



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR

MAJOR GENERAL MARK E. BARTMAN, ADJUTANT GENERAL

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Ohio takes innovative approach to cybersecurity

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Weak passwords, outdated software or an email attachment that contains malicious code can lead to a cybersecurity breach affecting one home computer or an entire network.

To strengthen cybersecurity in Ohio at the request of Gov. John Kasich, the Ohio National Guard has brought together more than 30 public, private, military and educational organizations to form the Ohio Cyber Collaboration Committee (OC3). The OC3 mission is to provide a collaborative environment to develop a stronger cybersecurity infrastructure and workforce.

Among the committee's goals is to create a cyber range — a virtual environment used for cybersecurity training and technology development.

"We are creating a unique collaboration to make Ohio a center of cyber excellence and innovation," said Maj. Gen. Mark E. Bartman, Ohio adjutant general. "It's important to provide a virtual environment to prepare our youth for careers in the cybersecurity field. The cyber range will enable us to hold competitions and trainings at all levels to include students from kindergarten to college. It will also provide our schools, governments and businesses a space to test cybersecurity infrastructure and software."

OC3 members include representatives from the education and business communities to develop a program to increase the number of students who pursue certificates or degrees in cybersecurity.

"Cybersecurity is a growing priority. It makes sense for our universities and community colleges to partner in this endeavor to make our state and country safer from cyber threats," according to Ohio Department of Higher Education Chancellor John Carey.

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 capable of providing assistance to eligible small public and private sector organizations in incident containment, eradication and recovery.
- Identify and share best practices, policies and technologies for all Ohioans.

Gov. Kasich's proposed budget reinforces his commitment to keeping Ohio ahead of the curve with new technologies and innovations, making strategic investments to ensure our state's continuing leadership in areas such as cybersecurity and the cyber range.

Organizations interested in becoming involved in OC3 may contact [Mark Bell](#), cybersecurity outreach coordinator.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Stephanie Beougher, public information officer, at 614-336-7369 or stephanie.k.beougher.nfg@mail.mil.

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