



# Palmetto Cyber Defense Competition 2026

## Enterprise Meeting #3

### Wednesday, 14 January 2026



13th Year!



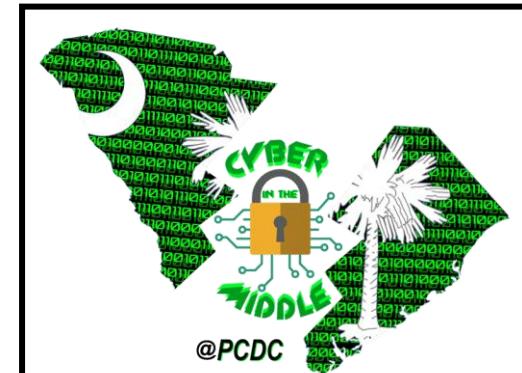
Scott Bell PCDC Director  
Naval Information Warfare Center Atlantic (NIWC Atlantic)

For PCDC Planning Purposes Only



Title Sponsor

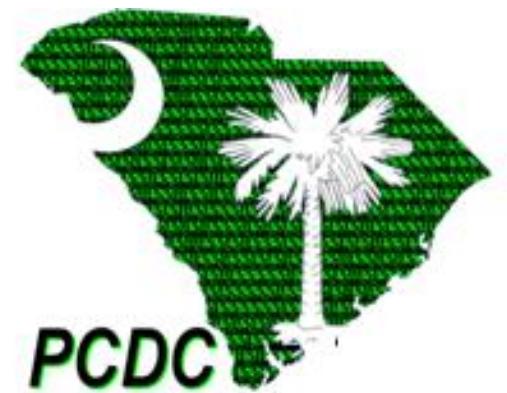
# PCDC 2026



Confirmed



11 April



# PCDC 2026 Approach

*Intent: With the success of the last few year's venue setup and open e-sport style game center approach we are looking to use a very similar layout this year. We are once again working with Amazon to deliver a cloud-based competition. We look forward to another successful year with our gracious hosts @ Trident Technical College.*





ATLANTIC

# PCDC Gold Team 2026



- Gold Team Leads: Valerie Plucinski, Nik Heitzig, & Jan Rega
- Gold team already holding meetings and working architecture
- Scoring: Working on updating our scoring engine
- Build Parties – Devs busy building remote environment
- Table-Top Prototype/Design presented to and approved by leadership - functional prototype expected by late December, early January.
- Blue Team scored services have been defined – Gold Team access only.
- AWS build parties will begin the second full week of January (12-Jan). Schedule TBD.
- Always looking for additional volunteers

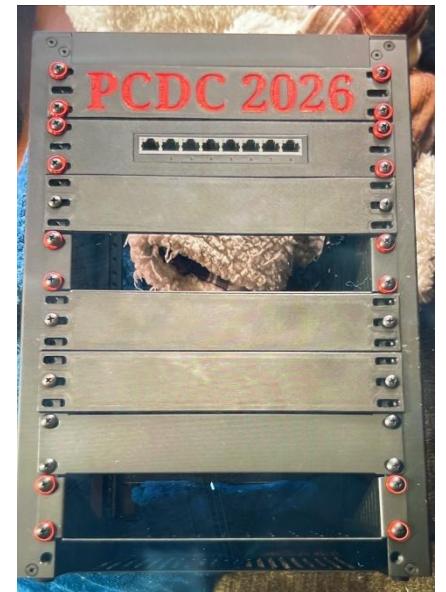
**Equipment buy pending.**



# PCDC Red Team 2026

## Red Team Leads: James Jernigan, Jason Husk

- PCDC We have begun the process to reach out to the vendor for our Cobalt Strike license (in-kind donation) for use during the 2026 event. Expecting that to wrap up here soon.
- PCDC Red Team is staffed for 2026. We are waiting to hear from a handful of folks but have a full standby list waiting in reserve. Focusing on a smaller team this year.
- PCDC Red Team is already working a giveaway prize for high school and college day. Mini-rack home lab starter kit! We welcome any industry partner donations - specifically looking to build a small home lab toolkit for inclusion (cable tester & crimpers. Already have small screwdriver set).



# 2026 PCDC Teams

Blue Team Mentors Lead: Bryan Haines (welcome!)	White Team Lead: Vacant (welcome!)	Orange Team Lead: Kate Sobus
<p>The Blue Teams are the competitors challenged with protecting their systems. High School Mentors assist the teams from the area high schools to get ready for the competition.</p> <p><b>Update:</b> See HS slide for updates.</p>	<p>The White Team serves as in competition judges and first line support. White team members answer questions and aid the Blue Teams throughout the competition while ensuring all rules are being followed.</p> <p><b>Update:</b> Unfortunately, Tim Bootle had to step down. We are working a couple of options.</p>	<p>The Orange Team serves as the business operations during the competition. This team plays the role of headquarters during the competition, inserting business problems into the scenario and generates voice and data traffic to keep the scenario realistic.</p> <p><b>Update:</b> Orange team has 5 volunteers for Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. We will be setting up biweekly meetings at the end of January and requesting to attend Gold team meetings/build parties.</p>

***Blue, White, & Orange Teams still need volunteers!***

# High Schools – Blue Team Update

- Automatic Bids based on last year's top 3: (Home Team Stem, Academic Magnet, Clover)
- Cyber Patriot Results received – invites to qualifying schools sent out.
- Identified eight of the required 10 mentors for high school teams
- Reached out to Netlab POC at Trident Tech
- Seeking recommendations for free online Arduino programming resources
- Requesting inputs to knowledge sharing repository for mentors to utilize
- Plan to hold mentor meeting for exchange of information



# Colleges – Coordinator Update

- PCDC Automatic bids for last year's top 3: (The Citadel, Clemson, USC)
- PCDC With 11 teams expressing interest we will use SECCDC or equivalent regional event as qualifier (February) for remaining 8 teams
- PCDC Invites and registration links sent to all teams with an automatic invite (The Citadel, Clemson, TTC, Naval Academy, USC, and Claflin).
- PCDC Qualifier info sent to all other teams (UNCW, ECPI, USC Aiken, Charleston Southern, College of Charleston, Coastal, Voorhees).
- PCDC Registration deadline of February 4th.



# CITM update for PCDC

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- ▼ Major changes to CITM
- ▼ Due to Spring Break... we will be trying a Monday Format
- ▼ Computer Deconstruction will be replaced. Looking for new options
  - AI, Social Media, would love something hands on if possible.
- ▼ Single session.. Total students is 72 max (24 each session)



## Proposed Schedule:

- ▼ 9:30 - arrive from buses
- ▼ 9:30 – 9:45 – Introductions break out to groups / assign group number(s) 1- 3
- ▼ 9:45 – 10:35 - 1/3 students in each session running concurrently
- ▼ 10:35 – 10:45 - break
- ▼ 10:45 – 11:35 - 1/3 students in each session running concurrently
- ▼ 11:35 – 12:10 - Lunch – Possible TTC Recruiting and Early College Program talks
- ▼ 12:10 – 12:20 - break
- ▼ 12:20 – 1:20 - 1/3 students in each session running concurrently
- ▼ 1:20 – 1:30 - close-out questions / feedback depart to buses



# On The To-Do List

- ❖ *MOU routing*
- ❖ *Keynote speaker invites*
- ❖ *Confirm volunteers for wiring the venue*
- ❖ *Date for initial meeting with Trident Tech*
- ❖ *Updates on grants (STEM, TTC)*



# Updates

- ❖ *Director – Scott*
- ❖ *Deputy Director - Jeff*
- ❖ *Gold Team – Val, Nik, Jan*
- ❖ *White Team – Shiran, Tim*
- ❖ *Blue Teams*
  - ❖ *High School - Bryan*
  - ❖ *Collegiate Coord - Nicky*
  - ❖ *Pro Day Coord – Whitney, Jeff*
- ❖ *Orange Team – Kate, Liam*
- ❖ *Red Team – James, Jason*
- ❖ *AFCEA – Greg, Jacob*
- ❖ *Treasurer – Kelly, Claire*
- ❖ *Logistics - Jamie*
- ❖ *Operations / CITM - Karen*



# Sponsorship (Cash and In-Kind) Contact AFCEA

Sponsorship POC: Greg Blackburn, AFCEA PCDC Coordinator  
E-Mail: [blackburng45@gmail.com](mailto:blackburng45@gmail.com) phone: 410-507-6098

NIWC Managed	AFCEA Manage d		Slide Loop	Website Logo	Conference Flyers, Logo	Resume Access	Photo Backdrop	Company Flier / Bag Insert	Social Media Exposure	AFCEA PCDC Award Luncheon Seats	Exhibit Booth / Signage	PCDC Major Media Write Up	PCDC Comp Entry	“Presented By”
<b>In Kind</b>	<b>Cash</b>													
		Title	\$11K	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Innovator	Diamond	\$5.5K	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	<i>Diamond Only</i>
Partner	Platinum	\$2.7K	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★			
Donor	Gold	\$1.6K	★	★	★	★	★	★	★					
Contributor	Silver	\$800	★	★	★	★								
Supporter	Bronze	\$500	★	★										

**Sponsorship Levels**

*\* Recognition during event based on any “in-kind” donation*

# Important Links

- ▼ PCDC Website: [pcdc-sc.com](http://pcdc-sc.com)
- ▼ PCDC Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PalmettoCyberDefenseCompetition>
- ▼ PCDC Twitter: <https://twitter.com/PalmettoCyber>
- ▼ Cyber Patriot: <http://www.uscyberpatriot.org>
- ▼ AFCEA: <http://charleston.afceachapter.org/>
- ▼ #PCDC



# PCDC 2026 Primary POCs

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- ▼ Big Ideas?
- ▼ Innovations?
- ▼ Questions?

# PCDC 2026

## Around the Table



# Wrap Up

