number of CyberPatriot teams each year. During the 2018-2019 season, three San Antonio high schools competed in nationals.
- Beginning in elementary school, we have education programs introducing cyber concepts to young students.
- The Community Initiative Center of Excellence for Secure Software - San Antonio, TX (CICESS): a Department of Labor apprenticeship program in cybersecurity.
- San Antonio has five (5) NSA/DHS National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense offered at our premier institutions of higher education: Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio College, St. Philip’s College, Texas A&M University-San Antonio, and the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA).
- UTSA’s undergraduate program in cyber was named the best program in the U.S.
- UTSA is one of three featured schools by the NSA. UTSA is one of 10 schools in the U.S. designated by the NSA/DHS as a National Center of Academic Excellence (CAE) in all three Cyber distinctions: Cyber Defense, Cyber Operations, and Cyber Research. UTSA is also an Intelligence Community Center of Academic Excellence.
- The $100M UTSA National Security Collaboration Center (NSCC) and School of Data Science advance Government–University–Industry (GUI) partnerships, and provide entities the ability to collaborate on scientific investigation and business enterprise.
The Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security (CIAS) was established in 2001 at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). The university was initially recognized in 2002 by the National Security Agency as a leader in the field of infrastructure assurance and security as it was designated a Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education.

The CIAS is a pioneer and global leader in cyber security competitions. Since 2005, the CIAS has been developing and conducting competition programs to help educate, train and prepare individuals for the information assurance workforce. The CIAS was recognized for their competition efforts in the Presidential Cyberspace Policy Review and by the 111th Congress in House Resolution 1244. In 2011, the CIAS was awarded the inaugural “Leadership in Security” award from Visa for work on the Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition program.

The CIAS is currently involved in three competition programs: The Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition, Panoply and CyberPatriot.

About the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (NCCDC)
The Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition system (CCDC) was the first competition system to focus on the operational aspect of managing and protecting an existing “commercial” network infrastructure. CCDC events provide an excellent opportunity for students to gain practical, hands-on experience in cyber security and information technology that allows them to expand their educations beyond the traditional classroom environment. Entering its 15th year, the NCCDC is the largest collegiate defense competition in the nation and continues to be hosted and developed through proprietary technology and systems by the CIAS.

About Panoply
A network assessment and network defense competition combined into a single event, Panoply teams compete for control of common resources and the critical services on those resources. Once a team takes possession of a resource, they must secure that resource against attacks from other teams while maintaining the critical services running on the resource. Panoply has been the official competition of Black Hat USA since 2014, which the CIAS also runs for Black Hat Europe and Black Hat Asia. Additionally, the CIAS has managed Panoply at ISC2 Security Congress events since 2016, and developed its international counterpart, eSentinel, which was funded and supported by DHS.

About CyberPatriot
The CIAS co-founded CyberPatriot, the world’s largest cyber defense competition and the Air Force Association’s National Youth Cyber Education Program. In addition to helping create the competition, the CIAS builds and supplies the technologies and images used in CyberPatriot competitions. In the 2018/2019 season, there were 6,387 teams and over 32,000 competitors. The CIAS’ Cyber Competition System (CCS) used in CyberPatriot is also used in competitions in Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and Saudi Arabia.

For more information about the CIAS, visit CIAS.UTSA.edu.
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