SC National Guardsmen pictured with CDCI Team Members: Dr. Shankar Banik, COL Linda Riedel, Andrew Riccio and Deb Howard

Read the full original story here: SC National Guard trains with The Citadel Department of Defense Cyber Institute - The Citadel Today
The month of October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month and this year CDCI aligned with the effort of CISA and NCSA to promote the importance of cybersecurity awareness. This was the first annual celebration of this initiative for CDCI and we felt it best to focus our attention within our community of The Citadel. CDCI planned several events during the month related to the following weekly topics: careers in cybersecurity, preventing phishing attempts, and securing password presence. CDCI hosted and participated in several events throughout the month on campus.

The kickoff event for Cybersecurity Awareness Month was the home football game vs. VMI on October 2nd. This football game was also during Parents Weekend, and it was an excellent time to share our efforts with parents also! Three cadets from the CDCI Cohort volunteered to be part of our rally towel giveaway for Citadel Football fans. As fans entered Johnson Hagood stadium, they were welcomed by our cadets and handed a spirit towel to use during the game and as a keepsake to remind them that October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month!
Fall 2021 Citadel Career Fair Meet & Greet

On October 6th, CDCI joined the Fall 2021 Citadel Career Fair along with our Career Center. CDCI students greeted attendees and shared our message of cybersecurity vigilance. Event attendees were given an opportunity to speak with two Cadets and one Veteran student that are members of the CDCI Cohort. The booth was an excellent way to spread our message of cybersecurity awareness, while also spreading joy with a few goodies! CDCI provided a variety of sour candy (in light of Halloween) labeled with our brand and the phrase “Don’t Be Sour, Be Cyber Smart!” CDCI lanyards, pens and pencils were also on hand at the event.

Veteran Student A. Hanulcik and Cadet A. Lindenmeyer

Fight the Phish! Midterm Giveaway

During midterm week, Cadet Timothy Toomer and Cadet Benjamin Race were present in Mark Clark Hall to distribute “phish” themed goodie bags containing a blue tang stress fish that reads “CDCI #fightthephish” and Goldfish crackers. Keeping with the midterm and Halloween theme also, we included sour candy in the giveaway bag. Our CDCI volunteers reminded their fellow cadets that October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month and shared ways they can prevent phishing attempts in their home, workplace, and school life.
CDCI held an event specifically for Citadel Faculty and Staff to provide lunch while allowing our students to share their cybersecurity knowledge on the weekly topics being highlighted this month. During the luncheon on October 13th, 50 faculty and staff members gathered in the Riverview Room in Coward Hall to learn about careers in cybersecurity, ways to prevent phishing, the importance of creating safe and secure online passwords, and other valuable tips for protecting their cyber presence. The Cadets also staged each table with a “Cyber Quiz” via QR code to test the Lunch and Learn attendees. Many attendees completed the quiz which included personal information as responses. The Cadets were able to use the quiz as a reminder to always be careful when answering questions like “What street did you grow up on?” and “What are your pets names?”
CDCI Mentors and Mentorships

Our CDCI Student Cohort recognizes that a vital element of their success as they prepare to join the cyber workforce will be collaborating with cybersecurity experts that are active in the field. CDCI will host a Mentor’s Dinner on October 18th for several invited guests that will guide the members of our Cohort as they prepare to enter the cyber workforce.

Cadet Trey Stevens is pictured here mentoring students at one of the local high schools in preparation for Cyber Patriot.

Just as mentors are incredibly important to ensure the success of our Cohort members, so too is the opportunity for the CDCI Cohort to mentor others. This semester has afforded the chance for CDCI Cohort Cadets and Students to lend their time to mentor members of the local high school community, as well as freshman here at The Citadel that are interested in pursuing cybersecurity careers. CDCI plans to explore additional mentoring opportunities as the academic year progresses.

Pictured to the right, CDCI MECEP Ryan Skibicki talks to Citadel Knobs about his summer cyber internship.
The CDCI team is happy to report that Netlab is now fully operational and has been utilized throughout our Fall 2021 semester for all segments of CSCI 227 and CSCI 410. The labs and trainings were first put in place over the summer for our National Guard Camps held at The Citadel to assist in PenTest+ and Sec+ certification training. The course content modules range from Cisco, Red Hat, Palo Alto, VMware and NDG Ethical Hacking. We currently have 23 different courses available for students and professors to utilize both inside and outside of the classroom, at any given time. Recently, CDCI began to provide access to these labs and trainings to the Cyber Patriot Team of cadets at Ashley Ridge High School. The long-term plan is to keep expanding the use of this platform.