

# UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

## MEDIA

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### **USNA MIDSHIPMEN WIN 2010 CYBER DEFENSE EXERCISE**

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — A team of U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen won the National Security Agency's (NSA) annual Cyber Defense Exercise (CDX) conducted April 20-23. Led by Midshipmen 1<sup>st</sup> Class (seniors) Justin Monroe of Rome, N.Y. and Christopher Wheeler of Cazenovia, N.Y., the academy's team competed against the U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, and U.S. Coast Guard Academy. The Naval Postgraduate School, Air Force Institute of Technology and the Royal Military College of Canada also participated. Other members of the winning USNA team included: Midshipmen 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jeffery Deignan of Columbus, Miss.; Kyle Francis of Broad Brook, Conn.; Timothy Mahoney of Green Bay, Wis.; Bradford McDaniel of Lynchburg, Va.; and Michael Chertude of Beaverton, Ore.; Midshipmen 2nd Class (juniors) Michael Harrison of Tulsa, Okla.; Dmitri Hatley of The Woodlands, Texas; Michael Laws of Whippany, N.J.; Andrew Stephenson of Carson City, Nev.; Louis Troisi of Cutchogue, N.Y.; and Adam Waymouth of Lutz, Fla.; and Midshipman 3rd Class (sophomore) Timothy Perkowski of Plano, Texas.

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## **USNA WINS CDX 2-2-2**

CDX is an inter-service cyber-security competition. Sponsored and designed by the National Security Agency (NSA), service academies compete to determine which team can most effectively defend their virtual computer network against malicious attack.

Each year, the exercise is designed around a specific scenario, with constraints such as time, resources, and information about the "attacker".

Teams must choose how to utilize the resources at their disposal to best defend their virtual network and to keep certain "critical services" running, while the "attackers" (the NSA team that has designed the competition) attempt to infiltrate the network and disrupt these services.

The competition is designed to give students experience with designing and implementing computer security solutions with limited resources as well as spark some friendly competition among the services. Students learn how to work with a team to ensure that their plan will effectively protect their network from attacks, and learn how to react when the defenses do not work as expected. Additionally, students gain experience using the tools that are used every day to defend Department of Defense networks against cyber attacks. The Naval Academy last won the CDX trophy in 2005.

For more information about this event, please visit: <http://www.usna.edu/cyber>. For more information about the Naval Academy, please visit: <http://www.usna.edu/homepage.php>.

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