



Welcome to the 2025 Palmetto Cyber Defense Competition

The goal of the Palmetto Cyber Defense Competition (PCDC) is to energize South Carolina Colleges, High Schools and their students to focus on the development of technical skills in the areas of networking and cyber security in preparation for exciting careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

During the competition, participants from each team form Blue Teams of six competitors that are responsible for operating a Palmetto Defense College network. Each of the teams are provided with a mal-configured business network at the start of the competition and are challenged to properly reconfigure the network, add new services, and respond to additional requirements; all the while defending against a Red Team of Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC) Atlantic, Department of Defense and industry volunteers attempting to disrupt and penetrate their networks.

Competing Blue Teams are scored for accomplishing administrative and business tasks while maintaining network/service availability, such as mail, database and web servers, as well as their ability to detect and respond to cyber threats. Teams must also be able to respond to business requests such as the addition or removal of services, and balance security needs against business needs. The Southeast Collegiate HackWarz Competition, held on Saturday, 12 April will consist of collegiate teams competing in a capture the flag event. Also on Saturday, we have Cyber-n-the Middle (CITM) where middle school students will participate in a program to encourage involvement in STEM and see PCDC and HackWarz teams in action.

Qualifying Teams from South Carolina High Schools will compete on April 12th, followed on April 13th by teams from Carolina Colleges and Universities. On April 14th cyber security professionals from DoD, academia and industry will compete. The qualifying 2025 PCDC College and High School competitors are:

Colleges and Universities	High Schools	Pro Teams
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charleston Southern University University of South Carolina US Naval Academy University of NC Wilmington Trident Technical College ECPI University The Citadel Clemson University Horry Georgetown Technical College 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashley Ridge, Summerville Clover High School, Clover Home School Network, Charleston Aiken Scholar's Academy, Aiken Cane Bay, Summerville CTE Innovation Center, Greenville, Team 1 CTE Innovation Center, Greenville, Team 2 Academic Magnet, N. Charleston Military Magnet Academy, Charleston Academy for the Arts, Science & Technology, Myrtle Beach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> US Women's Cyber Team Dominion Energy US Cyber Team SC National Guard SRC NAVWAR Cyber Pillar

The competition, awards and scholarships are made possible through the generous support of many industry and institutional sponsors; and over 100 volunteers from NIWC Atlantic and AFCEA South Carolina Lowcountry Chapter, as well as many cyber security industry supporters & volunteers both in South Carolina & throughout the United States.

This year's scenario: Competing teams will be operating the Palmetto Crossing Department of Commerce (PCDC) utilities. Feeling financial pressure, Mayor Scott Bell instituted an early retirement program that resulted in the loss of all senior information system professionals and a crippling knowledge gap on system operations. With this information being public knowledge, the water, power, sewage and internet offerings

have become targets for various malicious actors who seek to leverage data breaches, ransomware, and control of utilities for financial and political gain. To combat this, the city Chief Information Officer, Ms Pennywise, has begun hiring new teams to regain control of these systems in efforts to ensure the city's utilities are protected and reliable once again. Join the PCDC team today and make public utilities great again! The competing Blue Teams represent newly hired IT professionals tasked with salvaging the town's utilities. They are scored for protecting their network, keeping services running & performing business operations.

NIWC Atlantic and AFCEA have jointly organized the 2025 PCDC. This is PCDC's 12th year. PCDC continues to draw the best cyber security talent among South Carolina high schools and Carolina colleges to the competition. Scott Bell, RING IPT Lead at NIWC Atlantic, serves as the Director of the 2025 PCDC. Jacob Dustan is President and Greg Blackburn is the PCDC Lead for the AFCEA.

2025 PCDC Schedule of Events

Follow us on the web at pcdc-sc.com and <https://www.facebook.com/PalmettoCyberDefenseCompetition>

Saturday, 12 April 2025, PCDC High School Competition, HackWarz, CitM

7:45 am – 8:15 am: Connectivity Checks (PCDC/AWS Network & MS Teams) & Team Registration
8:15 am – 8:30 am: Blue Teams Briefing/Opening Ceremony
8:30 am – 10:00 am: Competition begins/Initial Injects/Secure the Network
8:30 am – 8:50 am: Hack Warz continuity checks
8:30 am – 9:00 am: Cyber-in-the Middle (CitM) Morning Session Sign-in
9:00 A.M. – 2:30 P.M. Hack Warz at PCDC competition
9:00 am – 11:45 am: CitM Morning Session
10:00 am – 3:00 pm: PCDC Operate Network Under Hacker Attacks
12:45 am – 1:10 pm: CitM Afternoon Session Sign-in
1:10 pm – 3:40 pm: CitM Afternoon Session
3:00 pm – 3:25 pm: Red Team members visit Blue Teams
3:25 pm – 3:35 pm: Break/View Sponsor Booths
3:35 pm – 4:15 pm: Blue Team Presentations
4:15 pm – 4:25 pm: Red/Gold Team Debrief: POV, Common Mistakes
4:25 pm – 4:40 pm: Keynote Speaker: COL Linda Riedel, Deputy Director, Citadel DoD Cyber Institute, Chief of Staff, South Carolina Army National Guard
4:50 pm – 5:30 pm: Awards / Closing Ceremony (PCDC & HackWarz)

Sunday, 14 April 2024, Collegiate Competition

7:45 am – 8:15 am: Registration
8:15 am – 8:30 am: Blue Teams Briefing/Opening Ceremony
8:30 am – 9:15 am: Competition Begins- Initial Injects / Secure the Network
9:15 am – 4:00 pm: Operate Network Under Hacker Attacks
4:00 pm - 4:10 pm: Red Team members visit Blue Teams
4:10 pm – 4:20 pm: Break/View Sponsor Booths
4:20 pm – 5:05 pm: Blue Team Presentations
5:05 pm – 5:15 pm: Red/Gold Team Debrief: POV, Common Mistakes
5:15 pm – 5:30 pm: Keynote Speaker: Katie Arrington, Deputy Chief Information Officer for Cybersecurity and Chief Information Security Officer at Department of Defense
5:30 pm – 5:50 pm: Awards / Closing Ceremony

Monday, 15 April 2024, Pro Day Competition

7:45 am – 8:15 am: Registration
8:15 am – 8:30 am: Blue Teams Briefing/Opening Ceremony
8:30 am- 9:00 am: Scoring Begins, Secure the Network
9:00 am – 4:00 pm: Operate Network Under Hacker Attacks
4:00 pm - 4:15 pm: Red Team members visit Blue Teams
4:15 pm - 4:25 pm: Break/View Sponsor Booths/Networking
4:25 pm – 4:55 pm: Blue Team Presentations
4:55 pm – 5:05 pm: Red/Gold Team Debrief: Common Mistakes
5:05 pm – 5:25 pm: Keynote Speaker: Mr. Kevin Charlow, Executive Director (Acting), NIWC Atlantic
5:25 pm – 5:40 pm: Awards / Closing Ceremony



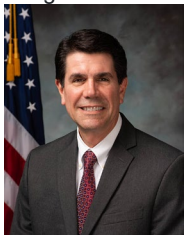
Saturday Keynote Speaker: COL Linda Riedel, Deputy Director, Citadel DoD Cyber Institute, Chief of Staff, South Carolina Army National Guard

Colonel Riedel is the Brigade Commander for the 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, SC Army National Guard. She is a recent 2020 graduate of the Cyber War College at the National Defense University, College of Information & Cyberspace (CIC) at Fort McNair, Washington, DC. Riedel is South Carolina's first commander of the 125th Cyber Protection Battalion. Col Riedel formed a new cyber battalion, from scratch, & within 6 months, prepared the battalion for deployment in support of Task Force Echo in March 2018-2019. Colonel Riedel is a 2018 Jeffrey B. Jones Cyber Operations Award Recipient & continues to support the cyber initiatives of the SCARNG and the cyber community. A career Signal Officer, Col Riedel, was selected & awarded AOC 17A Cyber Operations Officer designation in 2019. She holds a MS in Government Information Leadership with a concentration in strategic cyberspace & information warfare from the Cyber War College at NDU. She has an MS in Project Management from The Citadel & a Bachelor's Degree from USC. She currently works full-time at The Citadel as the Dep Dir of Operations & Outreach, Citadel DoD Cyber Institute. She also serves as an adjunct professor teaching a cybersecurity course at The Citadel. Col Riedel has served as an Associate Professor of Military Science at The Citadel & has worked as the SCARNG Cyber Project Manager focused on critical infrastructure and state partnerships. Col Riedel is married to her husband of 26 years & has 2 children.



Sunday Keynote Speaker: Katie Arrington, Deputy Chief Information Officer for Cybersecurity and Chief Information Security Officer at Department of Defense

Ms. Katherine "Katie" Arrington is Performing the Duties of the DoD Chief Information Officer. In this capacity, she serves as the primary advisor to the Secretary of Defense for information management/Information Technology (IT); information assurance, as well as non-intelligence space systems; critical satellite communications, navigation, and timing programs; spectrum; and telecommunications. Ms. Arrington served as the Deputy CIO for Cybersecurity. In this role she provided expert policy, technical, program and defense-wide oversight support to the DoD CIO on cybersecurity matters. She was responsible for leading the DoD-wide cybersecurity program, partnering with industry to improve cybersecurity & information sharing & represented the Secretary of Defense & DoD CIO in international discussions & negotiates on cybersecurity topics in both bilateral and multi-lateral (alliance and coalition) channels. Ms. Arrington was the Senior VP of External Affairs at Exiger, where she mobilized issues of universal consensus, including supply chain visibility, Artificial Intelligence, & national security. A leading expert in policy & technology with extensive experience building relationships & coalitions across the public, private and nonprofit sectors, Ms. Arrington was the first DoD CISO for the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition & Sustainment. She led the White House team that created the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification. Ms. Arrington has an extensive career as a legislator & senior cyber executive in private industry. She served for two terms as a SC State Representative. She has extensive experience in cyber strategy, policy, enablement & implementation across a wide range of business sectors & governmental levels. She has over 15 years of cyber experience acquired through positions at BAH, Centuria Corp & Dispersive Networks. These positions have given her a unique experience of supporting and working with the government at large, small, and non-traditional contracting firms



Monday Keynote Speaker: Kevin Charlow, Executive Director (Acting), Naval Information Warfare Center Atlantic

Charlow serves as the acting Executive Director, and Senior Scientific Technical Manager of Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC) Atlantic, Charlow sets command-wide strategic goals and manages engineering and business operations for more than 4,900 federal civilian and military employees, and approximately 9,000 industry partners. Charlow is responsible for the execution of technical work applying systems engineering & programmatic discipline to deliver information warfare solutions to warfighters. He works closely with NAVWAR headquarters & the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (RDT&E) to further strengthen NIWC Atlantic's organic engineering capabilities. Charlow brings with him a wealth of knowledge & experience from more than four years as NIWC Atlantic's Deputy ED & prior to that three decades as a DoN engineer. Since he launched a federal career in 1986 as an electronics engineer for the NESEC in Charleston. His previous assignment was serving as the Dept Head for the Expeditionary Warfare Department, where he was responsible for delivering C4ISR, cyber, & information technology systems & engineering services to meet the expeditionary and mobile operational needs of the Navy, Marine Corps and Special Operations Command. Charlow earned a BS in computer engineering from Clemson. He also holds an MBA with emphasis in computer & information resources management from Webster University. He is Level III certified in both PM & SPRDE from the DAU.

The AFCEA SC Lowcountry Chapter and NIWC Atlantic wish to recognize the generosity and continuing support of our many Corporate Sponsors who made possible the 2025 Palmetto Cyber Defense Competition

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