



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

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Ohio Cyber Range expands to northeast Ohio location

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio's statewide cyber range, established in 2018 to train the cybersecurity workforce, is about to grow.

The Ohio Adjutant General's Department, the Ohio Department of Higher Education and the University of Akron today announced that a memorandum of understanding has been signed to expand the Ohio Cyber Range by funding a new Ohio Cyber Range Core Services Site.

The \$1.18 million agreement will double the current capacity of the Ohio Cyber Range by adding servers, storage and programming at the University of Akron site. It joins the range network that includes a demonstration site that opened in May 2018 at the University of Cincinnati.

"The University of Akron has a strong existing cybersecurity program and a commitment to helping all of Ohio improve cyber education. This new site of the Ohio Cyber Range will bring range services closer to the residents of northeast Ohio and provide access to new learning tools for cybersecurity," said Maj. Gen. Mark E. Bartman, Ohio adjutant general. "With the Ohio Cyber Range and other innovative initiatives, Ohio can be a model for the rest of the country in cybersecurity."

Rex Ramsier, executive vice president and chief administrative officer of the University of Akron, said, "We are excited to host the second site of the Ohio Cyber Range at the University of Akron. These new resources, combined with our existing programs in cybersecurity, will allow us to grow the number of graduates, as well as assist us in reaching out to students in regional high schools as we strive to increase the number of students who are going into this important field."

"I am pleased to see The University of Akron taking a leadership role within this increasingly important and rapidly growing field," said Ohio Department of Higher Education Chancellor John Carey.

The Ohio Cyber Range is an initiative developed by the Ohio Cyber Collaboration Committee (OC3), a collaborative effort, led by the Adjutant General's Department, of more than 200 people who represent public, private, military and educational organizations.

Among the range's capabilities are:

1. Conducting cybersecurity exercises and competitions to improve emergency cyber incident response capabilities and to develop future cybersecurity professionals
2. Researching and testing industry-standard best practices
3. Facilitating the evaluation and testing of innovative technologies and processes
4. Enabling a training and educational environment for the current and future cybersecurity workforce, including National Guard personnel, state and local government personnel, faculty and students in the education community at both the collegiate and high school level, and private sector entities.

The cyber range is being implemented in stages to allow it to grow as Ohio's cyber capabilities increase. Phase one provided hands-on learning for Ohio students at cyber capture the flag competitions at high schools and universities around the state. Phase two is the demonstration project that added a data center and training platform at the University of Cincinnati that provides for enhanced training, testing and a hands-on experience for students. Phase three will continue the Ohio Cyber Range at the University of Cincinnati, the University of Akron and future additional regional sites throughout the state. Funding for the third phase was part of the state's Capital Budget for fiscal years 2019 and 2020.

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