THE TEAM FROM THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT WINS THE 5TH EUROPEAN "CYBER 9/12 STRATEGY CHALLENGE"

Geneva, Switzerland – 26 April 2019: The team from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point is the winner of the 2019 "Cyber 9/12 Strategy Challenge" co-organised by the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) and the Atlantic Council.

"It is of great importance to the GCSP to train, through this type of real case scenarios, the future policy makers" said Ambassador Christian Dussey, Director of the GCSP. *"This is a critical way to prepare the next generations to the difficult tasks they will have to deal with in this ever-changing field",* he added.

The two-day event, which ran on 25 and 26 April at the GCSP in the Maison de la paix, welcomed 22 teams of four students each from Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Finalists included: Team Nexus (ETH Zürich/ University of St. Gallen) from Switzerland (4th place); Team JYUnique (University of Jyväskylä) from Finland (3rd place); and Team Trojan (ETH Zürich/ University of Zürich and the Graduate Institute Geneva) from Switzerland (2nd place).

"For NATO, cyber defence is a top priority", said Chelsey Slack, Deputy Head, Cyber Defense Section, Emerging Security Challenges Division, NATO. *"We're working to develop our capabilities, enhance our resilience, and build our partnerships to tackle the evolving cyber threat. This is why it is important for us to be part of this event",* she added.

Already in its fifth year, the competition invited university students to tackle a simulated cyber incident in real time. This year, the challenge's scenario is based on a European-level cyber crisis targeting the maritime ecosystem and its consequences. Teams were required to respond to ever-changing situations and offer strategic policy recommendations, from a European point of view, to Head of States, government leaders, senior officials and representatives from the private sector. Escalating malicious cyber activities, data breaches, DDOS attacks and tensions between States have been their daily bread for the past two days.

"We come from all different academic backgrounds", said the members of Black Knight's team, who are all undergraduates at West Point. *"We have all different mind working together",* they added.

The judges featured prominent personalities in the field of cybersecurity and included **Ms Chelsey Slack**, Deputy Head, Cyber Defense Section, Emerging Security Challenges Division, NATO; **Mr Rami Efrati**, Founder and President, Firmitas Cyber Solutions Ltd; **Mr Gianni Crameri**, Manager, Deloitte AG, **Mr. Pete Cooper**, Non-resident Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council Cyber Statecraft Initiative, Atlantic Council and **Ms Lenning Pedron**, President and Co-Founder, ICON.

<u>16 universities participated this year</u>: Tallinn University of Technology (Estonia); University of Jyväskylä (Finland); Institut Français de Géopolitique (France); Corvinus University of Budapest (Hungary); National University of Public Service (Hungary); Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Norway); Swedish Defence University (Sweden); Stockholm University (Sweden); ETH Zürich (Switzerland); University of Zürich (Switzerland); Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Switzerland); HSG Universität St. Gallen (Switzerland); Royal Holloway, University of London (United Kingdom), US Air Force Cyber College (United States); US Coast Guard Academy (United States); and the US Military Academy at West Point (United States).

"Being a competitor in Cyber 9/12 was like the little thing that gave my resume an edge, that little extra thing that stands out in that pile of resumes that HR has to go through when hiring someone" said Robin Andreasson, a cybersecurity consultant, who has been participating for 4 years in this event, twice as a competitor and twice as an observer.

Team *Black Knights* from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point wins for the second time in a row, following the footsteps of STUXNET from the Geneva School of Diplomacy that won in 2017.

For more information on the event's final results, photos and videos, please visit the GCSP website:
https://www.gcsp.ch/cyber-912-strategy-challenge-2019

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"Hackathons are a great means of enthusing young talent about and engaging them in cyber security – a field of growing importance, and one with a marked shortage of talent in Switzerland and globally," said **Klaus Julisch**, Lead Cyber Partner at Deloitte Switzerland. *"Among the plethora of hacking events, the Cyber 9/12 Strategy Challenge clearly stands out thanks to its strategic and international nature – mirroring the nature of real-life cyber crises. It was a pleasure to team up with such talented young people and especially to support our all-women teams as part of our initiative to promote gender parity in cyber security. I'm enthused to see that half of the students participating in this year's challenge were female, which is what we had set out to achieve!"*

The GCSP thanks all the sponsors that made this 5th edition of the "Cyber 9/12 Strategy Challenge" a success and looks forward to welcoming many of you next year in April!

About the GCSP
Housed in the Maison de la paix, the GCSP is an international foundation established in 1995, with 52 member states, for the primary purpose of promoting peace, security and international cooperation through executive education, dialogue and applied policy research. The GCSP trains government officials, diplomats, military officers, international civil servants as well as NGO and private sector staff in pertinent fields of international peace and security.

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