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Texas A&M Wins 2007 National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition

SAN ANTONIO, April 24 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Texas A&M University and Millersville University of Pennsylvania took first and second place honors in the 2nd annual National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (CCDC) held April 13-15 at the Airport Hilton Hotel in San Antonio. The winning team will receive an invitation from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to attend the March 2008 Cyber Storm II National Cyber Security Exercise in Washington, D.C.

(Photo: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20070424/DCTU070>)

"It was a great experience that was very professionally done," said Rusty Redden, Texas A&M team captain. "We felt good going into the final day of competition and were able to lock it down on Sunday."

The competition, hosted by the Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security (CIAS) at The University of Texas at San Antonio, a nationally recognized leader in cyber security education and research, featured four teams of graduate and undergraduate students that were scored on their ability to operate and maintain a business network while under hostile cyber attack.

Closing ceremony highlights included an awards presentation and keynote address from Cheri McGuire, deputy director of the Department of Homeland Security's National Cyber Security Division. McGuire stressed the importance of universities educating the next generation of cyber security professionals to help defend the nation's critical network assets. She also noted that competitions such as CCDC give students a level of realism and a hands-on experience that complements their formal classroom education.

The CCDC program has grown from five participating schools in 2005 to 44 schools in 2007 and anticipates adding three regional competitions and another 30 participating schools in 2008. The 2007 national competition featured the nation's top collegiate cyber defense teams representing Texas A&M University, University of Louisville, Millersville University of Pennsylvania and Indiana Tech.

The participants advanced to the National CCDC after winning state and regional competitions against 44 opposing teams in the Southwest, Midwest, Mid-Atlantic and Southeast Regions.

The CCDC program is the first cyber defense competition allowing teams of full-time collegiate students from across the country to apply their information assurance and information technology educations in a competitive environment. While similar to other cyber defense competitions, NCCDC competitions are unique because they focus on business operations and incorporate the operational aspect of managing and protecting an existing network infrastructure. The teams inherit an "operational" network from a fictitious business complete with e-mail, web sites, data files, and users.

The National CCDC was sponsored in part through donations and volunteer support from the Department of Homeland Security (<http://www.dhs.gov>), Cisco Systems (<http://www.cisco.com>), Symantec Corporation (<http://www.symantec.com>), Northrop Grumman (<http://www.northropgrumman.com>), TippingPoint (<http://www.tippingpoint.com>), Acronis (<http://www.acronis.com>), the International Board and local Alamo Chapter of the Information Systems Security Association (<http://www.issa.org>), Coretrace (<http://www.coretrace.com>), Core Security (<http://www.coresecurity.com>), SecureLogix Corporation (<http://www.securelogix.com>), Rackspace (<http://www.rackspace.com>), O'Reilly Media (<http://www.oreilly.com>), Prentice Hall (<http://www.prenticehall.com>), ThinkGeek

(<http://www.thinkgeek.com>), Information Security Magazine (<http://informationsecurity.techtarget.com>), Code Magazine (<http://www.code-magazine.com>), Pepsi (<http://www.pepsi.com>), and R&L Foods (<http://www.randlfoods.com>).

For more information please visit <http://www.nationalccdc.org> or contact the CIAS at 210-458-2118 or via email at info@nationalccdc.org.

San Antonio

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Web site: <http://www.utsa.edu/cias/> <http://www.dhs.gov/> <http://www.cisco.com/>
<http://www.symantec.com/> <http://www.northropgrumman.com/> <http://www.tippingpoint.com/>
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