Chronology of the U.S. Army Cyber Branch, Corps, and School

2013

20 February	In a briefing at the Association of the U.S. Army symposium at Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) Commander, GEN Robert Cone publicly called for the formal creation of a cyber school and career field. He stated the Army needed to, "start developing career paths for cyber warriors as we move to the future."[1]
31 May	Army CSA GEN Raymond Odierno approved a consolidated Army Cyber School at Fort Gordon. The purpose of the Cyber School would unify and integrate training, including a new 17-series cyber career field for officers, for disciplines that cover computer hacking, jamming and eavesdropping on electromagnetic signals.[2]
Btn June & Oct	The specific early history of the U.S. Army Cyber School began with an Army G-2 tasking to INSCOM to formulate the foundation of the school. INSCOM tasked the 780th MI BDE and the 782nd MI BN at Fort Gordon to support this effort. The initial planning of the Cyber School coincided with the intended rebranding of Fort Gordon from being the Signal Center of Excellence (SCoE) to the Cyber Center of Excellence (CCoE). A planning team formed to establish this transition, which meant the creation of two distinct schools (Signal and Cyber) under one CoE.
October	The CCoE planning team met for the first time in Signal Towers at Fort Gordon in October 2013. COL John A. "Jake" Conway, who was TDY from the ICoE at Fort Huachuca, was tasked specifically with building the Cyber School.[3]

2014

Early 2014	Mr. Boudreau provided a brief to CSA Odierno at Fort Gordon about the plan to build the new Cyber branch. Mr. Boudreau had prepared to

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[1] Article, "Army leaders see much cyber work to do," *Taktik(z), http://taktikz.com/2013/02/24/army-leaders-see-much-cyber-work-to-do/,* 24 Feb 2013.

[2] Strategy and Future Force Review Meeting Summary," 31 May 2013; Article, "New Center, school to bring signals, cyber, EW together," *Military Times*, 25 June 2013.

[3] Oral History Interview (OHI), Phillip Williams, MSG, USA with Kenneth Tilley, Cyber School Historian, Ft. Gordon, GA, 25 Aug 2016.

explain that this normally would take three years or more, but Odierno expected it to be done in 12-24 months.[4]

24 January	An executive order (EXORD 057-14) establishing the U.S. Army Cyber Center of Excellence (CCoE replaces Signal CoE) and Cyber School at Fort Gordon was released. The CCoE force modernization proponent included cyberspace operations, offensive and defensive cyber operations, signal/communications networks and information services, and electronic warfare (EW). The Cyber School mission was to, "conduct analysis for the required training needed to develop a highly-skilled cyber force, trained to joint standards and ready to meet combatant commander's current and future force requirements."[5]
20 March	Army HRC established a provisional Cyber Branch to provide career management, development, and readiness to the Army's cyber forces.[6]
28 March	The Signal CoE at Fort Gordon transitioned to the CCoE with a goal to reach operational capability in FY16.[7]
1 April	MSG Phillip E. Williams was the first of the initial seven soldiers assigned to work exclusively in establishing the U.S. Army Cyber School at Fort Gordon. He earned the nickname, "The Father of the Cyber School" for his early work in establishing the school and courses of study.[8]
28 May	The group of seven cadets from the U.S. Military Academy (USMA) at West Point Class of 2014 who had been chosen to become the first commissioned Cyber Branch officers (17A), graduated on this date and received their commissions. They were Benjamin J. Allison, Jason B. DeCoursey, Daniel G. Ford, Zachary R. Gorak, Anthony A. Mendez, William Myers, and Christian J. Sharpsten. Each commissioned Signal or Military Intelligence with a follow-on transfer to Cyber when the branch would be created later in the year, except 2LT Ford, who was cross-commissioned to the Air Force as a cyber officer.[9]

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[4] Oral History Interview, Mr. Todd Boudreau with Scott Anderson, 22 February 2021.

[5] EXORD 057-14, OPS and Contingency Plans G-3, DAMO, Washington, DC, 24 Jan 2014.

[6] Article, LTC Chevelle Thomas, "Human Resources Command stands up Cyber Branch," Army.mil, 24 March 2014.

[7] Paper, Ryan Tate, MAJ, USA, "Journalist Read Ahead/Background for an Interview on Integration of EW, Cyber, Signal," 4 Nov 2014.

[8] OHI, Ryan Tate, MAJ, USA with Kenneth Tilley, Historian, U.S. Army Cyber School, Fort Gordon, GA, 25 May 2016.

[9] Email, David P. Twitchell, 1LT, USA, to Kenneth Tilley, Historian, U.S. Army Cyber School, Fort Gordon, GA, 14 Jan 2016. Email, Benjamin J. Allison, 1LT, USA, to Kenneth Tilley, Historian, U.S. Army Cyber School, 21 Jan 2016.

20 June	LTC Robert Johnson was the second assigned person to the U.S. Army Cyber School as the Assistant Commandant. The first offices were in the CCoE offices on the seventh floor of the Signal Tower at Fort Gordon.[10]
28 July	SGM Jesse C. Potter was assigned to the U.S. Army Cyber School as the Office Chief of Cyber sergeant major and as EW subject matter expert.[11]
Late July	Colonel Jennifer G. Buckner was appointed the first commandant of the U.S. Army Cyber School.[12]
4 August	In a multifaceted transfer of authority ceremony at Alexander Hall, MG LaWarren Patterson handed off his responsibilities as chief of signal to incoming chief of signal and commandant of United States Army Signal School, Col. Thomas A. Pugh. Simultaneously, COL Jennifer G. Buckner was appointed as the commandant for the new United States Army Cyber School.[13]
4 August	An unveiling and ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the activation of the Cyber school headquarters with COL Buckner, MG LaWarren V. Patterson, U.S. Army Cyber Center of Excellence and Fort Gordon commander, and LTG Robert Brown, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center (CAC). The headquarters was located at 633 Barnes Avenue, Building 25601, Fort Gordon, and had a total of seven personnel, assigned. They were COL Buckner, LTC Robert Johnson, MAJ Ryan Tate, MAJ Katherine Grass, SGM Brett McIntire, MSG Phillip Williams, and SGM Jesse Potter. COL John Conway had been the acting commandant prior to the appointment of COL Buckner.[14]
4 August	4-29 Aug; The Subject Matter Expert (SME) Panel organized to work out the details of the new Cyber Branch arrived at Fort Meade. Mr. Todd Boudreau was the lead with MAJ Hac Nguyen the point person for Officers, CW5 Al Mollenkopf the point for Warrant Officers, and SGM Robert Trawick the point for Enlisted.[15]
1 September	The United States Army Cyber Branch was established as a basic branch of the Army, pursuant to the authority of Section 3063(a)(13), Title 10,

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[10] OHI, Robert Johnson, LTC, USA, with Kenneth Tilley, Historian, U.S. Army Cyber School, Ft. Gordon, GA, 16 Aug 2016.
[11] OHI, Jesse Potter, SGM, USA, with Kenneth Tilley, Historian, U.S. Army Cyber School, Ft. Gordon, GA, 13 Sep 2016.
[12] OHI, Ryan Tate, MAJ, USA with Kenneth Tilley, Historian, U.S. Army Cyber School, Ft. Gordon, GA, 25 May 2016.
[13] Article, Laura Levering, "Fort Gordon welcomes signal, cyber commandants," *Fort Gordon Globe*, 8 Aug 2014.
[14] Ibid; OHI, Ryan Tate, MAJ, USA, with Kenneth Tilley, Historian, U.S. Army Cyber School, 25 May 2016.
[15] Email from Todd Boudreau to Scott Anderson, 12 May 2022.

U.S. Code. The last U.S. Army branch established was the Logistics Branch on 1 January 2008.[16]

25 September	CCoE commander, MG Stephen Fogarty and Mr. Boudreau traveled to the Pentagon and briefed CSA GEN Odierno on the establishment and way ahead for the Cyber branch and school. Phase 1 included building the Cyber MOSs (17A, 170A, and 17C). Phase 2 included building the EW forces from the existing 29 series in preparation for then to officially join Cyber in 2018. Phase 3 would provide support for cyber effects.[17]
8 October	MILPER Message 14-298 is released, outlining the initial guidance for the voluntary transfer incentive program for 17A Cyber Officer. This Cyber Voluntary Transfer Incentive Program was announced by the Department of the Army. Applications from active-duty officers, second lieutenant through colonel would be accepted with selection slated for early 2015.[18]
20 November	On "Branch Night" at the US Military Academy at West Point, 15 cadets received their branch assignments as 17A Cyber Officers. The next night, they met with BG Patricia Frost, ARCYBER Deputy Commander, COL Jennifer Buckner, Cyber School Commandant and CSM Rodney Harris, ARCYBER CSM. This was the first West Point class to branch directly into cyber.[19]
1 December	From 1-12 December, Cyber School leaders including Mr. Boudreau traveled to Fort Bragg, NC to participate with EW School personnel in support of an EW SME Panel.[20]

2015

January/February	The first active-duty officers, second lieutenant through colonel, who applied for a voluntary transfer to Cyber Branch, were notified whether they were selected or not. Out of 700 packets received, only 20 percent were selected. COL Buckner noted, "The talent level among the applicants was very, very high. I think it was a very successful first selection process, and it resulted in some great officers joining our branch."[21]

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[16] General Orders No. 2014-63, Headquarters, Department of the Army, 21 Aug 2014.

[17] Briefing, "Cyber Career Field Implementation Plan (CF17 SME Panel & Way Ahead)," MG Fogarty to CSA Odierno, 25 September 2014.

[18] MILPER Message 14-298, 8 October 2014; Article, David Vergun, "Army identifies officers for new Cyber Branch," Fort Gordon Globe, 6 Feb 2015.

[19] Article, Mike Strasser, "Branch Night brings new sense of belonging," USMA newsletter, 5 Dec 2014.

[20] Mr. Boudreau's Outlook calendar.

[21] Article, David Vergun, "Army identifies officers for new Cyber Branch," Fort Gordon Globe, 6 Feb 2015.

24 February   Army National Guard (ANG) officials announced the location of the first three of an eventual ten new ANG Cyber Protection Teams (CPTs) to be established over the next three years in 23 states. The first CPT will be hosted by Michigan-Indiana-Ohio, with the next two hosted by Georgia and California. The following CPTs will be: New York-New Jersey, Colorado-South Dakota-North Dakota-Utah, Alabama-Kentucky-Tennessee, Wisconsin-Illinois, Minnesota, Texas-Louisiana-Mississippi and Nebraska-Missouri-Arkansas.[22]

25 March   The establishment of Officer Branch 17 (Cyber), Area of Concentration (AOC) 17A (Cyber Operations Officer, General) and AOC 17X (Designated Cyber Operations Officer) was published in a Notification of Future Change (NOFC) by the Department of the Army. Duties, functions and positions would be transferred from AOC 24A, 25A, 35D, 35G and 53A. The effective date of change would be 1 October 2015.[23]

May   From May to August, 15 Cyber officers were commissioned through ROTC programs at 14 different universities in 10 different states and the District of Columbia.[24]

7 May   The establishment of the Enlisted Career Management Field (CMF) 17 (Cyber), Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 17C (Cyber Operations Specialist) and was published in a NOFC by the Department of the Army. Selected duties, functions and positions would be transferred from MOS 25B, 25D, 35Q, 35V, 35Z, WO MOS 255A and 255N. The effective date of change would be 1 October 2015.[25]

20 May   The establishment of the Warrant Officer Branch (BR) 17 (Cyber), AOC 170 (Cyber Operations) and MOS 170A (Cyber Operations Technician) was published in a NOFC by the Department of the Army. Selected duties and functions would be transferred from BR 25 and BR 35. The effective date of change would be 1 October 2015.[26]

23 May   The first USMA cadets to commission directly into the Cyber Branch graduated as part the West Point Class of 2015. The 15 cadets were 1LT Andreas Kellas, 1LT Ames Evans, 1LT William Brattain, 1LT Jiung Kim, 1LT Michael Milbank, 1LT Askia Map, 1LT Ricky Ulrich, 1LT Leo St. Amour, 1LT Daniel Brown, 1LT Alexander Molnar, 1LT Rebecca

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[22] Press Release, "National Guard cyber protection teams announced," www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article.
[23] Memo, "Notification of Future Change to DA Pam 611-21, O-1510-06," DA Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, 25 Mar 2015.
[24] Database, Officer's Branch, Office Chief of Cyber, U.S. Army Cyber School, 8 Apr 2015.
[25] Memo, "Notification of Future Change to DA Pam 611-21, E-1510-08," DA Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, 7 May 2015.
[26] Memo, "Notification of Future Change to DA Pam 611-21, W-1510-09," DA Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, 20 May 2015.

Marigliano (only female), 1LT Ricky Tan, 1LT Braxton Musgrove, 1LT Jacob Kravitz, and 1LT Scott Horras..[27]

2 June   MILPER Messages 15-164 and 15-165 are released, outlining the reclassification procedures and transition strategy for enlisted personnel to 17C.[28]

3 June   U.S. Army Human Resources Command (HRC) announced the personnel transition strategy and procedures for reclassification to MOS 17C, Cyber Operations Specialist, for active duty Army enlisted personnel. Phase I Advanced Individual Training (AIT) will be at Corry Station Naval Technical Training Center, Pensacola, Florida, and Phase 2 training will take place at Fort Gordon, Georgia.[29]

4 June   MILPER Message 15-166 is released, outlining the initial guidance for the voluntary transfer incentive program for 170A.[30]

12 July   Thomas L. Barnes was assigned to the Army Cyber School as the first Director of the Cyber Training and Education Directorate.[31]

14 July   LTC Chris A. Wade was assigned to the Army Cyber School as the first Director of the Office Chief of Cyber.[32]

29 July   The first group of 31 Cyber second lieutenants (2LT) reported to the Army Cyber School at Fort Gordon for the inaugural Cyber Basic Officer Leadership Course (Cyber BOLC) 2015-001. Ten of these soldiers, along with three first lieutenants (1LT) were selected to attend graduate school through the Army's Advanced Civil Schooling (ACS) program. These 13 will spend a year earning a Master's degree at one of three participating institutions: Carnegie Mellon University, Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), or the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT).[33]

August   The Cyber Branch conducted the first Warrant Officer Transfer Panel, where the first 87 warrant officers were selected as 170 Alphas.[34]

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[27] Article, "Army announces names of West Point's Class of 2015," *Army Times*, 27 May 2015.
[28] MILPER Message numbers 15-164 and 15-165, 2 June 2015.
[29] Article, "Command establishes enlisted pathways to become a cyber operations specialist," www.army.mil, 3 Jun 2015.
[30] MILPER Message number 15-166, 4 June 2015.
[31] Email, Thomas L. Barnes, CIV, Cyber School Director of Training, to Kenneth Tilley, Cyber School Historian, Fort Gordon, GA, 13 Jul 2016.
[32] Email, Chris A. Wade, LTC, Cyber School Director of Office Chief of Cyber, to Kenneth Tilley, Cyber School Historian, Fort Gordon, GA, 13 Jul 2016.
[33] Discussion, Charles Lewis, MAJ, USA, with Kenneth Tilley, Cyber School Historian, 25 Jan 2016; Cyber School Quarterly Newsletter, Oct 2015.
[34] Email, William Rinehart, CSM, USA, to Kenneth Tilley, Historian, U.S. Army Cyber School, 18 Apr 2016.

6 August	The first 17A CyBOLC class started with 21 students. The class consisted of 12 officers from USMA, 7 from ROTC, and 2 from Officer Candidate School (OCS). The CyBOLC will last 37 weeks.[35]
1 October	The first Cyber officers (17A), warrant officers (170A) and enlisted Soldiers (17C) were officially authorized on this date on Army manning documents.[36]
1 October	HQ and A Company of the Cyber Training Battalion (CTB) officially activated in a ceremony on Fort Gordon. CPT Jonathan Reid had initially been assigned as the first commander on 18 June 2015.[37] The company first sergeant was 1SG Alexander Perea. The CTB would later officially activate with command personnel on 6 October 2016.
1 November	Headquarters Company and "A," "B," and "C" Companies, Training Battalion, U.S. Army Cyber School, Fort Gordon, Georgia were established by the Department of the Army.[38]
12 November	CSM William M. Rinehart assumed responsibility from SGM McIntire as U.S. Army Cyber School Command Sergeant Major in a ceremony at Barton Field Amphitheater, Fort Gordon.[39]
14 December	The first Cyber Branch and School Historian, Mr. Kenneth Tilley, started work under the Office Chief of Cyber (OCC). He was previously a Historian with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency in Hawaii.[40]

2016

1 January	Permanent Orders 335-1 to discontinue the Electronic Warfare Proponent (W0VP8E) at Fort Leavenworth, KS.[41] The EW Proponent would now be under the Cyber School OCC.
4 January	The first Cyber Captains Career Course (CyCCC 16-501) began at the Army Cyber School at Fort Gordon for Captains and promotable First Lieutenants. Twenty officers started the 26 week course.[42]

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[35] Article, Laura Levering, "Army Cyber School marks major milestone," Fort Gordon Globe, 14 Aug 2015.

[36] Memo, "NOFC to DA Pam 611-21, O-1510-06," 25 Mar 2015; "NOFC to DA Pam 611-21, E-1510-08," 7 May 2015; "NOFC to DA Pam 611-21, W-1510-09," 20 May 2015.

[37] Discussion, Jonathan Reid, CPT, USA, HQ CO and CO A CDR, Army Cyber School, with Kenneth Tilley, Cyber School Historian, Fort Gordon, GA, 25 Aug 2016.

[38] Permanent Orders 303-2, 303-3 and 303-4, Department of the Army, HQ, TRADOC, 30 Oct 2015.

[39] Program, "Assumption of Responsibility for CSM William M. Rinehart," U.S. Army Cyber School, 12 Nov 2015.

[40] Email, Ken Tilley, to Scott Anderson, Historian, U.S. Army Cyber School, 27 March 2017.

[41] Del E. Stewart, TRADOC Annual Command History, 1 January to 31 December 2015, Section 6.6.4.

[42] U.S. Army Cyber School course schedule, Jan 2016.

19 January	The first 17C Cyber Operations Specialist AIT Phase I class started at the Center for Information Dominance (CID), Corry Station, Pensacola, Florida. The course – Joint Cyber Analysis Course (JCAC) - was a joint services class taught to all branches of the military for 26 weeks. Phase II AIT would begin in 2017 at Fort Gordon.[43]
23 February	In a patch ceremony at the U.S. Army Cyber School, all assigned uniformed personnel were presented the new Cyber School shoulder sleeve insignia (patch) and attached it to their left shoulder sleeve. The unit also received the Cyber Regimental crest.[44]
1 March	After two weeks of training, the CyBOLC students conducted the first Cyber School combined tactical and technical field exercise (FTX). The Cyber Captains Career Course helped train the lieutenants. Based on his strong performance, 2LT Askia Mapp was selected to act as platoon leader for the execution of the operation.[45]
28 March	The first Cyber Common Technical Core (CCTC) course began on March 28th and ran for eight and a half weeks. Students from CyBOLC and CyOOC in addition to four Sailors and one ARNG Soldier participated.[46]
April	The Cyber School received the first school funds from TRADOC for FY16 training courses.[47]
29 April	James Thomas Monaco, from Miami, Florida became the first initial entry 17C (Cyber Operations Specialist) soldier recruited into the U.S. Army. After Basic Combat Training over the summer, he will attend the 17C course.[48]
2 May	The first Cyber Warrant Officer Advanced Course (WOAC), class 16-501, began at Fort Gordon, Georgia with 13 CW2s and CW3s. The class will last 15 weeks and end in August.[49]
5 May	The U.S. Army Center of Military History designated 1 September as the Unit Day for the U.S. Army Cyber School and Branch. Annual Cyber events will be centered around this date, which will be called "Cyber Day" by the school and branch.[50]

[43] Discussion, Mr. John Plotts, Enlisted Division Chief, OCC with Kenneth Tilley, Historian, U.S Army Cyber School, 10 Aug 2016.

[44] Patch Ceremony held at U.S. Army Cyber School, 23 Feb 2016.

[45] Article, CPT Sam Thode and CPT Steve Willson, "Cyber students apply training to field," Fort Gordon Globe, 15 Apr 2016.

[46] Cyber School Quarterly Newsletter, Apr 2016.

[47] Email, William Rinehart, CSM, USA, to Kenneth Tilley, Historian, U.S. Army Cyber School, 17 Apr 2016.

[48] ATRRS (Army Training Requirements and Resources System), 1 May 2016.

[49] Briefing, Cyber School SURF, 6 May 2016.

[50] Memo, "Cyber Unit Day," U.S. Army Center of Military History, Fort Lesley McNair, DC, 5 May 2016.

26 May	The first ever Cyber School graduation (CyBOLC 001-15) was held at 0830 at the Gordon Club with 21 graduates (3 women). 2LT Justin Oursler was the Distinguished Honor Graduate, 2LT Alec McCloskey received the Leadership Award, and 2LT John Lake received the Iron Officer award. COL (P) Jennifer Buckner was the guest speaker.[51]
26 May	The first Cyber School Commandant Change of Responsibility took place at 1130 at Fort Gordon's Signal Tower flag pole. MG Stephen Fogarty presided as COL (P) Buckner relinquished responsibility of the Cyber School and Branch to COL Kenneth A. Rector. At the conclusion of the ceremony, a reception was held for COL Rector at Friendship Chapel. COL Rector was previously assigned as the Chief of Staff, ARCYBER, Fort Belvoir. COL (P) Buckner was re-assigned as the Deputy Commander, Cyber National Mission Force (NMF), Fort Meade, Maryland.[52]
6 June	The first Cyber Advanced Leader Course (ALC) and Senior Leader Course (SLC) for NCOs began at Fort Gordon NCO Academy.[53]
30 June	The first Cyber ALC (501-16) and SLC (501-16) combined for their graduation at the Signal School NCO Academy classroom at Fort Gordon at 1530. There were 14 SLC graduates and 14 ALC graduates. Cyber School Commandant, COL Kenneth Rector, served as guest speaker. The distinguished honor graduates were SSG William Johnson (SLC) and SGT Bret Clements (ALC). The distinguished leadership graduates were SFC Marcus Allen (SLC) and SGT Bret Clements (ALC). The Commandant's List graduates were SSG Jeriel Juarbe (SLC) and SGT David Tesch (ALC).[54]
15 July	The first 17C Cyber Operations Specialists who were part of the JCAC course for their AIT Phase 1, graduated in a ceremony at Corry Station, Pensacola, Florida. The graduates would be reclassified after Phase 2 at Fort Gordon in 2017.
10 August	The first 170A WOAC graduation (16-501) was conducted at Alexander Hall, Fort Gordon at 1000. CW5 Mark (Al) Mollenkopf was the guest speaker. Of the 11 warrant officer graduates, CW2 Eric Lynn was the distinguished honor graduate and CW2 Nikolaus Phillips was the honor graduate. CW3 William Howard was the class leader.[55]

[51] Program, "U.S. Army Cyber School BOLC Graduation Class 001-15," 26 May 2016.
[52] Program, "U.S. Army Cyber School Commandant Change of Responsibility," 26 May 2016.
[53] U.S. Army Cyber School course schedule, Jun 2016.
[54] Program, "Cyber Center of Excellence Noncommissioned Officer Academy Graduation Ceremony," SLC 501-16 and ALC 501-16, 30 Jun 2016.
[55] Program, "Graduation Ceremony 170A-Cyber Operations Technician Warrant Officer Advanced Course," 10 Aug 2016.

22 August   The first Cyber Operations Officers Course (CyOOC 15-501) and Cyber Captains Career Course (CyCCC 16-501) graduation was held at Alexander Hall, Fort Gordon at 1000. LTC David J. Chang, 782nd MI (Cyber) BN commander, was the guest speaker. Of the ten CyOOC 15-501 graduates, CPT Samuel Anderson was the distinguished honor graduate and CPT Brandon Overall was the honor graduate. Of the 21 CyCCC 16-501 graduates, CPT William Fleshman was the distinguished honor graduate and CPT Nicholas Starck-King was the honor graduate. Seven of the students graduated from both courses.[56]

3 October   The Cyber School's first Warrant Officer Basic Course (WOBC), Class 17-501 began at Fort Gordon.[57]

6 October   The CTB officially activated in a ceremony at Barton Field at 0800. LTC Benjamin Sangster and CSM Ronald Krause assumed command and responsibility.[58] HQ and Co A of CTB previously existed and had been activated on 1 October 2015.

19 October   Cyber School leaders briefed a Congressional staff delegation on the cyber operator training pipeline, recruiting and retention successes and challenges, the Army's service unique approach of creating a Cyber Branch (including a new career path), and an overview of the differences in skills for Cyber Operators, Network Operators, and Intelligence professionals.[59]

10 November   Three NOFC documents were issued to delete the FA29 AOC codes associated with Electronic Warfare and establish new ones within FA17. These changes to DA Pam 611-21 will transition 29A to 17B; 290A to 170B; and 29E to 17E, and will become effective at the beginning on FY19 on 1 October 2018.[60]

9 December   An activation ceremony was held at Fort Gordon for Cyber Training Battalion, Bravo Company. CPT Tim Graziano assumed command and 1SG Alexander Perea assumed responsibility for B Company CTB.[61]

9 December   According to CCoE TASKORD 17-101, the Cyber Training Battalion was assigned to the 15th Signal Brigade no later than this date. The CTB had

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[56] Program, "Cyber Operations Officers Course and Cyber Captains Career Course Graduation Ceremony," 22 Aug 2016.
[57] Briefing, U.S. Army Cyber School, 3 Oct 2016.
[58] Program, U.S. Army Cyber School, Cyber Training Battalion Activation Ceremony, 6 Oct 2016.
[59] Cyber School Weekly Activities Report, 26 October 2016.
[60] Memo, "NOFC to DA Pam 611-21, O-1610-59," 10 Nov 2016; "NOFC to DA Pam 611-21, E-1610-58," 10 Nov 2016; "NOFC to DA Pam 611-21, W-1610-54," 10 Nov 2016.
[61] Cyber School Weekly Activities Report, 21 December 2016.

been directly under the Cyber School, but now would officially be under the 15th Signal Brigade, while of course still having a close relationship with the Cyber School.[62]

2017

19 January	An activation ceremony was held at Rinehart Gym, Fort Sill, OK for Cyber Training Battalion, Company C, which is located at the EW College at Fort Sill. CPT Jackson Wittkamper assumed command and 1SG Darnell Folsom assumed responsibility for C Company CTB.[63] LTC Sangster participated in the ceremony while CSM Krause, COL Rector, and CSM Rinehart were in attendance.
22 February	On around this date, the first Cyberspace Operations Planner's Course (COPC) began with a completion date of 8 March 2017. This two-week course is comprised of 22 students from the Cyber Captains Career Course as well as the Cyber Protection Brigade. Graduates of this course will be prepared to coordinate, plan, integrate, and conduct Cyberspace Operations (CO) in support of National, Joint, and Army operational requirements. It is the first course to be conducted in the new Cyber Training Facility (CTF), which is a relocatable building designed as the Cyber School's sensitive compartmented information facility (SCIF).[64]
10 March	The first Army Reserve CCTC course, which was taught by the first Cyber School Mobile Training Team (MTT), graduated in a 1000 ceremony at the Army Research Laboratory in Adelphi, MD. BG Nikki L. Griffin Olive, Deputy CG, Sustainment, 335th Signal Command, was the guest speaker. The Army Reserve Cyber Operations Group is affiliated with the National Capital Region Cyber Protection Center. The course ran from 9 January to 10 March 2017, had 26 graduates, and was taught by Mr. Kenton Groombridge, Ms. Sarah Rees, and SSG Kyle Desjardins. COL Rector and CSM Rinehart attended.[65]
13 March	The first 170A WOBC graduation (17-501) was conducted at Alexander Hall, Fort Gordon at 1000. CW5 Mark Mollenkopf (CWO of ARCYBER) was the guest speaker. Of the 20 warrant officer graduates, WO1 Chris Charland was the distinguished honor graduate and WO1 Tory Clasen was the honor graduate. CW2 Jason Tolle was the class leader.[66]

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[62] FRAGO 1 to Cyber CoE TASKORD 17-101: Cyber Center of Excellence (CCoE) Command and Control (C2) and Functions Realignment, 10 November 2016.
[63] Cyber School Quarterly Newsletter, "Activation of C CO," Feb 2017.
[64] Cyber School Weekly Activity Report, 1 March 2017.
[65] Program, "National Capital Region Cyber Protection Center Presents The United States Army Reserve's 1st Cyber Common Technical Core Graduation," 10 March 2017; Photo of Class roster with instructors.
[66] Program, "Graduation Ceremony 170A-Cyber Operations Technician Warrant Officer Basic Course," 13 March 2017.

20 March	The first 17C Cyber Operations Specialist AIT Phase 2 (17-501) started at Fort Gordon with 14 students ranging from E-4 to E-6.[67]
26 June	The updated version of DA PAM 600-3, Officer Professional Development and Career Management, was published. This was the first version to include the Cyber Branch.[68]
10 July	The first 17C Critical Task Site Selection Board (CTSSB) took place from 10 to 21 July.
4 August	The second Cyber School Commandant Change of Responsibility took place at 0800 in Alexander Hall at Fort Gordon. Due to weather, the ceremony could not be held outside at the Signal Tower flagpole as originally planned. MG John Morrison, Jr. presided as COL Kenneth A. Rector relinquished responsibility of the Cyber School and Branch to BG Neil S. Hersey. At the conclusion of the ceremony, a reception was held for BG Hersey in the Alexander Hall lobby. BG Hersey, who became a 17A in 2015 and upon promotion to BG in April 2017, became the first ever 17A BG Select, now becomes the first General Officer Cyber School Commandant. He was previously the director, Joint Cyberspace Center, J-3, U.S. Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base.[69]
7 August	The first 170A Critical Task Site Selection Board (CTSSB) took place from 7 to 18 August.
8 August	The first graduation of the 17C AIT Cyber Operations Specialist Phase II (Class 17-501) took place at 1200 in Alexander Hall at Fort Gordon with 14 graduates. This was the first graduation presided over by new Commandant, BG Hersey. The Senior Enlisted Advisor of the US Cyber Command, CSM David Redmon, served as guest speaker. SGT David McNally was the Distinguished Honor Graduate, SPC Jack Spence was the Honor Graduate, SSG Matthew Hand earned the Leadership Award, and SGT Louis Angelo was the Iron Soldier. This was also the first Cyber School graduation where the Cyber Regimental Distinguished Insignia was pinned on the graduates.[70]
21 August	Atop the recently completed flag poles in front of the Cyber School Headquarters building, a red one star flag was raised for the first time in Cyber School History, signifying BG Hersey was present for duty.

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[67] CTED class roster for 17C Cyber Operations Specialist AIT Phase 2 (17-501).
[68] https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/smartbook-DA-PAM-600-3
[69] Program, "U.S. Army Cyber School Commandant Change of Responsibility," 4 Aug 2017.
[70] Program, "U.S. Army Cyber School 17C AIT Graduation Class 17-501," 8 August 2017.

22 August   CPT Stephen Rogacki, the first aide-de-camp for a Cyber School Commandant, arrived for duty. CPT Rogacki is also the first 17 Series Cyber Corps member sent to Ranger School by a Cyber unit (780th MI BDE). He completed Ranger School in October 2016.

19 October   The first Cyber School Staff Ride was conducted with CyCCC 17-503 at Cowpens National Battlefield in South Carolina. There were 11 students who presented briefs on their assigned topics as the group walked the battlefield. CyCCC instructor John Allred (CTR and former Army COL) had extensive knowledge of Cowpens and led the tour with Command Historian assisting.

27 October   The acting Secretary of the Army, Ryan McCarthy, signed Army Directive 2017-26 (Pilot Program for Direct Commission to Cyber Positions). A report on the success of the program will be provided no later than 1 January 2020. This Directive expires on 31 December 2022 unless sooner rescinded.[71]

1 November   The third graduation of the 17C AIT Phase II (Class 17-504) took place at 0900 in the Signal Theater at Fort Gordon with 12 graduates. The recently retired 1SG of CTB Bravo Co, 1SG Alexander Perea (Retired), served as guest speaker. SGT Nicholas Montano was the Distinguished Honor Graduate and he also received the Leadership Award. PFC John Holloway was the Honor Graduate and PFC Conner Buell earned the Iron Soldier Award.[72] Several of the Soldiers graduating in this class were the first true 17C Soldiers to enlist – meaning they went from civilian to 17C and did not simply re-classify from another MOS. SPC James Monaco is considered the first 17C to sign a contract with the Army. This ceremony also had the first Army National Guard (ARNG) graduate from the 17C Cyber Operations Specialist Course - SSG Jason Childers is a member of the Georgia ARNG.[73]

4 December   4-6 Dec; The Cyber School hosted its first offsite meeting at the Cyber School CTF on Fort Gordon. Besides Cyber School senior leadership, various members of the Cyber, EW, and related communities attended the three day program consisting of briefs (some at the TS level) and working group sessions.

7 December   The first convening of the selection board for the Cyber Specialty Direct Commission Pilot Program met in Greely Hall to discuss the first three Direct Commission candidates. The voting board members were LTC Elizabeth Popiak (Cyber School OCC Director), COL Paul Stanton

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[71] Secretary of Army Memorandum, 2017-26 (Pilot Program for Direct Commission to Cyber Positions), 27 October 2017.
[72] Program, "U.S. Army Cyber School 17C AIT Graduation Class 17-504," 1 November 2017.
[73] Cyber School SITREP, 27 Oct – 9 Nov 2017.

(Cyber Protection BDE), LTC Leslie Gorman (Cyber Protection BDE), CW4 Thomas Bichard (780 MI BDE), BG Neil Hersey (Cyber School Commandant). Mr. Todd Boudreau (Cyber School Dep CMDT) was a non-voting GS advisor. The board selected two persons to fill ARCYBER-identified critical operational gaps - a computer scientist/software engineer and a data scientist/machine learning engineer.[74]

2018

1 January	The U.S. Army Cyber School 500-Day Plan went into effect as outlined in the plan document – lasting until May 2019.[75]
29 January	The first Defense Digital Service (DDS) Pilot began at Fort Gordon, which is a pilot course to possibly take the place of 17C AIT Phase I at Pensacola. 10 students are in the class and will transition to 17C AIT Phase II upon completion alongside students who completed traditional Phase I at Pensacola (JCAC). DDS hired the contracting firm General Assembly to create and instruct the pilot course. After the pilot, officials will determine if this is a viable alternative to Phase I at Pensacola.[76]
29 January	The first Electronic Warfare Transition Course (EWTC) was completed at Fort Carson, CO. The EWTC is taught by a MTT, and is a pre-requisite for those 29 series personnel who will transition to Cyber on 1 October 2018. It is 12 weeks long and is filled with both Officers and Enlisted. Warrant Officers take the SIGE 2810 and 3810 at Goodfellow AFB because it is more technical.[77]
28 February	The first Cyber Stakeholders Secure VTC (SVTC) was hosted from Nelson Hall at 1000. Hosted by OCC, the quarterly SVTC will be a forum to exchange consequential information about the Branch itself and individuals' place in it. About 25 individuals were in the room in Nelson Hall, while participants called in from 24 outstations.[78]
9 March	CSM Julie Guerra became the third Cyber School and Cyber/EW Corps CSM in an Assumption of Responsibility Ceremony at 1100 in Signal Theater. BG Hersey provided remarks.[79]

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[74] Discussion with LTC Elizabeth Popiak, Cyber School OCC Director; Cyber School SITREP, 9-20 December 2017.
[75] U.S. Army Cyber School 500-Day Plan: Jan 2018 – May 2019 – Final.
[76] Cyber School SITREP, 4-17 January 2018.
[77] Briefing, "EW Transition (to the Cyber Corps) Courses."
[78] AAR for the Cyber Stakeholder's Brief, 28 February 2018.
[79] Program, US Army Cyber School Command Sergeant Major Assumption of Responsibility, 9 March 2018.

5 April	5-6 April; The first two individuals selected through the Cyber Specialty Direct Commission Pilot Program, Timothy Hennessy and James Gusman, were direct commissioned as 2nd Lieutenants. They are scheduled to attend the Direct Commission Course at Fort Benning from 6 May to 15 June 2018.[80]
13 April	CPT Tim Graziano (CTB Bravo Co. Commander) along with CPT Dennis Caserza of the CPB, were the first soldiers to represent the Cyber Branch in the Best Ranger competition at Fort Benning, GA. The finished just under 30th place out of 51 teams.[81]
20 April	The first Defense Digital Service (DDS) Pilot 17C AIT Phase I (named "Digital Dojo") class graduated in a ceremony in Signal Theater at Fort Gordon at 1400. The official party consisted of DDS Deputy Director Tim Van Name, ARCYBER Executive Director for Talent Acquisition and Management Strategy, Nicole Camarillo (SES), and BG Hersey. All three provided remarks. Of the 10 graduates, The Distinguished Honor Graduate was SPC Shymeria Madden and the Honor Graduate was Specialist Joshua Morgan. Towards the end of the ceremony, a DDS employee called several Cyber School and CTB personnel on stage to thank them for their support and provided a gift to them. This was the first time that the contractor General Assembly (who DDS hired to create and teach the course) had contracted with the DOD.[82]
30 April	Dr. John (Scott) Smith began term as CTED Acting Director until Tom Barnes's full time replacement is hired.
9 May	The first two individuals selected through the Cyber Specialty Direct Commission Pilot Program, 1LT Timothy Hennessy and 1LT James Gusman, took the oath of office as administered by BG Hersey in a ceremony at Fort Benning, GA where they are attending the Direct Commission Course at Fort Benning from 6 May to 15 June 2018.[83]
1 June	Per BG Hersey's direction, the OCC Director became a civilian billet and the Deputy Director position became a military billet. This resulted in Mr. Shawn Bova becoming the OCC Director and LTC Elizabeth Popiak becoming the Deputy Director. This aligned the OCC leadership structure with the way CTED is organized and provides civilian continuity in the Director role.[84]

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[80] Cyber School SITREP, 30 March – 12 April 2018.
[81] Email, CPT Tim Graziano to Scott Anderson, 17 April 2018.
[82] Program, "U.S. Army Cyber School Graduation Class 17C AIT Phase One Digital Dojo Graduation," 20 April 2018; BG Hersey's ceremony remarks.
[83] Article, CPT James Williams, CCoE PAO, Cyber branch direct commissions its first two officers," Army.mil, 10 May 2018.
[84] Conversation with Mr. Shawn Bova, 21 June 2018.

10 July	In the first ever CTB Change of Command Ceremony, LTC Rachael O'Connell assumed command from LTC Benjamin Sangster. COL John Batson, Commander of the 15th Signal Brigade provided remarks during the 0800 ceremony at Barton Field.[85]
13 July	SSG Prince Yohannes of the CTB became the first Cyber NCO inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club as a 17C. There ceremony was held at the Eisenhower Hospital auditorium at Fort Gordon at 1330. There are other 17C members of the SAMC, but they joined under other MOS's.[86]
3 August	Former Cyber School Assistant Commandant COL Eric Aslakson started a new position with the CCoE, and new Assistant Commandant, COL Stephen Dawson, officially took over the position. COL Dawson had been the U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii Commander since June 2016.
24 August	The Cyber School held a Change of Responsibility ceremony for the Chief Warrant Officer of the Cyber Branch in the CTB HQ&A classroom. BG Hersey officiated the ceremony where CW5 Paul Gross officially handed over responsibility to CW5 Jose Cardenas.[87]
29 August	BG Hersey signed an AR 611-1 MOCS action recommending transition of MOS 17E - Electronic Warfare Specialist from an in-service accession (E5-E9) MOS to an initial entry accession (E3-E9) MOS. The same MOCS action also recommended AOC 17B, Cyber and Electronic Warfare Officer, be O2 to O6 inclusive as opposed to the current O3 to O6.[88]
29 August	The Cyber School hosted the first combined "CEMA Stakeholders' Forum." Approximately 23 out-stations participated in this event via SVTC. This event was previously titled the "Cyber Stakeholders' SVTC" or "EW Stakeholders' SVTC," however, they are now combined.[89]
31 August	The first enlisted female to successfully complete Ranger School, SSG Amanda Kelley, graduated at Ft. Benning, GA. She is an EW 29E NCO. BG Hersey and CSM Guerra attended the graduation at 1100 at Victory Pond.
17 September	17-28 Sept; The Cyber School held the first ever 17A CTSSB.

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[85] Program, Cyber Training Battalion Change of Command Ceremony, 10 July 2018.
[86] Program, SAMC Induction Ceremony, 13 July 2018.
[87] Program, U.S. Army Cyber School Chief Warrant Officer of the Cyber Branch Change of Responsibility, 24 August 2018.
[88] Cyber School SITREP, 17-30 August 2018.
[89] Cyber School SITREP, 17-30 August 2018.

28 September	The Cyber School held the first Cyber Birthday Run (3.2 miles) at 0600 from the Barton Field reviewing stand down Range Road and back with BG Hersey leading the way. The Cyber School Command Group, CTB HQ&A Co, CTB Bravo Co, and CSM Richard Knott of the Signal School participated.
28 September	The Cyber School held a ceremony to celebrate the fourth Cyber Branch birthday and to mark the transition of the EW workforce into the Cyber Corps. BG Hersey gave remarks and then presented five soldiers from the across the Cyber Corps with a Commander's Coin for their accomplishments. To mark the EW transition to Cyber, an EW officer, warrant officer, and enlisted soldier received the Cyber RDI on their lapel from BG Hersey, CSM Guerra, and CW5 Cardenas. Finally, there was an official cake cutting by BG Hersey, CW5 Cardenas and the youngest members of the Cyber Corps.
28 September	Cyberspace Operations Planners Course (COPC) 18-018 (28 Sept-15 Oct) began. This class has a very unique distinction, in being the very first CLASSIFIED Coalition-COPC course training a close ally, and Joint, Inter-agency, Intergovernmental, and Multinational (JIIM) audience. The students come from varied backgrounds that include the US Army Cyber Officer Transition course, the Australian Defence Force (ADF), personnel from the 4th Battlefield Coordination Detachment supporting US Army Central (ARCENT), and the United States Marine Corps.
1 October	The Electronic Warfare Officers, Warrant Officers, and Enlisted officially became part of the Cyber Corps, and the EW warrant officer and enlisted insignia for the 29 series functional area was retired. The new Cyber MOS's 17B, 170B, and 17E for the EW Officer, Warrant Officer, and Enlisted Specialist respectively became effective. A video featuring BG Hersey welcoming the EW workforce into the Branch was released.
9 October	The first Cyber School graduation ceremony of Cyber Direct Commissioned Lieutenants took place in Olmstead Hall on Fort Gordon. 1LT Timothy Hennessy and 1LT James Gusman, the first two Cyber officers to be direct commissioned, were part of CyBOLC 18- 001, but because they had previous military experience, they qualified to graduate earlier than the rest of the class. A special ceremony was held for them with Mr. Todd Boudreau serving as guest speaker.[90]
11 October	The Cyber School received official Accreditation from TRADOC.[91]
14 November	14-15 Nov; The Cyber School held its first Training Summit in the CTF to ensure a shared understanding of education and training across the

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[90] Program, "U.S. Army Cyber School Graduation Ceremony Cyber CyBOLC," 9 October 2018.
[91] TRADOC Accreditation Certificate, 11 October 2018.

	Institutional and Operational Cyber Warfare Workforce and to establish agreed-to-actions across the community of interest IOT maximize resourcing, efforts, and flexibility. Besides briefings from Cyber School leadership and reps, there were briefings from the CPB and ARCYBER.[92]
26 November	Dr. John (Scott) Smith who had been serving as interim CTED Director since Tom Barnes left in April 2018, was officially hired as the new CTED Director.[93]
10 December	CTED moved into a new building next to the Cyber School HQ. This new space in BLDG 25602, is where senior CTED leadership and other CTED personnel who had formerly been in portable offices are now housed.
14 December	17E SLC class 19-001/2 graduated at Fort Sill, OK. This was the first 17E graduating class within the Cyber Branch after the transition from 29E to 17E on 1 October 2018.

2019

14 January	The 17C AIT DDS 19-001 Pilot course began. This is the first 17C AIT that replaces the standard Phase I and Phase II and will be all one course, lasting nine months.
8 February	The first group of Warrant Officers to complete WOBC as 170B since the official EW transition to Cyber 170B, graduated in a ceremony at Ft. Sill. CW5 Cardenas served as guest speaker for the graduation. Of the 18 graduates, WO1 Justin Bradbury was the Distinguished Honor Graduate and WO1 Sourideth Khoupongsy was the Honor Graduate.[94]
21 March	In a ceremony at the South Carolina Applied Research Center in Aiken, SC, BG Hersey and Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) Lab Director Dr. Vahid Majidi signed a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize a strategic partnership between the Cyber School and SRNL of collaboration and sharing to promote mutual cyber and EW initiatives.[95]
5 April	The first ever Change of Responsibility for the CTB CSM position took place at 0800 in Alexander Hall. CSM Ronald Krause handed over

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[92] PowerPoint presentation prepared for US Army Cyber School Training Summit, 14-15 November 2018.
[93] Email with John Scott Smith, 7 December 2018.
[94] Program, "U.S. Army Cyber School Electronic Warfare College 17OB WOBC Graduation Class 001-19," 8 February 2019.
[95] "Memorandum of Understanding Between United States Army Cyber School and Savannah River National Laboratory," 21 March 2019.

responsibility to CSM Kevin Flickinger. This is a return to the CTB for CSM Flickinger who had previously served as the HQ&A 1SG.[96]

17 June	17-28 June; The first Unclassified Coalition COPC began at the Georgia Cyber Center in downtown Augusta. Course attendance is comprised of CCoE Liaison personnel from Italy, Japan, France, Netherlands, Canada, and Germany. This iteration is being offered as a "test-run" to ensure the audience, context, and materials templated for use are applicable to requesting partner nations. Select Marine and Army personnel are in attendance to further assist in analyzing course requirements and application.[97]
28 June	In an Assumption of Responsibility Ceremony in Signal Theater at 0900, COL Paul G. Craft became the fourth Cyber School Commandant and Chief of Cyber. Since MG Hersey had taken over as new CCoE CG on 6 June, this was not a Change of Responsibility. Both MG Hersey and COL Craft provided remarks. At the conclusion of the ceremony, a reception was held in the lobby of the Theater. COL Craft previously served as Director of Operations (J-3), Joint Force Headquarters Department of Defense Information Network (JFHQ-DODIN), USCYBERCOM, Fort Meade, MD.[98]
4 August	The 5th anniversary of the opening of the Cyber School and the official ceremony where COL(P) Buckner became the first Cyber School Commandant and Chief of Cyber.
6 August	COL David W. Haines started as the new Cyber School Assistant Commandant, replacing COL Steven Dawson, who moved to the CCoE Commander's staff, working in a special position related to the transition into Information Warfare. COL Haines was formerly the top EW Officer at III Corps.
12 August	The first ever 17E (EW) AIT Soldiers began in-processing at Fort Gordon with classes starting on 14 August. 17E10 AIT Class 19-001 started with 19 students: 1 SSG, 3 SGTs, 6 SPCs, 1 PV2, and 8 PVTs. This class is the culmination of one year of intense work developing curriculum, writing contracts, building facilities, training instructors, and obtaining equipment and is the first EW IET course ever taught by the Cyber School.
18 September	A combined AIT graduation with 17C AIT class 19-007 (19 graduates) and the DDS Pilot class 19-001 (14 graduates) took place in Friendship Chapel on Fort Gordon at 1000. SFC Jeriel Juarbe, a U.S. Army Cyber School instructor, served as guest speaker. The Distinguished Honor

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[96] Program, Cyber Training Battalion Change of Responsibility Ceremony, 5 April 2019..
[97] Email, MAJ Lonnie Colbert to Scott Anderson, 2 July 2019.
[98] Program, "U.S. Army Cyber School Commandant Assumption of Responsibility," 28 June 2019.

Graduate for 19-007 was SFC Phillip Sondgerothe. The Honor Graduates were SPC Kenneth Johnson, SGT Alex Jester, and SPC Samuel Stewart. The Distinguished Honor Graduate for DDS Pilot 19-001 was PV2 Jeffery Taylor. The Honor Graduates were PFC Steffan Hinkle and SPC Shane Houston. Having started in January 2019, the DDS Pilot was the first ever 17C AIT course to include both Phase 1 and 2 at Fort Gordon.[99]

2020

18 March	17C AIT Phase II Class 20-001 finished without a formal graduation ceremony due to the COVID-19 safety measures that kept family and friends from coming on base. Of the 17 graduates, the Distinguished Honor Graduate was PFC Michael Wert and the Honor Graduates were SPC Valentina Chifchieva and SGT Nicholas Keats.[100]

NOTE: Starting on around 23 March, most Cyber School employees began telework due to safety measures associated with COVID-19. During this time all TDY was canceled and most events and meetings were conducted virtually.

25 March	The first ever graduation for the 17E (Electronic Warfare Specialist) AIT course. With most CCoE graduations curtailed in some fashion due to COVID-19 safety precautions, the Cyber School felt this occasion was too historic to cancel. While the Soldiers of Class 19-001 could not share the moment with family and friends due to safety restrictions, several attended the ceremony in Signal Theater at 1000. SGM Sean Beaupre, a 17E serving as the Cyber Protection Brigade's Operations Sergeant Major, served as guest speaker. COL Craft also provided remarks at the end of the ceremony. Of the 20 graduates, SGT Austen Kluz was the Distinguished Honor Graduate. SGT Dustin Mullins, PV2 Badeea Wheeler, and SPC Geranton Forbes were the Honor Graduates.[101]
9 May	Bravo Co, CTB executed its first ever 17C Cyber Operations Specialist, field training exercise (FTX). CsRA training coupled with a field training exercise provided realistic training blended with technical and tactical competencies IOT maximize situational awareness of cyber operations impacts between the strategic and tactical levels.
4 June	The new U.S. Army Chief of Cyber Twitter account created its first Tweet with the common coding phrase: Print("Hello, world!").

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[99] Program, "U.S. Army Cyber School 17C AIT Graduation Class 19-007 and DDS Pilot 19-001," 18 September 2019.
[100] Program, "U.S. Army Cyber School 17C AIT Graduation Class 20-001," 18 March 2020.
[101] Program, "U.S. Army Cyber School 17E AIT Graduation Class 19-001," 25 March 2020.

24 June	The Cyber School CSM Change of Responsibility took place when CSM Julie Guerra relinquished her position to CSM Cecil V. Reynolds during a ceremony in Signal Theater at 1500. COL(P) Paul Craft presided over the ceremony that was a bit different due to COVID-19 restrictions. Attendance was limited and masks were worn during the majority of the ceremony. CSM Guerra is moving to the Pentagon to become the first female DA G2 CSM. CSM Reynolds was previously the CSM for 1st Information Operations Command at Fort Belvoir, VA.[102]
8 July	In the second ever CTB Change of Command Ceremony, LTC Justin Horgan assumed command from LTC Rachael O'Connell. COL Edward Kendall, Commander of the 15th Signal Brigade provided remarks during the 0800 ceremony at Freedom Park Pavilion. The ceremony would have been at Barton Field with the full CTB present in formation but COVID-19 restrictions warranted a much smaller ceremony with limited guests.[103]
13 July	The first 17B Electronic Warfare Qualification Course (Class 20-002) executed at Fort Gordon began on 13 July with 20 students, to include lieutenants who will go on to become the Army's first EW Platoon Leaders. Due to COVID-19 mitigation requirements, instructors conducted the first week of class via distance learning, covering a history of Army Electronic Warfare (EW) and fundamental EW math concepts. The course runs through 15 October.[104]
30 July	SFC Waldon Jue was promoted to Major at a direct commissioning ceremony in Fairfax, VA. A Virginia National Guard Soldier assigned to the 124th Cyber Protection Battalion, 91st Cyber Brigade, Jue was the first Army National Guard direct commissioning candidate to take the oath of office. Jue transferred from the West Virginia National Guard to be part of the 91st Cyber Brigade and was the first to direct commission to the rank of Major based on extensive technical skills from his civilian education and career. He was also the first currently serving member of the military to be appointed under the program. He will now attend the Direct Commission Course at Ft. Benning (BOLC-A) and attend the Cyber Direct Commission Course (BOLC-B) at Ft. Gordon.
17 September	MG Barrett, CG, NETCOM conducted the first "Athena Project LPD" session. Utilizing MS Teams, it not only had the two Athena Project BOLC classes, but also four more BOLC classes and two CCC's taking the audience to over 140. MG Barrett shared eight key aspects of leadership and discussed three specialty areas (Cloud, Zero Trust, and Quantum

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[102] Program, "U.S. Army Cyber School CSM Change of Responsibility," Ft. Gordon, GA, 24June 2020.
[103] Program, Cyber Training Battalion Change of Command Ceremony, 08 July 2020.
[104] Cyber School SITREP, 6-19 July 2020.

Computing) that students should explore that will impact the Cyber domain.[105]

25 September	COL(P) Paul Craft was promoted to Brigadier General during a ceremony at Fort Gordon's Conference and Catering Center at 1100. LTG Stephen Fogarty, ARCYBER CG, presided over the ceremony and provided remarks. MG Neil Hersey, CCoE CG, administered the oath of office. Due to COVID-19 restrictions that mandated a limited number of guests, the ceremony was live-streamed on the CCoE Facebook page. The local Fox affiliate interviewed BG Craft after the ceremony, which aired on local television.
5 October	The first 170B WOBC held at Fort Gordon instead of Fort Sill began. The first two weeks were conducted via distance learning due to COVID-19.
5 October	The first 17E SLC course held at the CCoE NCOA as opposed to Fort Sill, began.
15 October	CTB DET Corry Station in Pensacola officially took over control of the 17C Phase 1 population of Soldiers. DET Corry Station had existed since July 2019, but the Phase 1 students had still belonged to the 344th MI BN. The DET Corry Station commander is CPT JaPa Peay with SFC Jaymes Wallace as the senior enlisted leader.[106]
19 October	The first ever 17D (Cyber Capabilities Development Officer) BOLC pilot class began. The first 10 weeks follow the same common core/JLD that 17A uses and then will transition to the technical curriculum in January 2021.
31 December	CTB Charlie Company at Fort Sill, OK officially ceased operations due to all EW training having moved to Fort Gordon.

2021

25 January	The first ever 170D (Cyber Capabilities Developer Technician) WOBC pilot class began (21-001) with only three students.
28 January	PFC Varakorn Tinnabavorn and SPC Raymond Fernandez became the first initial entry 17C Cyber Soldiers in the entire Army to graduate from Ranger Assessment and Selection Program 1 (RASP), Class 02-21, and become members of the 75th Ranger Regiment.

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[105] Cyber School SITREP 14-27 Sept.
[106] Email from CTB CSM Kevin Flickinger, 20 October 2020.

28 January	The first 170B WOAC held at Fort Gordon instead of Fort Sill began. The first two weeks were conducted via distance learning due to COVID-19.

5 February   The first ever 170B WOBC course to graduate at Fort Gordon (as opposed to Fort Sill), class 21-001 finished without a formal graduation ceremony due to the COVID-19 safety measures that kept family and friends from coming on base. The graduation was done online via MS Teams. Out of the 14 graduates, the Distinguished Honor Graduate was WO1 Justin Dugan and the Honor Graduate was WO1 Jeffrey Carroll. BG Craft provided remarks via a pre-recorded message and CW5 Cardenas served as guest speaker with remarks via MS Teams._[107]

8 February   CTB Bravo Co held the first ever Cyber regimental induction ceremony for class 17C AIT Class 20-015. The pinning on of the Cyber Regimental Distinctive Insignia had previously taken place during the AIT graduation ceremonies, but with COVID-19 curtailing many of the graduations, BG Craft wanted to have a special ceremony in the Bravo Co pavilion. BG Craft and CSM Reynolds participated in the ceremony._[108]

3 March   The first ever Warrant Officer Staff Ride within the Cyber School took place when 170B WOAC Class 21-001 conducted a Staff Ride on the Carolinas Campaign and the Battle of Aiken.

13 April   During the 17E AIT Class 20-506 FTX, the soldiers loaded onto helicopters for the infiltration phase. One CH-47 Chinook and two UH-60 Blackhawks provided by the 3rd Infantry Division Combat Aviation Brigade (HAAF) out of Fort Stewart, GA, flew the Soldiers from Barton Field to the training site for a simulated insertion. This was the first time a Cyber School FTX included helicopter support.

3 May   The first ever true 17C AIT Phase 1 classes at Fort Gordon began with 17C AIT 21-201 and 21-202. While there had been a few 17C AIT pilots in the past, this was the first non-pilot classes as Phase 1 now begins directly at Fort Gordon as opposed to being the JCAC class at Corry Station, FL, run by the Navy.

7 June   The first ever 17D (Cyber Capabilities Development Officer) pilot CCC started – class 21-001.

6 July   CW5 Travis Ysen reported to work as the incoming Chief Warrant Officer of the Cyber Branch as CW5 Cardenas began transitioning out of the role, headed towards retirement. CW5 Ysen was previously the Senior Technical Advisor to the 780th MI BDE. Prior to that, he had been the

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[107] No program was created for this graduation, this info came from the CTB.
[108] CTB Bravo Co Story Board, 8 Feb 2021.

CTED Technical Director at the Cyber School before leaving in 2018 for Fort Meade.

7 July	A 17C AIT graduation took place for Class 21-006 in Fort Gordon's Friendship Chapel at 0930 with 12 graduates. CPB Command Sergeant Major, CSM Jesse Potter, served as guest speaker. The Distinguished Honor Graduate was PFC Anthony Libertini, and the Honor Graduates were PFC Keason Brooks and SPC Robert Smith. This was the first graduation since March 2020 where family and friends were allowed to attend. Upon entering the building, guests were asked to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination. In keeping with current CCoE policy, anyone not fully vaccinated needed to wear a mask.[109]
2 August	COL Melan Salas arrived and began his transition as the new Cyber School Assistant Commandant as COL David Haines prepares for terminal leave and retirement. COL Salas was previously at Cadet Command in Santa Clara, CA. COL Salas is considered to be the senior EW Officer in the entire Army.
24 September	In a graduation ceremony at Fort Jackson, SC, SSG Judith Holley and SFC Jessica Myers became the first two female 17C Drill Sergeants in history.[110]
5 October	The first ever 17D (Cyber Capabilities Development Officer) BOLC class 21-001 graduated in a ceremony at Fort Gordon's Friendship Chapel at 1000. LTC(Ret) William Clay Moody, Ph.D., Secureworks Counter Threat Unit special operations team, served as guest speaker. Out of the 20 graduates, the Distinguished Honor Graduate was 2LT Aidan McCarthy, The Honor Graduate was 1LT Samuel Miller, and the Leadership Awardee was 2LT Sean Moriarity.[111]
1 November	The first ever 17D CCC class (21-001) graduated in a ceremony at Fort Gordon's Friendship Chapel at 1000. MG Neil Hersey, Deputy Commanding General (Operations), ARCYBER, served as guest speaker. Out of the 4 graduates, the Distinguished Honor Graduate, Leadership Awardee, and PT Awardee was CPT Leonard Kosta.[112]
6 December	6 Dec – 11 Feb; **BG Craft began a 3 month TDY as commander of Task Force Pickett.** TF Pickett, in support of OPERATION ALLIES WELCOME (OAW), receives, houses, secures, sustains, and supports Afghan Guests and their family members in Fort Pickett, VA to facilitate

[109] Program, "U.S. Army Cyber School 17C AIT Graduation Class 21-006," 7 July 2021.
[110] CPB Twitter Post, https://twitter.com/BrigadeCyber/status/1441512297352949762
[111] Program, "U.S. Army Cyber School 17D Cyber Basic Officer Leader Course Class 21-001," 5 October 2021.
[112] Program, "U.S. Army Cyber School 17D Cyber Capabilities Development Officer Captains Career Course Class 21-001," 1 November 2021.

2022

31 May	The Cyber School Commandant Change of Responsibility ceremony took place at 1000 at the Gordon Club on Fort Gordon. BG Paul T. Stanton presided as BG Paul G. Craft relinquished responsibility of the Cyber School and Branch to COL(P) Brian D. Vile, who is now the fifth Chief of Cyber. At the conclusion of the ceremony, a reception was held for COL(P) Vile in the back of the room. BG Craft is moving into the role of CG of JFHQ-Cyber, and COL(P) Vile was previously the G-3 Director of Operations for ARCYBER.[113]
13 June	The Cyber School held an oath of office ceremony in the CTB classroom for the first LTC direct commissioned into the Cyber Branch through the Cyber Direct Commissioning Program. LTC Paul Son was awarded 18 years, 6 months of time in service based on constructive service credit.
23 June	The CTB held a re-activation ceremony for Charlie Company in Gym 5 (Cyber Fitness Center) on Fort Gordon at 1530. LTC Justin Horgan presided over the ceremony as CPT David Shoebottom became the new company commander along with new Co First Sergeant, 1SG Robert Mosley. Charlie Company originally activated on 19 January 2017 at Fort Sill to oversee all EW College students, but deactivated at the end of 2020 due to all EW training moving to Fort Gordon. However, with the large increase in 17E AIT training at Fort Gordon, the Charlie Co "Crows" will now oversee the 17E AIT Soldiers.[114]
29 June	The CTB held a Change of Command ceremony in Gym 5 (Cyber Fitness Center) on Fort Gordon at 0800. COL Jason Haight, Commander of the 15th Signal Brigade, presided over the ceremony where LTC Justin Horgan relinquished command to LTC Jason Sabovich. LTC Sabovich most recently served as the Information Warfare Division Chief and Cyber OC/T or the Mission Command Training Program in Fort Leavenworth, KS. The ceremony would have been at Barton Field with the full CTB present in formation but was moved to the Gym due to weather.[115]
8 July	The first ever Signal and Cyber Warrant Officer Intermediate Level Education Follow-On (WOILE-FO) class 002-22 graduated in a ceremony

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[113] Program, "U.S. Army Cyber and Electromagnetic Warfare School Commandant Change of Responsibility," 31 May 2022.
[114] Program, "U.S. Army Cyber Training Battalion Charlie Company Re-Activation Ceremony," 23 June 2022.
[115] Program, Cyber Training Battalion Change of Command Ceremony, 29 June 2022.

at the Fort Gordon Center Chaplain's Office. CW5 Aaron Tyler, the Command CWO/Senior Technical Advisor for the White House Communication Agency, served as guest speaker. Of the 13 graduates, 7 were Signal Warrants (both 255A and 255N) and 6 were Cyber Warrants (both 170A and 170B). These graduates are Warrants who have already been to their ILE course at Fort Rucker, but then have a 5-week follow-on class together to better understand how Signal and Cyber warrants can work together. CW4 Todd White was the ACE for the Cyber students.[116]

11 July   The first ever 170D WOBC class 21-001 graduated in a ceremony at Fort Gordon's Friendship Chapel at 1000. Mr. Al Mollenkopf, Science Advisor to the ARCYBER CG, served as guest speaker. Out of the 3 graduates, the Distinguished Honor Graduate was CW4 William Howard. This class started in January 2021 and at 72 weeks, is the longest Cyber School course.[117]

11 August   The official EW Specialist recruiting video created by USAREC with substantial Cyber School assistance was released on YouTube.

2023

19 January   COL(P) Brian Vile was promoted to Brigadier General during a ceremony at Fort Gordon's Conference and Catering Center at 1300. LTG Maria Barrett, ARCYBER CG, presided over the ceremony and provided remarks.[118]

20 January   The Cyber School CSM Change of Responsibility took place when CSM Cecil Reynolds relinquished his position to CSM Ronald Krause during a ceremony at the Gordon Club at 1000. BG Vile presided over the ceremony. CSM Krause, who was the first CSM of the CTB, was most recently the CSM of the 780th MI BDE. CSM Reynolds is staying at the Cyber School to work on various projects before his retirement in the next year.[119]

12 April   The first ever Advanced Cyber Operations Course-Academics (AOC-A) Pilot course began. This joint class taught by the Cyber School is a USCYBERCOM initiative to develop a training path, recognized by the NSA, for offensive cyberspace operators. If validated, this pilot will set the conditions to significantly improve USCYBERCOM's readiness and build significant additional capacity for operations.

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[116] Program, "U.S. Army Cyber Center of Excellence Signal and Cyber Warrant Officer Intermediate Level Education Follow-On Class 002-22," 8 July 2022.
[117] Program, "U.S. Army Cyber School 170D Warrant Officer Basic Course Class 21-001," 11 July 2022.
[118] Program, "Promotion Ceremony in Honor of COL Brian D. Vile," 19 January 2023.
[119] Program, "U.S. Army Cyber School CSM Change of Responsibility," Ft. Gordon, GA, 20 January 2023.

14 April	The first ever Cyber School 170A WOAC class to conduct a staff ride occurred when 170A WOAC class 23-001 participated in a staff ride on the Battle of Aiken/Carolinas Campaign in Aiken, SC. 170B WOAC classes had already been doing this.
19 April	CTB Commander, LTC Jason Sabovich announced that the CTB had chosen a new mascot and motto. The Garudas mascot was replaced with "Titans." They also chose a new motto: "Cyber Starts Here" The response is "Advance With Virtue." The old motto was "Cyber Excellence," "Know Thyself."[120]
12 June	12-23 June; The first ever 17E CTSSB took place.
14 June	The Under Secretary of the Army tasked TRADOC, and ultimately the Cyber School with conducting a 120 Day Study assessing the Cyber, EW, and information advantage forces, and how they will support geographic combatant commands and complement USCYBERCOM efforts. This was the stamped date of the memo.
5 July	COL Joseph Puskas started as the Cyber School Assistant Commandant, replacing COL Melan Salas who is preparing to leave for JBLM.
21 August	The Cyber School held the very first Advanced Operations Course – Academics (AOC-A) graduation at the Navy Reserve Center on Fort Gordon at 1400. RDML Joseph Buzzella USCG, USCYBERCOM J-7 Director of Exercises and Training, served as guest speaker. There was not a distinguished honor grad, but SGT Nicholas Fink was noted for achieving 100% on a GIAC. There were 20 graduates (USA-4, USN-6, USMC-3, USAF-6) USMC Civilian (1).[121]
4 October	The Cyber Training Battalion (CTB) was officially redesignated to the 401st Cyber Battalion. The effort to give the CTB a numbered unit designation was carried out by CTB leadership working with the Center for Military History (CMH) and the Institute of Heraldry. There were no deactivated battalions that the CMH could draw from to reuse in this specific case (being Cyber and a TDA unit). The CMH was willing to set aside the 400 block for the CTB since it was a training unit. Any future Cyber training battalion would be the 402d. The official ceremony for this number change was held on 13 October 2023.
13 October	In a ceremony in Nelson Fitness Center on Fort Gordon at 0800, LTC Jason Sabovich and CSM Chad Webber presided over the

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[120] Email from LTC Jason Sabovich to Scott Anderson, 2 June 2023.
[121] Program, United States Army Cyber and EW School, Advanced Operations Course-Academics Class 23-001 Graduation, 21 August 2023.

redesignation of the Cyber Training Battalion (CTB) to the 401st Cyber Battalion. The old CTB colors as well as the guidons of the HQ&A, Bravo Co, and Charlie Co. were cased and replaced with the new battalion colors and guidons of the 401st. This redesignation had officially taken place on 4 October 2023. [122]

8 November   8-9 Nov; BG Vile traveled to the DC in order to brief the HASC/SASC Professional Staff Members on EW capabilities and modernization. [123]

11 December   11-12 Dec; Representatives from CTED met with and assisted Armor Basic Officer Leader Course (ABOLC-B) personnel at Ft Moore, GA to identify and validate TTP's in support of the pilot program to include EW training during Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE) Initial Military Training (IMT) and Primary Military Education (PME). [124]

2024

9 January   9-10 Jan; , The Cyber School assisted the 6th Ranger Training Battalion at Camp Rudder, FL to identify and validate tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) for supporting the Maneuver Center of Excellence's Counter–EW pilot program for Initial Military Training, Primary Military Education, and combat maneuver exercises. [125]

5 February   Two USCG students started with a new 17C AIT class. These were the first USCG students to participate in an AIT class. [126]

22 February   The CCoE hosted SES Mark Lewis, Special Assistant to the Undersecretary of the Army, for a comprehensive tour of Fort Eisenhower with briefings on multiple topics. Mr. Boudreau provided an overview of EW, manning shortfalls, and the Army's role as the Joint Curriculum Lead for Cyber. [127]

25 April   The 17E AIT class attempted to physically conduct jamming operations with a simulated electronic attack for the first time in a joint 17C and 17E FTX.

6 May   OCC delivered a decision brief on the "Future of the Branch" for the Cyber Board of Directors. The decision points approved were (1)

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[122] Program, CTB Redesignation Ceremony, 13 October 2023.
[123] BG Vile's Outlook Calendar.
[124] Cyber School SITREP, 30 Nov – 12 Dec 2023.
[125] Cyber School SITREP, 11-24 Jan 2024.
[126] Scott Anderson email with Mr. Joey Gaspard, 17C Course Manager, 7 February 2024.
[127] Mr. Boudreau's Outlook Calendar.

Validate 9-Digit MOS codes against current USCYBERCOM requirements (OPR: Commandant), (2) establish operational requirement for warrant officer stabilization to enable technical mastery (OPR: OCC), (3) synchronize warrant officer career paths with enlisted (9-Digit MOS) (OPR: OCC), (4) converge 17A and 17B officer career paths (OPR: OCC), (5) develop and implement a branch detail program with infantry, armor, field artillery and air defense artillery branches (OPR: OCC), (6) retain 17D as an Area of Concentration (no action required).[128]

23 May

The first ever 170D WOAC class (24-001) graduated in a ceremony Fort Eisenhower's Friendship Chapel at 0900. CW4 Lewis Latane, Cyber Solutions Development – Defense, served as guest speaker. Out of the 6 graduates, the Distinguished Honor Graduate was CW2 Kristopher Bickmore and the Honor Graduate was CW2 Kyle Spicer.[129]

18 June

In an Assumption of Responsibility Ceremony at the Eisenhower Catering and Conference Center at 1330, COL John J. Hosey became the sixth Cyber School Commandant and Chief of Cyber. Since BG Vile had already departed for USCYBERCOM, this was not a Change of Responsibility. MG Stanton, CCoE CG, presided over the ceremony. COL Hosey previously served as the V Corps CEMA Chief.[130]

28 June

The 401st Cyber BN held a Change of Command ceremony at the Barton Field Reviewing Stand on Fort Eisenhower at 0800. COL Bill Cherkauskas, Commander of the 15th Signal Brigade, presided over the ceremony where LTC Jason Sabovich relinquished command to LTC Ryan Hand. LTC Hand most recently served as the Chief of Future Operations and Plans (J35) for JFHQ-C (Army) at Fort Eisenhower, GA.[131]

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[128] Cyber School SITREP, May 2024.
[129] Program, "U.S. Army Cyber School 170D WOAC Graduation Class 24-001," 23 May 2024.
[130] Program, "U.S. Army Cyber School Commandant Assumption of Responsibility," 18 June 2024.
[131] Program, 401st Cyber Battalion Change of Command Ceremony, 28 June 2024.