Nov. 29, 2017
Log# 17-56

For Immediate Release

Inaugural competition to test Ohio students' cybersecurity skills

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Ohio Cyber Range's first-ever cyber capture the flag event will take place this week, testing students' skills at defending against cyberattacks. The Friday, Dec. 1 event at Columbus State Community College will serve as the kickoff for the first phase of the Ohio Cyber Collaboration Committee's (OC3) Cyber Range.

Opening remarks will begin at 9 a.m. at Columbus State's Center for Workforce Development, 315 Cleveland Ave., Columbus, Ohio, 43215. Maj. Gen. Mark E. Bartman, Ohio adjutant general, and Dr. David Harrison, Columbus State president, will be among those making remarks. A media availability and an opportunity to observe students during the competition will follow.

OC3, a collaborative effort of more than 100 public, private, military and educational organizations led by the Ohio National Guard, was initiated by Gov. John Kasich to develop a stronger cybersecurity infrastructure and provide innovative training and education to strengthen Ohio's cyber workforce.

"We've been determined to protect ourselves from the growing threats of cyberattacks, and help local governments, schools and universities to fend off these criminal invasions of our privacy and security," Gov. Kasich said.

The OC3 Cyber Range is a virtual training ground accessible for competitions, training and testing environment for schools, governments and businesses.

In the inaugural event for the range, students from Columbus State and more than a dozen Central Ohio high schools will work in teams of two to solve a series of real-world scenarios to test their technical skills and knowledge of cybersecurity. Teams can retrieve virtual flags when they successfully solve the challenges, and prizes will be awarded for first-, second- and third-place finishers.

"This is just the first of what will be many cybersecurity contests available to students across the state," Maj. Gen. Bartman said. "As we implement more phases of the state's

new cyber range, there will be a virtual environment available to nurture research, development and an innovative approach to cybersecurity that will put Ohio at the forefront of cyber excellence."

Columbus State, host of the inaugural cyber competition, is a member of OC3.

"Developing awareness of cyber threats in our communities and increasing our ability to minimize cyber vulnerabilities is critical to the continued success and protection of our country," said Larry McWherter, cybersecurity instructor at Columbus State Community College. "The cybersecurity program here is committed to producing professionals who know the cyber threat and can respond to it well."

In addition to the Cyber Range and improving the training and education of users and students in cybersecurity, OC3 has also developed goals to establish volunteer cyber incident response teams and identify and share best practices, policies and technologies for all Ohioans.

-30-

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Ohio National Guard—Stephanie Beougher, public information officer
614-336-7369 or stephanie.k.beougher.nfg@mail.mil

Columbus State Community College—David Wayne, media relations coordinator
614-287-2161 or dwayne1@cscc.edu

For current information and stories on the Ohio National Guard visit:

The Buckeye Guard http://ong.ohio.gov/BuckeyeGuard.html

http://ong.ohio.gov

http://www.facebook.com/TheOhioNationalGuard
http://twitter.com/OHNationalGuard
http://www.flickr.com/ohionationalguard
http://www.youtube.com/OhioNationalGuard
Instagram: ohionationalguard