TEAM BLACK KNIGHTS FROM THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT WINS THE 4TH EUROPEAN "CYBER 9/12 STUDENT CHALLENGE"

Geneva, Switzerland: Team *Black Knights* from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point is the winner of the 2018 "Cyber 9/12 Student Challenge" co-hosted by the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) and the Atlantic Council.

The two-day event, which ran on 5 and 6 April at the GCSP in the Maison de la paix, welcomed 20 teams of four students each from Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. Finalists included: Team "DSV Cyber" from the Stockholm University in Sweden (4th place); "ETHernet" from ETH Zurich in Switzerland (3rd place); and "NOBUS" from HSG Universität St.Gallen and ETH Zurich in Switzerland (2nd place).

Already in its fourth 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 aviation ecosystem. Teams were required to respond to ever-changing situations and offer strategic policy recommendations for government leaders and senior officials.

"As far as the competition was concerned, the biggest surprise for us was to adapt a European mindset in how we develop and formulate our policies", says Nolan Hedglin, a member of Team Black Knights and a graduating senior majoring in mathematics and physics. *"Initially, we came off almost too militaristic because we were so focused on security. In fact, the EU framework is more about the actual asset response and how they want to protect their systems and keep operations moving, and we tried to focus more on this during the final round of the competition."*

The **judges** featured prominent personalities in the field of cybersecurity and included **Group Captain Shaun Harvey**, Head Cyber Operations, Cyberspace Operations Centre, NATO; **Ms Chelsey Slack**, Deputy Head, Cyber Defense Section, Emerging Security Challenges Division, NATO; **Mr Pertti Jalasvirta**, Partner, CLANED Group; **Mr Gilles Fuchs**, Founder, Cyber-AID.org and Executive-in-Residence, Global Fellowship Initiative, GCSP and **Mr. Pete Cooper**, Non-resident Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council Cyber Statecraft Initiative, Atlantic Council.

"It's important to explain what's happening and deliver the news in a simplified manner to stakeholders", said Laura Crespo, Public Affairs Officer at the Swiss Federal Department, during the feedback segment of the competition. *"Stakeholders are moving back and forth between meetings so they don't always have time to digest long reports or decipher complex information"*, she said.

20 **universities** participated this year: Tallinn University of Technology (Estonia), University of Jyväskylä (Finland), Leibniz Universität Hannover (Germany), National University of Public Service (Hungary); the Neumann János University (Hungary); the Szent István University (Hungary), Óbuda University (Hungary), Norwegian Defence University College (Norway), Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Norway), Military University of Technology Warsaw (Poland), Edinburgh Napier University (Scotland), Swedish Defence University (Sweden); Stockholm University (Sweden), University of Lausanne (Switzerland), ETH Zürich (Switzerland), HSG Universität St. Gallen (Switzerland), University of Westminster (United Kingdom), University of Bristol (United Kingdom), Air University (United States), and the United States Military Academy at West Point (United States).

Team *Black Knights* follows the steps of last year's winner – STUXNET from the Geneva School of Diplomacy.

For more information on the event's final results, photos and videos, please visit the GCSP website:
http://www.gcsp.ch/Events/Cyber-9-12-Student-Challenge-2018

on Social Media:
www.facebook.com/thegcsp   *www.twitter.com/thegcsp*   *www.linkedin.com/in/thegcsp*

or the Twitter feed #cyber912

"It was an amazing competition", said judge Rami Efrati, Founder and President of Firmitas, a cyber security consulting firm in Israel. *"The participants were very talented people dealing with cyber policy and regulations.They are the future of the cyber security."*

The GCSP thanks all the sponsors that made this 4th edition of the "Cyber 9/12 Student 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 yearly more than 1200 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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